Rodeo Time!

Cowgirls and Cowboys from the Grand Canyon Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) gathered here in Tsaile, September 20 & 21, to rope, ride and race in the season opener. Diné College Cowgirls and Cowboys participated in the rodeo but came up short in the events they competed. Coach Amy Redhorse however, was pleased overall with the outcome of the rodeo and the performance of her team.

“Rodeo is a tough sport, especially at the college level where some of the athletes are competing professionally,” Coach Redhorse said. “Our team didn’t do very well at this rodeo but it gave us a glimpse at who we are competing with, motivating us to pick up the slack in our events.”

New Mexico Highlands was the winner for the Women’s team trophy, riding away with 505 points. New Mexico State University Men were in the winner’s circle more than once-collecting the coveted team championship with 635 points. Diné College did not score any points, but is saddling up for its next competition in Douglas Arizona, September 27 & 28, 2013. Good Luck to the Diné College Rodeo Team!

President’s Corner - Guest

The Science Department is very active offering a wide range of popular science classes both for majors and non-majors. This year, the Shiprock campus initiated a new Hydrology certificate program this semester. With a high demand for our courses, we are making the appropriate adjustments to accommodate our students at each of our campuses.

We work closely with Diné Environmental Institute (DEI) to offer internship opportunities for students during the school year. This past Spring 2013, four students from Tsaile and Shiprock worked on an air quality projects that reviewed possible sources of indoor air pollution. Four student interns from Shiprock and Tsaile will be engaged on the same project for the Fall 2013.

During the summer 8 interns worked with DEI to investigate three key areas; surface water quality (monitoring the San Juan river), air quality, and community outreach on ground water and drinking water issues. The Summer Research Enhancement Program (SREP) included ten students who participated in is 3 weeks of training in research methods, 6 weeks of local research and 1 week devoted to presentations. The SREP experience focuses on public health issues such as diabetes prevention.

Our department also engages the faculty in activities that enhance their skills and training. Over the summer faculty of the science department participated in a two-day training on a variety of hydrology equipment that has been installed on the Whiskey Creek watershed and surrounding areas. The science faculty will maintain this equipment and use the collected data in their classes.

The science department is set on providing a strong academic background with multiple opportunities for hands-on, relevant engagement in research or investigative activities available to all students.

Barbara Klein, M.Ed., Instructor
Science and Physical Education Division
Dine Policy Institute presents “Corn is Life”

DPI Policy Analyst Dana Eldridge presents on the Navajo Nation Food System.
(Photo courtesy of Roberto Nutlouis)

In this painting by the late Raymond Johnson, a young Navajo woman prepares a meal at her home – a traditional male hoghan.

The Diné Policy Institute at Diné College held a “Corn is Life” conference at the Tsaile Campus on September 19-21, 2013. The event was held in conjunction with the Black Mesa Water Coalition and the International Indian Treaty Council to bring awareness and educate the public about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and its uses in corn. Dana Eldridge of the Diné Policy Institute took part in the events and expressed the importance of the conference.

“As Navajo People we need to understand that our food system is directly impacted by GMO’s,” said Eldridge. “It’s essential to keep the public informed about possible solutions on how to remedy these threats to our food, and to assert our Diné Food Sovereignty”

At the conference, individuals presented and discussed the significance of corn in the Navajo culture and other cultures. They reviewed the current Navajo Food System and the Diné Food Sovereignty and policies that are currently in place. Members from other organizations also discussed how GMO has negative impacts and provided information on how corn in their communities are affected.

Throughout the conference the members expressed their thoughts and possible solutions on how to face the issues with GMO’s and corn. Individuals from Navajo communities were also in attendance offering their support and discussing methods of preserving the culture and farming on the Navajo Nation. The conference concluded on Saturday, September 20 with a Farmers Market held at the Tsaile junction.