

Recognizing the Interconnectedness of All Things - Honoring the Life and Legacy of Robert Tohe



In late December 2019, we lost a hero and champion for the Diné people, the earth and all beings: Robert Tohe. Robert is a valued community partner with our TREE Center and beloved husband/life partner of Hazel James. Robert mentored many who sought a balanced way. In an interview for the Sierra Club of which he was the southwest regional director he shared: *“The first thing I'd say to a young Native American person who wants to get involved in environmental and justice work is reclaim your native language. Learn the native tongue because that will be a key to understanding and unlocking the wisdom of the ancients—the traditional ways. Knowledge about how to care for the land is in our DNA.”* See: <https://www.sierraclub.org/articles/2019/12/if-we-can-recognize-interconnectedness-all-things-we-ll-be-ok>

Hazel James sent this message to the TREE Center and the Diné Centered Research and Evaluation partnership:

Ya'at'eeh Relatives:

I hope all is well with everyone!

I want to express on behalf of my family, ahe'hee so much to all of you/relatives..your prayers, support, kindness, comfort and encouraging words through this time has tremendously helped my family. Ahe'hee for sharing stories of Robert, he was an amazing strong Dine' Warrior and well respected. He was a beautiful husband, father, grandfather, my kindest and eloquent better half. He left a legacy for the young people to aspire too, to be a protector of Mother Earth, Niihozaan nii gh maa. He will be greatly missed. Our family is so grateful for your generosity, monetary support, words of kindness and love..

With much love and prayers for your families, wishing many happy blessings to all, from the Tohe's: Hazel, Dineh, Nizhoni, Desbah, and Grandsons!