The administration at Diné College is implementing a Principle-driven plan that incorporates the four college principles of Nitsáhákees, Nahatá, Iiná and Siihasin. The framework will provide a “Big Picture” Framework that establishes an umbrella for multiple planning streams. Principle Planning has been integrated into the Strategic Planning Framework 2013, ensuring the successful development of the College’s Academic Master Plan (AMP) and Strategic Plan. The Academic Master Plan (AMP) and Strategic Plan are at the core of the College’s roadmap to success.

The process begins with Thinking- Nitsáhákees is the first phase of the cyclical improvement process. Engaging in a cyclical improvement process allows the College to close the strategic gaps in its performance. Data gathered during Nitsáhákees informs the development of the AMP and the modifications to the strategic plan. Budget Model and Funding Forecast, Central Planning Elements, Student Learning, and Data Research are also included here.

The next phase is Planning-Nahat’á. Application of the Nahat’á principle includes Annual Planning. In this phase, the AMP and Strategic Plan inform the development of annual plans. The Operating Budget, Department Level Academic Programs, Academic Programs, and Resource Development are reviewed. During Nahat’á, the Development Office’s annual fundraising plan is established, as well as the emphasis of the Institutional Grants Office in applying for grants that support key projects identified in the AMP and Strategic Plan.

The third part of the planning is Execution– Iiná. The Operating Budget is executed, capital and technological improvements are carried out, and academic services are generated. These services include a host of activities such as: Effective Teaching, Engagement and Service, and Enhancements to Learning Environments and Learning Resources.

The final phase of this planning model is Reflection – Siihasin. The Siihasin principle occurs as the end of the cyclical performance process. During this window of time, the College may address: Emergent Strategies, Evaluation Tools, Annual Performance Reports, Constituency Input, and the End-of-the-year (EOY) Report. During Siihasin, end-of-the-year (EOY) reports are generated and the College has an opportune time to: Outline new instructional priorities and outline new instructional support program priorities.

The Big Picture is adequately conveyed in the framework of the College’s four principles. We just need to follow this cyclical improvement process and continue to refine our performance.

Maggie George, Ph.D., President
Késhmish Family Fun Night Celebrates Navajo Language Activities

On December 19, 2013, the Diné Bizaad Bóhoo’ah Yinidaha’áhí organized the Késhmish Family Fun Night at the Student Union Building on the Tsaile Campus. Families from surrounding communities were invited to practice and learn the Navajo language as they created Christmas ornaments from materials that were provided. James McKenzie of the Diné Policy Institute was pleased with the outcome and the responses from the participants.

“Our goal was to create a fun learning environment where speakers and learners of all proficiency levels were comfortable with Diné Bizaad. People of all ages look for opportunities like this to practice using the language and to have fun while doing it. By devoting an evening of activities using Diné Bizaad, we are demonstrating our commitment to maintain and continue teaching it into the future,” said Mr. McKenzie.

At the Family Fun Night, everyone was given a handout with the pictures and Navajo spelling of the names of the material used to make Christmas decorations. An example is a Ribbon, which is spelled lashdóón using the Navajo letters. Throughout the evening, Mr. McKenzie and Center for Diné Studies Chair, Thomas Littleben Jr. conversed in Navajo demonstrating how to properly pronounce and use the examples provided.

Diné Bizaad Bóhoo’ah Yinidaha’áhí is a standing committee focused on planning and implementing activities to promote and maintain the Navajo language and culture. The committee plans more events in the future for everyone to enjoy and learn. The Center for Diné Studies also conducts a number of Navajo language immersion camps throughout the course of each semester.

Inspirational Quote of the Week

“Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.”

-Mary Kay Ash

New Post Office Building Open for Business

Tsaile Community members will now receive their mail at the post office building. In the fall of 2013, the previous building that housed the post office was condemned and demolished. Located at the same site, the post office offers 1,000 new boxes that are available in three sizes, regular, mid sized and large boxes.

“We’ve been getting a lot of positive feedback from the community and it is definitely good to be in a new building. The last post office was really old and was in need of an upgrade. Here, we have a nice centralized set up that is convenient for our patrons,” said Postal Clerk, Latasha James.

The post office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.