On May 9, 2014, Diné College celebrated its 45th commencement ceremony as 186 students were conferred their associate’s, bachelor’s degrees and certificates. This year’s commencement ceremony included 41 of the 86 Adult Basic Education graduates who earned their GED diplomas. President of Diné College Dr. Maggie George delivered the welcoming address and elaborated upon new developments and partnerships the College is involved. Deputy Provincial Health Officer in British Columbia’s Ministry of Health and award-winning actor, Dr. Evan Adams, was the commencement speaker and encouraged the honorees to continue on by making a difference in their communities and the world. Student Body President Robin McGee provided the congratulatory remarks to her classmates and shared her unique experience regarding her journey from New York City to Diné College. Academic Dean Abraham Bitok honored eight Diné College faculty members from each of the College’s academic divisions for outstanding service and dedication within their respective areas of expertise. This year’s ceremony drew over 1,500 attendees including family and friends celebrating the graduates receiving their diplomas.

Diné College’s 2014 Commencement ceremony was a memorable success. It was especially heartwarming to shake the hand of each graduate as they crossed the stage, and to honor those that are committed to a path of continuous improvement. Óta’í Sa’ah Naagháí

Bik’ehózhóón nilíigo yigááł doolee : May each graduate walk in beauty. As one semester is concluded, another begins and the College is prepared for a summer filled with dynamic program offerings. Summer Institute at Tsaile Campus will be held on July 12-25, and Shiprock Campus on June 14-27. Agriculture Camp will be held on June 20-27 on the Tsaile Campus. Summer Math Campus will be held at the Tsaile Campus on July 14-25, and the Native American Environmental Youth Camp at Tsaile Campus will be held on July 13-18. All of these Summer courses provide excellent opportunities for personal and academic growth. We invite you to join us at Diné College and expand your horizons.

In addition to a diverse range of classes and institutes offered during the Summer, the College’s leadership and staff are working on multiple initiatives that will advance the institution. The College continues to make great progress in the capital construction arena. We are planning to open a new Chinle, AZ Center site in June 2014, our Student and Family Residential Housing project in Tsaile is moving along tremendously, and architectural designs are being developed for the Tsaile Student Union Building renovation. These are a few examples of the work that the College is involved in. I am proud of the direction that Diné College is heading, and believe that together, we can make great strides during 2014.

Ahe’hee’

Maggie George, Ph.D, President
Diné College Celebrates Baa Hózhó Math Festival

On April 29, 2014, The Mathematics Division at Diné College hosted the Baa Hózhó Math Festival for middle school and high school students in Tsaile, AZ. Approximately 200 students from seven regional schools attended the non-competitive event to explore new methods in the approach of mathematics. Math instructors and enthusiasts participated by sharing their techniques through enjoyable activities. Diné College Math Instructor Dr. Henry Fowler organized the festival and plans on hosting more interactive math events at the College.

In an effort to increase math literacy at Diné College and the Navajo Nation, Dr. Fowler regularly works with other math instructors to coordinate new ideas to confront the issue. Dr. Fowler believes that promoting math through festive events will bring interest to a subject that sometimes may be viewed as difficult or unpopular. At Diné College, the number of students in remedial math courses is above average. Dr. Fowler would like to decrease those numbers significantly so that students can immediately began their college courses.

Currently, Dr. Fowler and other math instructors from across the country are working on some projects that will take place on the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Math Circles is a project that gathers participating teachers twice per semester for workshops to enhance their skills in the classroom. On July 14-25, the 2nd Annual Math Camp will be held at the Tsaile Campus. For more information about the math camp, contact Dr. Fowler at henry_hf@hotmail.com.

Faculty Highlights Science & Physical Education Chair Barbara Klein

Barbara Klein, the Science faculty and chair of Diné College’s science division was honored for her 8 years of service to the College at this year’s commencement ceremony. This year, Barbara will be retiring from her position at the College to focus on her business. Over the years, Barbara introduced many exciting science activities for students such as the first weather balloon launch on the Navajo Nation. Her commitment to help broaden the perspectives of students distinguishes her as a faculty at the College. The most enjoyable and memorable moments at the College for Barbara are the winter shoe games.

As the Chair for the Science and Physical Education Division she supported staff and faculty to improve student success. She was instrumental in developing partnerships with universities such as NMSU, ASU and NAU. “She has been a well rounded faculty to support students at the College. “Her dedication to support students was outstanding, without a doubt she has changed the lives of many students at Diné College,” said Dean of Academics Abraham Bitok.