Representatives from Cornell University visit Hopi High School

Cornell representatives Kathy Halberg (l) and Mario Caro (r) talk with Hopi High Academic Counselor Dushon Monongye (center). PHOTO: Stan Bindell

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Mario Caro, associate director of The American Indian Program at Cornell University, said Cornell offers the best educational opportunity for Native American students.

"It's extremely difficult to get into Cornell. They only take 14% of the students that apply. Cornell is interested in Hopi High students because they are interested in Native Americans, and they want more students to represent Hopi High on their campus. Cornell has more than 80 majors for students to choose from. Cornell costs $65,000.

Kathy Halbig joined Caro for a presentation in the Hopi High auditorium on Sept. 16 about Cornell. She said the students who are at Cornell can pay their tuition by need-based financial aid. More than 14,000 students attend Cornell. The percentage of Native Americans attending Cornell is less than 1%. Cornell offers students an opportunity to get special scholarships and travel opportunities as well as a large variety of programs.

Dushon Monongye, academic counselor for Hopi High School, said she was pleased that the Hopi High students asked questions about Cornell during the presentation. Normally they are too shy to ask questions, but this time they are inquisitive. About 51 Hopi High students attended the presentation.

Monongye said this visit was important because Hopi High wants all the students to have an opportunity to attend these top schools. Representatives from Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona College of Medicine visited Hopi High earlier this school year. Later this school year, Fort Lewis College, University of Arizona, Institute of American Indian Art and other colleges will visit Hopi High to make students aware of the academic opportunities.