

Coconino County Proclamation

Celebrating and Honoring the Life of Dr. Miguel Vasquez

WHEREAS, Coconino County and the communities within lost a cultural leader, mentor, and teacher on October 6, 2024 with the passing of Dr. Miguel L. Vasquez; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vasquez was a passionate advocate of cross-cultural understanding and a dedicated professor of anthropology at Northern Arizona University, who spent over three decades dedicated to working with Latino, Native American, African-American, and Southeast Asian refugee communities across Mesoamerica and the United States; and

WHEREAS, in his 35 year career at NAU he earned the NAU President's Distinguished Teaching Award and the Community Luminary Award from the State of Black Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vasquez was a tireless advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, a founding member of the Coconino County Hispanic Advisory Council where he was chair from 2006-2011, and a founding member of the NAU Commission on Ethnic Diversity; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a professor of anthropology, he also served on the boards of the International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, el Pueblo de NAU, Friends of Flagstaff's Future, Museum of Northern Arizona and was elected to the Flagstaff Unified School District Governing Board; and

WHEREAS, as an applied cultural anthropologist, his proudest work was collaborating with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office and Third Mesa Community of Bacavi to restore garden terraces in Bacavi Canyon to their social, cultural, and economic role with help from NAU professors and students; and

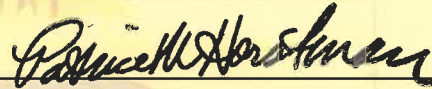
WHEREAS, Dr. Miguel L. Vasquez, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who believed deeply in the power of applied anthropology to foster cross-cultural competence and compassion, qualities he felt the world needed now more than ever; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Coconino County Board of Supervisors do hereby celebrate and honor the life of Dr. Miguel L. Vasquez that built a legacy of compassion and tireless efforts to create a more equitable world.

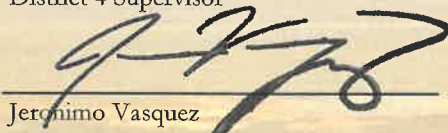
Signed and sealed this 15th day of October 2024.
COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:



Judy Begay, Chair
District 4 Supervisor



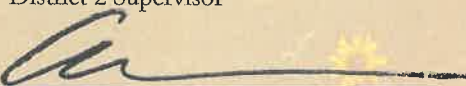
Patrice Horstman, Vice Chair
District 1 Supervisor



Jeronimo Vasquez
District 2 Supervisor



Len Fowler
District 5 Supervisor



Adam Hess
District 3 Supervisor

