

900 Years at Gadii'ahi : Investigations of an Anasazi BMIII-PIII Habitation Complex in the Gadii'ahi/To'koi Chapter, Navajo Nation

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In the spring of 2019, New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) had the unique opportunity of conducting a field school on the Navajo Nation. Through the efforts of Navajo CRM archaeologist and NMHU graduate student, Jeremy Begay, and Tamara Billie, senior archaeologist at the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (NNHHPD), NMHU students were allowed to conduct archaeological research on a pre-Columbian pueblo site on Navajo Nation lands. The pueblo has a strong Mesa Verde component and a nearby Chacoan feature, field houses, and a neighboring great kiva. Students also learned about the living culture of the Navajo people and their archaeological practices. In October, 2019, two drones were flown over the sites in order to map them, with the aid of Katie Withnall, drone operator from the New Mexico Forest and Water Restoration Institute and Eric Alarid of DesertGate Internet services. In the future NMHU will continue working with the NNHHPD in order to aid in documenting these unique pristine sites, including historic Navajo sites.