The 45th annual Western Navajo Fair in Tuba City was a big hit for Diné College. Members of the Rodeo and Cross Country Teams, as well as Miss DC and staff from Tsaile and Tuba City, worked together to make the Tuba City Parade a big success and fun for everyone involved!

Western Navajo Fair

BAEE candidates are presently doing Week Two of the second segment of practicum teaching for the junior-year Apprenticeship I and the senior-year Apprenticeship III at schools in the CDTE’s service region. Practicum teaching in the first semester of the upper-level BA program involves lesson planning and teaching small groups of children. Furthermore, it includes thematic unit planning and assessing whole groups of children in the third semester of the program. Teacher candidates are presently working with seasoned mentor teachers in Chinle Elementary School, Ganado Elementary School, Kayenta Community School, and Tsaile Public School.

Geraldine Garrity, CDTE faculty member, is offering EDU 476 Structured English Immersion for a group of teachers at Rough Rock this fall. Rough Rock Community School is contracted with the CDTE to offer the course to its teaching staff. The course is required for teacher licensure in the state of Arizona. Some twenty teachers are taking the class. Dr. Garrity is a state certified SEI instructor.

Henry Fowler, with joint faculty appointments to the CDTE and the Math Department, is coordinating Math Circle activities at high schools in our service area. Math Circles is a group effort by math educators from across the United States. Partner faculty members are based at San Jose State University, Kansas State University, the University of Utah, and Northern Arizona University. The group works with math teachers in selected high schools on the Navajo Nation to promote constructivist, problem-solving, real-world teaching and learning approaches to mathematics education. Math Circles faculty, including Dr. Fowler, are working directly with high school students from Tsé Ho Tsó Middle School, St. Michael’s High School, Ganado High School, Chinle High School, and Many Farms High School. The team is planning to offer Math Camp II in summer, 2014, at Diné College’s Tsaile Campus.

Barsine Benally, faculty member in Early Childhood in the CDTE, is spearheading fall semester’s Diné Language Arts Fair. The event will take place on Monday, November 18, 2013, at the College’s Tsaile Campus. K-12 students from across the Navajo Nation will compete in Navajo language arts and cultural activities. There will also be events for College students and community members. Barsine is also coordinating Family Nights for parents and their children in the Tsaile Campus dormitories. For more information, contact Ms. Benally at: 928-724-6814.

Dan McLaughlin, CDTE chair, is working with Ft. Lewis College’s Teacher Education Department to identify teacher candidates in the Shiprock area who are seeking to complete their teacher licensure program. FLC has phased out its cohort program based at Shiprock. The CDTE will offer lower and upper-level courses that the FLC candidates require, help them complete student teaching and pass appropriate licensure examinations, and launch their teaching careers in Navajo Nation schools.

CDTE faculty have begun to make visits to area high schools to spark interest in teaching as a career, and pursuing that interest at Diné College.

Daniel McLaughlin, PhD Chairperson Center for Diné Teacher Education

President’s Corner - Guest
Geology Students Study Rock and Land Formations at Narbona Pass

Students from the Geology and Environmental classes at Diné College took part in 2 different field trips to Narbona Pass last week. Margaret Mayer, Geology and Environmental Science Instructor, organized the trip for the students to familiarize them with rock formations and vegetation that exist at the different elevations of the Chuska Mountains. The field research trip was intended to make use of knowledge gained from previous lectures, labs, and field studies in the courses.

On October 16, Geology students made observations of the vesicles or holes in the rock and determined the type of volcanic rock that was present. They also observed the tilted unconformity, a division of the underlying Chuska Sandstone and the overlying Igneous rock, and interpreted how the tilt occurred.

On October 17, students in the Environmental Science class studied Life zones or plant communities that occur at different elevations in the Chuska Mountains. In the biodiversity project students had to provide a hypothesis before they began their research. The loss of biodiversity is a major environmental issue globally, and here on the Navajo Nation. These types of study raise awareness of the variety of species and rock formations found at different elevations on the Chuska Mountains and surrounding areas of the Navajo Nation.

“The students get to learn about the area they live in through our classes and develop some skills that will be greatly beneficial to their communities.” said Mayer.