

# Newsletter

## Diné College - School of Business & Social Science



May 2019 Issue

## Alumni Highlight

### *Kristin Mitchell, BA in Psychology*

Ya'ah'teeh! Shi éí Kristin Mitchell yinishyé. Todichiinii nishli, Honaghaanii bashishchiin, Ma'iideeshgiizhnii da shicheii, aadoo Kinya'aanii da shinali. I am from Chinle, Arizona and am a mother to two beautiful little girls. Currently, I work as a Case Manager and a Health Educator with Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health in Chinle, Arizona. I graduated from Diné College in May 2018 with my Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and will continue with a Masters in Clinical Mental Health this coming summer.

**So why did I choose DC?** Well, many factors led me to make the decision. First, it allowed me to stay close to home. Having two girls in school was a priority and thinking of moving to a different town would have been tough. Second, it was cost efficient. I saved so much more than I would have elsewhere. Third, the program started just as I received my AA in SBS, so it was a clear sign to enroll immediately. Last, having a great professor/mentor like Sara Kien is always a plus. Sara is a great individual to have by your side. She definitely played a part and I am forever grateful for her.

**The best memories** of the Psychology program lie with those I met along the way. My fellow 2018 alum and fellow classmates during my time there made going to class worthwhile. Class discussions were at times intense, but then would turn into comedic taunting of one another (all in good faith). Soon everyone in the program knew each other like family, which I hope it is still like today. Learning from one another is a great attribute about being a part of the program. Although I give great praise to all instructors, two in particular pushed me out of my comfort zone. Sara Kien and Christine Ami I have to say are two amazing individuals. Their courses are tough, but I was able to think selflessly and approach things differently than I had before in academics and in life.

**A challenge that I had to overcome** within the program was adjusting to changes at home. My last semester in the program was by far most stressful. It was a time where I thought I would not see graduation. With support from family and dear friends, I was able to pull myself together emotionally and mentally to finish. Everyone stresses and doubts themselves, no matter how strong you may think you are. It happens. Taking a step back and reflecting on what I conquered up to that point, thinking of my daughters, thinking of my future and how I needed to succeed to get there were all things I thought of in those moments of struggle. I think that would be my advice to students, do not give up; you made it this far, keep going. We all have the strength to push through. For those who need help, get help and do not shy away from your emotions. There are programs to take advantage of on campus like the Peer Mentor Program, Counseling, Tutoring, etc. Don't give up and take advantage of those extra programs on campus.

**"I absolutely love my job and am grateful that I get to wake up every day knowing that I am making a difference in our community." - Kristin Mitchell**



## Advising & Graduation Reminder:

### *Students,*

If you have not already met with an advisor about courses for next semester, now is a good time to set-up an appointment! Please see your advisor when you can, even to ask questions!

### *Graduating Seniors,*

We Look forward to celebrating your achievements at the Senior Graduation Banquet for our School on May 9th! This will be a lovely evening of celebrations and we look forward to witnessing you walk across that stage! Continue working hard, stay positive and do not forget about self-care!

*-Terra Lamotte-Harvey, Program  
Coordinator/BA Advisor*

# Faculty Highlight

## *Dr. Brian King, History Faculty*

Hello, I'm Dr. Brian King. I grew up in Dallas, Texas but I moved to the Southwest as quickly as I could! I teach history and political science courses at Diné College. I received my Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (in History – U.S./U.S. West and Frontiers and Borderlands with a minor in Art History), my M.A. from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces (in History – U.S. West), and my B.A. from the University of Texas, Austin (in Native American History). I also received my secondary teaching credentials from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff

Prior to my arrival at Diné college in 2013, I worked as a research assistant at the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico. I spent my last three years there researching and writing for the *Chronicling America* newspaper project for the Library of Congress. Prior to that, I worked for two years on the New Mexico Centennial Project digitizing primary source documents and images and providing supporting textual material for open access on the web.

**Why I chose Diné College?** I love the Southwest, the cultures in the region, I have a background in Native American history, I enjoyed teaching high school in Chinle in the 1990s, and the landscape is amazing.

**My hobbies include?** I love camping, hiking, mountain biking, dabbling in cryptocurrency, playing XBOX with my son, and Texas Longhorns football.

**What do I value most?** Family.



### **Favorite Quotes:**

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." -T. S. Eliot

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." -Robert Frost

"Not all those who wander are lost." J.R.R. Tolkien

# A Message from the Dean

## *Dr. Michael Lerma, School Dean*

Shi éí Mike Lerma yinishyé. I am from the Purepecha Tribe. I am a refugee of the Navajo Nation. I attended the University of Arizona studying Political Science, Indigenous Politics, and Research Design. I am married to Adrian Lerma from Tuba City. We have seven children together. I am working on the Virtual Incubator as well as a data base on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. I am also working to hire a political economist to help pioneer the reshaping of the Navajo Political Economy.

**Favorite Quote: "It's already there." -Avery Denny**



## **Congratulations to all Spring Graduates!**

### **Deadlines Approaching:**

**2019-20 BA in Business Admin Applications are Due: June 1<sup>st</sup>**