Greetings,

The last several months have been very busy for all of us. Below is an update on the College’s project and advocacy activities.

**New Mexico**

Diné College is seeking support for the TCU Dual Credit funding bill and Capital Outlay requests for each TCU. This year, we have two dual credit funding bills requesting funds for Dual Credit for NM students who attend tribal colleges. This week, the bills were approved by the Senate Education Committee and received a “Do Pass” vote in the Senate Finance Committee. Patrick Blackwater, Dual Credit Coordinator and I provided testimony for the bills on Friday, January 31, 2014. We are also requesting $550K from the Capital Outlay funds to support planning of a Math and Science classroom building for the Shiprock South campus. Other legislation for tribal colleges this year include a Joint Memorial Bill to conduct a study of where Tribal Colleges are excluded in the NM Higher Education policies and initiatives. The New Mexico Tribal Colleges hosted a reception for legislators at the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe, NM. We also participated in the Indian Day and maintained an informational booth at both events. Several students, staff, and a Board member represented the College.

**Arizona**

The Arizona Indian Day events were held last month in Phoenix. The College was well represented at the event. A Tribal College Dual Credit bill was drafted for the 2014 session. The bill will be introduced this week. Later this month, I will be presenting to the Native American Caucus of the Arizona legislature to advocate for the Tribal College Dual Credit bill and provide an update on Diné College’s Arizona Compact expenditures.

**Capitol Hill Visits and AIHEC Winter Meeting**

A Diné College delegation of students, staff, board members have been in Washington, DC this week for the annual Capitol Hill lobbying visits. Our number one priority is to ensure that a 1978 Congressional mandated facility study is completed this year. The study is the predicate for securing a $2 million annual Congressionally authorized appropriation. Second, we will lend our support to the funding of the BIA Higher Education Scholarship program. With the pending reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, we will continue to advocate for and ensure that Tribal Colleges and Universities are included in the fabric of American Higher Education. Other advocacy work will include equitable funding for the 1994 Land Grant schools (TCUs).

**Honeywell Project Completion**

Two weeks ago, Honeywell technicians completed installation of a Life/Safety System in the Tube City Campus Modular Building, Dormitories and Modular Building at Tsaile Campus and Modular Building at the Shiprock South Campus. These systems will be monitored by the College Security Department. Honeywell also implemented a surveillance system, Fire Alarm, Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning notification System for the Tsaille Archive Center.

**Jenzabar Module Managers Group**

I appointed 8 individuals to serve on the Jenzabar module managers group to address EX system concerns, data integrity, and data reporting. Cheryl Thompson, Controller will chair the group. They will meet on a regular basis to research and develop best practices to maximize the Jenzabar Higher Education Management system.

**Chinle Center**

We are the process of moving the Chinle Center from the Navajo Shopping Center to a larger and safe location near the Chinle hospital. We anticipate it will be in full operation by the Summer Semester.

**Tsaile Faculty and Staff Housing Roads**

The College is moving forward to pave the Hogan and Modular Housing area roads.

**College Internet and NTUA Broadband**

We are working with NTUA to increase our internet bandwidth to improve services to students, faculty, staff and community.

**Information Technology**

ITD has just completed a comprehensive implementation of a computer backup system to ensure the College remains operational in the event of any potential disaster.

**U.S. Department of Education Action**

I am pleased to report we are in good standing with the federal government and the 2013 Navajo Nation audit was submitted on time. Per the directive of the board, I am working on next steps for our College to conduct their own single A-133 audit. This will require Navajo Nation legislation.

**Federal Communications Commission**

This week we learned that the Federal Communications Commission approved our application to construct and operate a Low Power FM (LPFM) radio station at the Tsaile campus. The radio station will have a frequency MHz of 92.1 with unlimited hours of operation. The College has 18 months to implement the project. I want to thank James McKenzie for taking the lead on this project.

**Go Warriors!**

Maggie George, Ph.D.
President of Diné College
Diné College Receives Painting Gift

Diné College thanks Sheldon Harvey for this painting titled; “Abstract Samurai Dream.” During an internship in Japan, Mr. Harvey painted this canvas, which he contributed to the Ned A. Hatathli Museum’s permanent collection. Mr. Harvey is from Window Rock, AZ and is an artist whose work is exhibited nationally and internationally.

Rodeo Team Reaches Out to Youth Through Basketball

This year, Diné College Head Rodeo Coach, Amy Redhorse and her team are switching hats to support a youth basketball team. The rodeo team is doing some community outreach by assisting local youth to form a 12 & under girl’s basketball team. They are recognized as the “Lady Wolves” with the Office of Youth Development Youth Basketball League in Chinle, AZ where they compete with other local teams.

“This is an opportunity for our student athletes to practice their leadership skills and develop their roles in the community,” said Rodeo Coach, Amy Redhorse.

The Rodeo team volunteers its time to help motivate and teach the youth basketball team members about sportsmanship and teamwork. Practices for the Lady Wolves are held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Diné College, Tsaile Gymnasium. The team is preparing for competition on Thursday, February 13 at the Chinle Elementary School Gym. They will conclude their season in March, just in time for the Rodeo team to continue their regular season.

On March 1&2, the Rodeo team will be gearing up for their competition in Ft. Huachuca, Arizona at the Cochise College Rodeo. Currently, the team is ranked 6th in the Grand Canyon Region. Coach Redhorse stated, “I’ve got a full roster this year and we have the confidence to improve our rankings.”