Keeping History Alive

Left to right: Navajo Elders Jake Livingston, Nita Nez, Peter MacDonald, Sr. Della Toadlena and Baje Whitethorne, Sr. are the subjects of new documentary videos produced jointly by Diné College and Winona State University students.

For the past five years Diné College students have teamed with journalism students from Winona State University to produce documentaries of Navajo elders. This year the group featured five Navajo elders who were influential in their roles as leaders and artists. Dr. Miranda Haskie of Diné College and Dr. Tom Grier of Winona State University organized the premiere, Monday, September 16, 2013. President Maggie George was very impressed with the outcome of the production and collaboration between the two institutions.

“The academic collaboration provided students with invaluable training, community outreach matched with instruction and insight to journalism,” President George said. “The best part of this partnership is the connection to Winona State University for those students who participated from our College.”

In attendance for the premiere were all five of the Navajo elders, former chairman Peter MacDonald, former Diné College instructor Della Toadlena, Artists, Jake Livingston, Baje Whitethorne Jr., and Traditional Rug weaver Nita Nez.

Students from Diné College and Winona State University were also in attendance and shared their experiences. Dr. Haskie was pleased with the outcome but knows there are still much to accomplish with the ongoing project.

“I still believe that today we do not yet know the magnitude of our project. I know it will be far reaching, like a newfound treasure in our midst the entire time.” Dr. Haskie said.

President’s Corner

Ya’at’eeh,

There are many activities and events taking place campus wide! Our flagship campus will be welcoming rodeo competitors from the Grand Canyon Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association this weekend September 20 & 21. I look forward to everyone participating making this event successful for our students and guests.

The Diné Policy Institute will be hosting the “Indigenous Peoples Corn Gathering” on September 19-21, 2013. There will be a showing of 2 documentary films (The World According to Monsonto and Genetic Roulette), September 19, to start the events for the three-day convention. Their work with the community and food sovereignty continues to enhance Diné College. I’m grateful for their commitment in taking part to sustain our culture and heritage.

Take the time to enjoy some of the events that take place at our campuses. Thank you all for your valued contributions to Diné College, Hats off to personnel for your hard work in preparing for events.

Maggie George, Ph.D., President
Dine College Welcomes New Employees

In a press conference that was held on Monday, September 18, 2013, the College welcomed the new Athletic Director, Shaun Martin who joined Diné College to head Warrior Athletics.

The former Chinle High School cross country coach will also take the reins as Head Coach of the Men’s and Women’s Cross Country teams at Diné College. Mr. Martin brings with him a great deal of experience and leadership to the position that has been vacant for over a year.

“I’m excited to be a part of Diné College athletics, leading a collegiate athletics program is monumental,” said Martin. “The Warriors have a winning tradition and that’s what I will strive to continue for the College.”

Martin is from Chinle and his clans are German born for Tsi’najinii and his maternal grandparents are German and his paternal grandparents are Honâgháahnii. He is from Lechee, Arizona and is a graduate of Page, High School.

The Tuba City Center recently hired Larrita Riggs for the position of Learning Center Coordinator. Ms. Riggs clans are Honâghááhnii dine’e born for Tl’iizí Lani her maternal grandparents are Tábaahí dine’e and her paternal grandparents are Tódích’íín’ii dine’e.

Riggs is originally from Tonalea Arizona, the second oldest of five siblings, she is the first in her family to leave the reservation and obtain a college education.

A graduate of Tuba City High School in 2008, she recently received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Child and Family Studies from the School of Social Work, with a specialization in Administration for Family, Youth, and Children at Portland State University.

“I am excited to join the Diné College family and to be highly supportive to student success, and continue to support students in navigating the structures of postsecondary education,” said Ms. Riggs.