DC Faculty Member Earns Early Childhood Award

Excellence Award at the 24th annual Northland Pioneer College Early Childhood Fair in Snowflake, Arizona.

The awards honor early childhood educators and care providers who have contributed to the early childhood profession and community on behalf of young children.

Criteria for the award include creative teaching, willingness to share teaching techniques, cultural sensitivity and being a positive role model.

Amelia Black
Amelial Black is a Diné Teacher Education Program Instructor at Diné College and a member of the First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council.

“Early Childhood Education is my passion; it’s an educator’s duty to expose children to a positive learning environment that creates a safe, healthy and enriching life.

The Navajo Culture encompasses a lot of lessons about child development; beginning from the time a child is conceived to the time they become adults.

My teaching perspective and philosophy is based on the Navajo cultural teachings from my Kinlichíʼíʼnii grandmothers and mother.

It is important to me because these traditions provide us the foundations of shaping an individual into a leader who will one day return and help the Navajo people prosper.”

Last month Amelia was presented with an Early Childhood Excellence Award at the 24th annual Northland Pioneer College Early Childhood Fair in Snowflake, Arizona.

The division has one Associate of Arts degree in Fine Arts. The Fine Arts program offers a visual arts curriculum for students who want to transfer to a four-year program. The curriculum promotes personal development in the arts. It includes Studio Art, courses in Ceramics, Drawing, Commercial Art, Graphics, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Art History, and Art Education.

Our department has six full-time faculty and one administrative assistant: Dr. Paul Willetto, Karen Willetto, Don Whitesinger, Dr. Robert Barraclough, John Templin and Sheila White, and Veronica Chee. The division offers courses in Humanities, Speech Communication, Theatre Art, Art History, and Fine Arts.

Upcoming events include the Art Walk on November 13, 2013 from 5:30-7:30 PM at GCB building in rooms 120 and 127, Hallway Gallery and at the Library. The Art Walk is a showcase of student artwork from the Fine Arts courses.

Sheila White
Chairperson
Humanities, Communications and Fine Arts
This year Diné College’s rodeo grounds were the site for the Warrior Challenge, an endurance and running event for competitors in the region. Individuals who participated in the challenge tested their physical abilities and endurance in one of two scheduled events. The first event was the 5K grueling obstacle course that included a mud pit, hay bale jump, crawl, balance beam crossing, wall obstacle and archery shoot. The 5K course began at 10 am, temperatures were frigid as over 60 competitors negotiated the course.

The day of competition concluded with a second event, the Strength and Endurance Event which began at 1 pm. Competitors who participated tested their strengths in a log carry, and log throw, tire roll and they also carried filled buckets. Winners of the events were awarded pullovers and everyone who competed received T-shirts. The event attracted competitors from all over the Navajo Nation. The athletics department at Diné College looks to schedule another event in the spring.