

To Haskell's Office of the President,

Towards the end of last summer Haskell Indian Nations University hired Clay Mayes as our new cross country coach. A new era was underway, and many of us, like other student-athletes across the country saw a new opportunity.

The recruitment process was limited with a late start, but we will continue building the program with new incoming student-athletes brought in by Coach Clay. Almost all of the incoming student-athletes for the cross country and track program for Fall of 2021 and Spring of 2022 were brought to Haskell by Coach Clay.

Since last Fall we have been told by multiple Haskell administrators there was an investigation launched due to reports from a subset of returning runners discussing there was hostility at practices. During the entire time Clay has coached us at Haskell we have all whole-heartedly agreed there was no wrong doing of any kind. These sentiments are shared by almost all current and returning runners, minus a few that are under the direction of Judith Gipp and Aja McCormick.

We have always maintained a comfortable environment that was welcoming and one could continue developing as a student-athlete. For the runners who previously ran for Coach Clay at Bacone College or University of Antelope Valley, and now, Haskell we would not have followed Coach Clay to Haskell if we felt unsafe or uncomfortable at any point.

One possible difference with the former Haskell program and the current Haskell program is having necessary standards and criteria to meet with being on our team. Every student-athlete was to attend practices consistently, follow our team's honor code, team rules, and to communicate effectively when it was necessary.

We have high expectations for 2022's Cross Country Season, as Coach Clay has already made multiple recruiting trips to the homes' and schools' of the best Native American-based runners in the country. When given the opportunity to allow Coach Clay to bring in his first year's recruits, Haskell will begin to field a group of student-athletes that are athletically, academically, and culturally successful at a national level.

Haskell is and will continue to be an outlet where one can obtain a college education, and continue to use the sport as a platform to empower the Native Community.

We are looking forward to discussing this further and to rightfully allow our Coach to continue building the program. Haskell is an university where we should always be supporting and welcoming everyone who shares a vested interest in building our community.

Sincerely,

-Haskell Cross Country and Track Student-Athletes