Shiprock Unveils New Math Learning Center

Dennis Price and Valiollah Manavi, Math Instructors stand amidst the new Math Learning Center at the Shiprock North Campus.

A new state-of-the-art Math Learning Center was recently constructed at Diné College Shiprock North Campus and is now available for students to experience. Thirty-two computers were installed in a classroom to assist students with their self-paced/mastery learning of mathematics. This semester, students who are enrolled in the Math 096 (Basic Mathematics) will be utilizing the new facility. Directing the new classroom and its capabilities are Math instructors, Dennis Price and Valiollah Manavi.

The software that the Learning Center uses is the Pearson Publishing online computerized MathXL Instructional Program. This enables students to access their homework and meet deadlines remotely.

The campus still offers face-to-face instruction for their intermediate Algebra and College Algebra courses but will soon be introducing those students to the Math Learning Center. Currently, students who are enrolled in Math 096 (Basic Mathematics) have access to the new center.

The instructors piloted the project this semester at the Shiprock campus and will assess each student’s progress. They will determine if the project will be implemented at the other campuses of Diné College based on the assessment.

President’s Corner - Guest

The Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Department includes History, Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work, Political Science and Psychology. We have full-time faculty teaching in Tsaile, Shiprock and Tuba City. This academic year we have two new full-time faculty members, Brian King and Christine Willie as well as one brand new (to teaching) adjunct instructor, Susie Manning.

New History faculty member, Brian King, successfully defended his dissertation this past September at the University of New Mexico. He specializes in Southwest Borderlands History including elements of art history, religion, immigration and Native American history. Mr. King is no stranger to Navajo land, having taught at Many Farms in his earlier training as a history teacher.

Ms. Christine Willie is a recipient of the prestigious 2013/14 SSRC IDRF Fellowship and teaches General Social Science, History and Anthropology. Ms. Willie’s dissertation is an ethnographic study of the co-constituted identities between the Diné people and sheep. Willie addresses how the butchering of sheep allows for the dissolution and reconfiguration of Western knowledge and previous academic research.

Susie Manning is employed as a Licensed Social Worker with the Farmington School District and teaches courses at our Shiprock campus in social work. The Social Work program is very popular with Diné College students and we are hoping to fill our currently open faculty position with a full-time instructor this coming Spring semester.

Dr. Miranda Haskie teaches Sociology, has been with the College for over 15 years and is very involved in coordinating the Navajo Oral History project. On September 16, 2013, Dr. Haskie held the 2013 Navajo Oral History Museum show exhibiting five living history documentaries produced by Diné College and Winona State University students.

William Hozie teaches full-time in Tuba City, comes from a strong academic background including UC Berkeley, and due to a multi-discipline graduate degree is also credentialed to teach various SBS courses as well, including Sociology and Anthropology. SBS majors compile a vast majority of Diné College graduates and this is partly due to the fascinating subjects taught and the colorful characters doing the teaching.

Ky Travis, M.A., J.D.
Chair, Social and Behavioral Sciences
In this painting by the late Raymond Johnson, young boys are encouraged to rise early and run.

Miranda Haskie, Ed.D., receives an award from President Maggie George, Ph.D., for her work in establishing a partnership between Diné College and Winona State University by developing and sustaining the "Navajo Oral History Project" for the past five years.

Revitalizing International Language and Culture

This semester, the Center for Diné Teacher Education is offering the second in a set of International Seminar courses on Language and Culture revitalization: EDU 487 Indigenous Culture-based Education – International Seminar. This course is offered jointly by the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Te Awanuiarangi in New Zealand (a Maori tribal college), the University of British Columbia, and the University of Arizona at Tucson. Some thirty-five students are taking the course at these partner institutions; along with students at Diné College, and participating every Tuesday evening live via ITV. Readings are shared online via a Moodle site maintained in Alaska. Discussions are organized in Google Docs and Google threaded conversations.

Goals of the course are for students to demonstrate understandings of Indigenous perspectives on the culture-based education of Indigenous peoples, use these understandings to design a project that addresses a relevant challenge/problem, apply best practices for the support of Indigenous culture-based education to the relevant challenge/project, and demonstrate confidence in supporting Indigenous culture-based education with family, colleagues, students, parents, and/or community members.

"Participants are pleased with the course so far and are gaining a great deal of knowledge from leading indigenous researchers and educators about issues pertaining to Indigenous peoples around the globe," said Dan McLaughlin, from the CDTE and co-instructor of the course.

Other co-instructors include Keiki Kaiwai'a from Hawai‘i, Beth Leonard from Alaska, Cheryl Stevens from Aotearoa (New Zealand), Candace Galla from the UBC, and Sheila Nicholas from the UA. For more information, contact Dan at djm@dinecollege.edu, or to learn more, visit the class in action on Tuesday evenings, from 7-9:30 pm in the Board Room of the Ned Hatathli Center's sixth floor at Tsaile Campus.