



"Preparing Warriors for the Modern World"



*FYE: 1.4 Strategic Goals & Objectives:
"Increase students' understanding of and
commitment to Diné' principles and values."*



*Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'eh Hozhoon: Rooted in Diné language
and culture, our mission is to advance quality
post-secondary student learning and development to ensure
the well-being of the Diné' People.*

October NEWSLETTER



"SUCCESS STORY AT DINE' COLLEGE"

Hello, my name is Mariah Rae Lee. Táchii'nii nishli. Tábaqhá bashíshchíín. Tséńjíkiní dashicheii doo Kinlichii'nii éí dashinali. I am of the Red Running into the Water People Clan, born for Water's Edge Clan. My maternal clan is the Cliff Dwellers People Clan and my paternal clan is the Red House Clan. I am from Many Farms, Arizona. I am nineteen years old. I do not have any siblings. My mom, Tera Davis raised me on her own. My dad, Byron Lee passed away in a tragic car accident when I was nine months old. Although my mother struggled financially, I always got everything I needed/wanted. That is the reason why I decided to obtain a higher education – to build a better future for myself.

I am a sophomore here at Diné' College. I graduated from Many Farms High School in May 2017. I am majoring in Health Occupations and working towards my Associates of Science Degree. I am hoping to complete my degree by next spring. This past summer I was hired at the Student Success Center as a Peer Mentor. I help incoming freshman and transfer students transition to this institution by directing them to any resources they need, motivate them, increase their retention rates, and offer emotional support. I am also a President's Honors award recipient. On October 3rd, 2018, I was crowned Miss Diné' College. It will be a challenge to fulfill all three roles as a student, mentor, and an ambassador; but with the support of my family, friends, staff, and faculty members I know I can do it.

After I receive my Associates Degree I plan on transferring to the University of Arizona or to the University of New Mexico. I want to earn my Bachelor's in nursing. I'm interested in becoming a pediatric nurse or a traveling nurse. I hope to come back to my hometown and work for the IHS so that I can give back to my people. I know there aren't many people who come home and help their communities. My plans are special because I will be the first in my family to earn such level of education. I hope to inspire other people to continue their education; especially the youth.

My advice to our incoming and continuing students is to always follow your dreams no matter how big or small they are. Don't forget where you come from. Experience new things. Take advantage of all opportunities that are offered. Remember, everything you do is for yourself. Have fun!



"Walking in Beauty, the Footsteps of Our Mother's Clan"

ARTICLE BY: STEPHANNE JIM, FYE COORDINATOR

The crowning of Miss Dine' College on October 3, 2018 was such a memorable event. I had the honor and privilege working with four beautiful and talented pageant contestants. The Dine' women with strength and courage represented their clans through their abilities to shine light upon their unique talents.

Who am I? This is a question that each contestant asked herself and a question that every learner should ask themselves too. A simple question indeed, but as a Dine' learner it is also very complex. It is like a ripple of water that embodies a large span and with its continued growth comes an understanding about your self-awareness. To call yourself Dine' makes you beautiful, because you are the reflection of your Mother, Yoołgai Asdzaan "White Shell Women."

White Shell Woman, a sacred deity in our culture is the representation of all mothers and the divine creation of our clanship. Our mother's clan is the spiritual image and the light that is within our being. This light is what shines through our behavior, characteristic, and attitude of our clan. It is the light that directs each of the Dine' people to walk on the Sacred Corn Pollen Road of Life, Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'eh Hozhoon.

Yoołgai Asdzaan, lived in the western direction at a place called "Yoołgai Kin Bee Talkaadah Naa'eel doo Yoołgai Bee Haazei." Our Mother's home floated on a large body of water made of white shell stone. On the outside of her home were her protectors; two prayer feathers, arrowhead, bear, wolf and cougar. These protectors stood in the midst of a light rain that reflected the beautiful colors of a rainbow shining above her home. This is where she re-created our Dine' clans. The Twin Warriors, her children brought back to our sacred land this clan system and Yoołgai Asdzaan then became our Mother Earth.

The clanship system was created to instill a healthy blood flow for our people. This blood flow would control our mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of living. This system was created to bring self-awareness to our Dine' children about their unique talent and ability. The clan system had their own songs and prayers that would educate Dine' children about the purpose of their life. As seasons came and as time continued new generations were born and they each lived according to the responsibilities of their clan. This is how our people became leaders and healers by following the ethics of our Dine'

Fundamental Law and Clanship. The goal was to keep a healthy and balanced living on Mother Earth.

Shima, means my mother and everyday is a special time to acknowledge her life. A mother's home can be described through her prayer and a mother's prayer is the closest that one can come to Diyiin "The Creator's" prayer. She is a life giver of our spiritual Dine' image and the light of our life that represents who we are. In a respectful manner it is good to learn about your clan, learn about who your mother is and implement that leadership skill into your work and walk of life. Your life is destined by your clan, therefore listen to the voice within your spirit.

Students, you each were born with a special talent and ability to do great deeds to maintain a healthy living. Let's continue to walk in the direction of cultural perseverance along side our newly crowned Miss Dine' College.

Happy Dine' New Years. May our future continue to prosper as we seek the knowledge of our mother's teachings to create a beautiful life.



"OUR SPIRITUAL IMAGE IS THE LIGHT OF OUR LIFE"

-WILSON ARONILTH JR.

#WHITESHELLWOMAN



#SHIMA



Left to Right: Lesley T. Gravatt, Mariah Lee, Shayne L. Jumbo, Keandra Sam

*We do not own the copyrights to images

"The Significant Meaning of the Dine' College Crown"



As Indigenous People, we express our thoughts through symbolism to capture the mind's artistic intelligence. According to our respected elder, Wilson Aronilth Jr. the Dine' College Crown has a special design that tells the history of our Dine' People. The design on top of the crown is an image of squash blossoms and this represents the flower of our sacred food, pumpkins. Pumpkin flowers bloomed and grew in the western direction of our sacred mountains. The roots became our livelihood and this is called, Iina. Iina, the life that is gifted to each Dine' person comes from your mother. This is the representation of your bloodline and future generations to come.

The Arrowhead on the crown represents the protection and safety of our Dine' People. In 1868 our Dine' Warriors took part in placing sacred offerings through the Arrow Way Ceremony. These prayers and songs were rooted into Mother Earth, Father Sky and the Divine Creation as we journeyed toward Western Educational learning; to protect our Dine' culture and language. These protection prayers continue to live through our philosophy and principles of Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'eh Hozhoon, The Corn Pollen Road of Living.

The image that circles the arrowhead represents Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'eh Hozhoon. The Sunray Beam is Sa'ah Naaghai and this is the light that directs and protects our life's journey. The Rainbow Beam is Bik'eh Hozhoon and this provides our people an abundance of good blessings through the happiness within each footstep we make on our journey.

Miss Dine' College wears this crown to represent her clan and implement the leadership skills she is blessed with. She will be the voice of our Dine' College students and Dine' People. Speaking with kindness and strength, her voice will bring light and shine light to the mind of those who listen.

"Special Thanks"

The designs that entail the crown represent creativity. It was with a creative thought and vision that our students came together to re-created the crown. I appreciate student enthusiasm and I thank the Dine' College tutors, students and staff for putting your creativity to work and making our 2018 Miss Dine' College Pageant a beautiful event for our contestants. Teamwork is all it takes to build and develop something unique. Keep working together and continue to make learning fun for your own good!

Ahehee'.



Left to Right: Heather Mitchell, Audrianna Chee, Emily Kimbrough, Delia Wauneka, Emette Kimbrough, Rob Claw, Shastikaa Iyua