

Mrs. Shawna Allison Becenti is of the Zuni-Red Running into Water Clan and born for the Salt Clan. Her maternal grandfather is the Coyote Pass Clan, and her paternal grandfather is the Hairy Ones Clan. She was raised in Farmington, New Mexico, but has family ties to Tohatchi, New Mexico, Crownpoint, New Mexico, and Ganado in Arizona and Parker, Arizona.

Mrs. Becenti, the first alumna to lead Navajo Preparatory School, upholds the vision and legacy of the school with a strong commitment to innovation. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education with a focus on History from the University of New Mexico and a Master of School Administration from New Mexico State University. With over 26 years of experience in education, Mrs. Becenti brings a wealth of knowledge to her role as Head of School at Navajo Prep. Before taking on this role, she spent eight years as a teacher, Dean of Students, and Athletic Director at Navajo Prep, three years as the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, and seven years as the Principal at Kirtland Central High School. During her tenure at Kirtland, the school received the Bronze Medal in the US News Best High Schools ranking, a testament to Mrs. Becenti's effective leadership.

Mrs. Becenti has a wealth of experience in New Mexico school turnaround initiatives. She completed the Principals Pursuing Excellence Cohort 4 program with the Priority Schools Bureau at the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). As a result of her participation, Mrs. Becenti has been invited by NMPED to mentor principals in New Mexico through various programs, including Principals Pursuing Excellence, RISE, LEAD, LAUNCH, and CLIMB.

Mrs. Becenti is dedicated to serving the local community and increasing educational opportunities for Navajo Prep School and Navajo Nation students. She embodies the school's motto: Leaders Now and Into the Future, "Yideesk33g00 Naat'lanii."