



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021: **T'áá hó ájit'éego: Striving, Adapting, and Advancing**

BY THE N 2020

1,315

Fall 2021 Enrollment

63

Full-Time Faculty

139

20-21 Degrees Conferred

39

Bachelor Degree Conferred

35

Ph.D. Faculty

57%

American Indian Faculty

6

Diné College Campuses

2

Microsites

Cabinet

Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel, President

Dr. Geraldine Garrity, Provost

Marie R. Etsitty-Nez, Vice President of External Relations

Bo Lewis, Vice President of Finance

Glennita Haskey, Vice President of Student Affairs

School Deans

School of Diné Studies and Education
Dr. Lawrence Issac, Jr., Dean, Professor

School of Arts, Humanities and English
Dr. Paul Willeto, Dean, Professor

School of Business and Social Sciences
Dr. Michael Lerma, Dean, Associate Professor

School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
James Tutt, Dean, Professor

NUMBERS 2021

6

Certificate Programs

16

Associate Degree Programs

20

Bachelor Degree Programs

93

**Chief Manuelito Scholars
AY 20-21**

4,133

Alumni

110

Alumni Staff

284

Full-Time Staff

FY 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT STAFF CREDITS:

Marketing and Communications: George Joe (Director), Marcella Nez (Communications Officer/Photographer), Scott Tom (Graphic Design & Digital Media Specialist), Jazzmine Martinez (Marketing Assistant), and all the departments and programs that provided information and edits.

Accreditation:  HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greg Bigman

Diné College
Board of Regents
President



Re-emerging stronger than ever

When you see a house destroyed by a fire, there's a loss greater than the structure. That's how I see what the COVID-19 pandemic has done to the Navajo Nation.

We witnessed how COVID-19 exposed the Navajo Nation's inequities such as, the weakness of our healthcare system, disparities in our education system, and shortfalls within our infrastructure. All of these factors impacted rates of crime, violence, unemployment, suicide, and deaths due to COVID-19.

While COVID-19 was raging through our communities, the College stepped up to support our Nation. We developed programs to strengthen our healthcare system by creating new programs, such as: Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences degree and a Certified Medical Assistant certificate.

We continue to develop programs that will help cultivate the next generation of Naat'áaniis that will help reshape our economy and healthcare. Lastly, we strive to strengthen our Navajo sovereignty by continuing to foster our language and culture.

Our cultural teachings and values are rooted in our foundation here at Diné College. It is with these values and teachings that we will re-emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever with incorporation of these values into healthcare, mental wellness, education and sound leadership practices.

COVID-19 may have devastated our lives, but it did not break our warrior spirit. Our accomplishments would not be possible without the hard work, commitment, and dedication of our esteemed faculty, staff, administrators, board members and donors.

A special acknowledgement to our revered faculty, Dr. Bauer, Dr. de Soto, and Dr. Hakim, for their significant contributions in cultivating our modern warriors to fight this pandemic. Finally, these accomplishments are only possible due to the continued support from our partners and friends, such as the Navajo Nation Council and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Respectfully,

Greg H. Bigman

BOARD OF REGENTS



Greg Bigman - President
Northern Agency



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Earlson Manson - A.S.D.C.
Student Representative

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Charles “Monty” Roessel, Ed.D.

Diné College President

This annual report, which documents the achievements of our students, staff and community, is filled with numbers. From the graduation rate to the fundraising totals, the report reflects the hard work of individuals.

Too often when we look at data, we forget that each number, each percentage point, is a person. And each person has story to tell that is shared with family and friends as they achieve their college degree.

If COVID-19 has taught us anything it is that we need to be more compassionate. Compassion is a central trait in our philosophy of K'é. As a college that is founded on our Navajo philosophy, let us remember those whose year has been filled with sadness and loss. Our Navajo Nation has been through a lot. Our Nation's College has been through a lot. We are stronger but our pain is still close. I ask our Warrior Family to take the time to hear the stories of our community.

Our Diné College story this year has been about transformation. We have transformed our technology. We have transformed our delivery of classes. We have transformed infrastructure. We have transformed our definition of college access. All of the actions taken have built a foundation for future growth and innovation.

Our financial security is strong and getting better. We are building a culture of philanthropy and this has increased the number of scholarships by 100s. We are expanding academic programs and positioning ourselves to be a partner in the economic rebirth of the Navajo Nation. There is a data point that I cannot escape. There are 29,000 individuals living within the Navajo Nation that have some college but no degree. Imagine if we can cut that number in half over the next five years. The possibilities for our Navajo Nation would be limitless.

Let's use our creativity and our culture to reimagine Diné College for the next 50 years – as we help build the Navajo Nation.



"Let's use our creativity and our culture to reimagine Diné College for the next 50 years – as we help build the Navajo Nation."



Diné College is the first tribally controlled institution in the United States. Established in 1968 as Navajo Community College, it was renamed Diné College in 1997. Located on the Navajo Nation, Diné College serves a predominantly Navajo student population (92%). Diné College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as a four-year institution. The College offers General Education courses that provide students with a high-quality experience while earning various certificates, associate and bachelor degrees. The College's annual budget for fiscal year 2021 was \$23,049,121 with 284 full-time employees. Diné College's main campus is located in Tsaile, Arizona. Campuses in Window Rock, Chinle, and Tuba City serve Arizona residents, while the Shiprock and Crownpoint sites serve New Mexico residents. This academic year the College added two new microsites in Newcomb, New Mexico and Aneth, Utah. The school participates in athletic competitions in rodeo, archery and cross-country. The College is governed by an eight-member Board of Regents.

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to continuously improve our programs and services to make Diné College the exemplary higher education institution for the Diné people.

1,315 • Fall 2021 Student Enrollment
• Largest Age Group 25-34
(383 students)

DEGREES CONFERRED

11 • Bachelor Degree Interest:
BA in Psychology
Graduates - Spring 2021

13 • Associate Degree Interest:
AS in Health Occupation
Graduates - Spring 2021

DEGREES AWARDED:

705 Degrees awarded
over four years

139 Graduated for
Academic Year 2020-21

13:1 Student-Faculty
Ratio

80% Single
Students

GATEWAY SUCCESS RATE:

51% Passing
College MTH 110

36% Passing
College Eng 101

RETENTION RATE:

54% Term-to-Term

34% Year-to-Year

FUNDRAISING

College Raises \$369,542.04

Diné College surpassed the amount of funds raised this fiscal year compared to the previous year.

There were over 500 individual donors, non-profit organizations, corporations and foundations who contributed and supported Diné College's fundraising efforts this past fiscal year.

The College held six fundraisers throughout the 2020-2021 fiscal year, including a virtual art auction, #GivingTuesday Warrior Day of Giving donation drive, an end-of-year postcard campaign, a fishing tournament, golf tournament, and 'Power of Education' blanket sales.

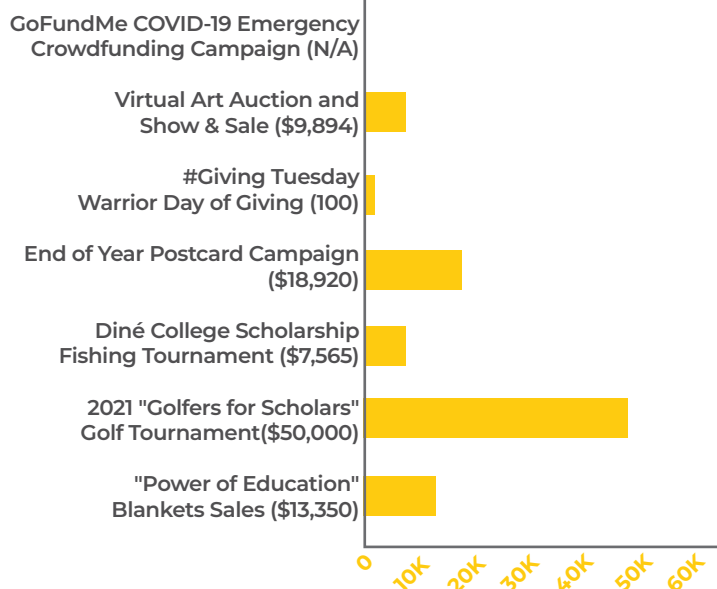
The College successfully closed out the 2020-2021 fiscal year with the 2021 Diné College 'Golfers for Scholars' Golf Tournament which resulted in \$50,000 raised for the Warrior Scholarship Fund compared to the previous year's \$14,050 raised.

Gifts to the College are used to provide technological and academic support to over 1,400 students. As a direct result of fundraising, hundreds of institutional scholarships are distributed to deserving students every year. The generosity of donors and sponsors bolsters Diné College's ability to support each students' journey toward earning a college degree.

This past year, the College successfully established three new scholarships, including the LaFrenda Frank Memorial Scholarship, the Buddy Whitethorne Memorial Scholarship, and the Joy Shannon Reich Scholarship. In addition to monetary gifts, the College also received non-monetary asset donations, such as a 20-year collection of academic journals for the Education Department, and \$50,000 worth of silversmith workshop equipment for the Bachelor of Fine Arts Silversmith program.



2020-21 FUNDRAISING OUTCOMES



2020-2021 MILESTONES

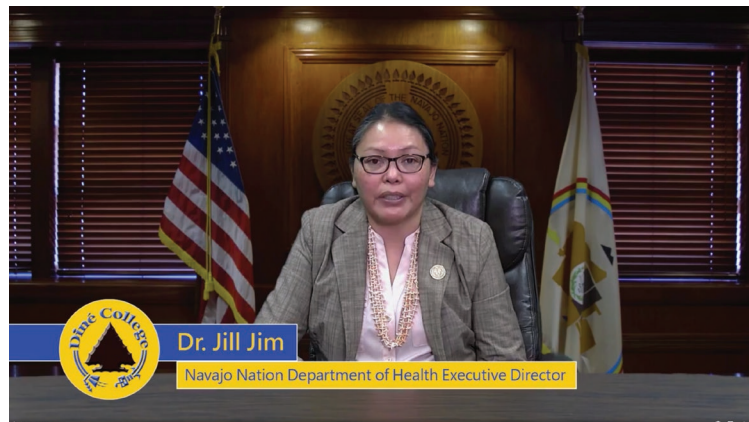
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OCTOBER 2020

• Both the Navajo Epidemiology Center (Navajo Nation Dept. of Health) and Diné College jointly announced the publication of a report titled, *2020 Navajo Nation Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment*. The report is available on the website of the Navajo Nation Department of Health. Dr. Bauer's public health students assisted with compiling data for the report.



Director Dr. Jill Jim served as the Winter Commencement speaker on December 11th – the first winter commencement in the College's history.



• The Advancing Postsecondary Attainment and Research in STEAM for Tribal Students project is a mentorship through the University of Arizona that aims to encourage and support Diné College students to transfer to the University to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and math majors.

• Speaking before Trump administration officials at a meeting hosted by the Navajo Nation Council, Diné College President Charles Monty Roessel told attendees that an administrative "stroke of a pen" for a Tuba City lab will go a long way for Diné College. Other topics discussed were about infrastructure, transportation, health and veteran's affairs and economic growth.

NOVEMBER 2020

• The College hosted a live virtual art auction to support student scholarships.

• \$1.3 million approved for Diné College Agricultural Multi-purpose center at Shiprock campus through the General Obligation Bond C for higher education.

DECEMBER 2020

• More than 50 students receive associate and bachelor degrees and certificates. The College allowed the graduating classes from spring 2020 to also participate. A total of 56 students petitioned to graduate, 49 Fall 2020 graduates were recognized virtually, and 11 students from Spring 2020 participated in-person. According to the College's Department of Information Technology, the virtual graduation garnered 5,300 online views.

• Navajo Nation Department of Health Executive

• As president of Diné College, and as a former teacher, principal and superintendent at schools across the Navajo Nation, Charles Monty Roessel can identify with youth who fit the criteria under review by the federal Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission of Native Children. Roessel was among the numerous educators, politicians and community leaders from Indian Country who recently testified before the commission — reminding the panel to not shortcut Native youth problems and solutions.

JANUARY 2021



• Shaina A. Nez, a Bachelor of Fine Arts program coordinator and adjunct instructor of English and Fine Arts, was recently published in the *Massachusetts Review*. Nez's essay, *Diné Abecedarian*, enlightens the alphabetic sequence of the Diné language in a literary form and was printed in the Winter 2020 edition of the publication.

• Diné College continues to maintain enrollment at the same level as before the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of enrolled students represents a

high amount, considering the COVID-19 outbreak with a total enrollment of 1,233 for the Spring 2021 semester.

FEBRUARY 2021



- The Diné College Board of Regents was recognized by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) with the 2021 John W. Nason award for leadership and progressive initiatives. Diné College was the sole Native American institution chosen for the honor.

- The first-ever emerging infection and tribal community virtual conference achieves 511 registered participants for the conference. The conference focuses on emerging infections in the light of current worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Topics of discussion included challenges we are facing, latest scientific, biological, diagnostic, epidemiological, clinical, and social sciences information we are gathering, and variety of strategies to be looked at for future drives.
- The first cohort of a new medical assistant certificate program at Diné College is on pace to graduate this year – a major milestone during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Certified Medical

Assistant (CMA) certificate program is the first of its kind ever offered on the Navajo Nation. Four students are set to graduate from the program during Fall 2021.

- Diné College mandates employees to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Diné College approves new 401(k) provider, in hopes of improving customer service. The new 401(K) provider was selected through a vigorous selection process that involved an RFP.

MARCH 2021

- The Board of Regents approves a new Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in creative writing that started in Fall 2021.
- The College email server overloaded causing it to shut down and delay e-mail sending and receiving for students and employees. The system was eventually corrected and resulted in enhanced security.

APRIL 2021

- The Navajo Cultural Arts Program (NCAP) hosts a virtual art exhibit featuring 40 art pieces from the graduating cohort of the Navajo Cultural Arts Certificate program.
- An outdoor learning facility for students was completed at the College's Tuba City Center.





MAY 2021

- Popular Albuquerque news anchor and Navajo journalist Colton Shone of NBC TV station *KOB* Channel 4 and long-time Navajo physician Dr. Michael Tutt serve as Diné College's 2021 commencement speakers. The commencement ceremony is held in two sessions: morning and afternoon. The first session included 47 graduates from the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and School of Arts, Humanities and English. The second session included 59 graduates from the School of Diné Studies and Education and the School of Business and Social Science. A total of 98 students were awarded degrees and certificates on May 7th. 10 students received certificates, 26 students received baccalaureate degrees, and 70 students received associate degrees.

- Professor Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim, Diné College's Microbiology and Biomedical Sciences Professor from the School of STEM, will be representing the American Society for Microbiology's Arizona and Nevada Chapter as Councilor at ASM's "Council on Microbial Science (COMS)" for a term of three years.

- The University of Arizona and Diné College have been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to collaboratively train the next generation of Navajo water scientists. The grant comes from the USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture through the Tribal College

Research Grant Program and will provide Navajo youth technical and hands-on experience in microbiology, molecular biology, chemical and microbial water analysis, and pressure-driven membrane processes.



- Ihab Saleh, is the new Information Technology director for the college. He comes with a dozen years of experience in higher education in Information Technology. He replaces long time IT director Joy Thompson who retired.

JUNE 2021



- Rhiannon Sorrell, an Assistant Professor in the Diné College School of Arts, Humanities & English (SAHE) has been selected as one of 15 fellows for the Rare Books School's second cohort of the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Diversity, Inclusion & Cultural Heritage. Ms. Sorrell is also the school's Instruction and Digital Services Librarian.

- Prof. J. Angel de Soto of



the School of STEM spoke at the 11th Annual Native American Healthcare Conference at Harrah's Resort Southern California in Valley Center, CA. Prof. de Soto, lead the panel discussion of internationally known healthcare experts on the COVID-19 - The Healthcare Response & Mental Health Impact.

- Diné College is one of two colleges in Arizona and among 250 colleges nationwide who have accepted President Joe Biden's challenge to get students and the community vaccinated by July 4th.
- Groundbreaking held for a \$7.4 million math and science building at the Shiprock (NM) campus on Monday June 28, 2021. Construction of the new math and science building starts immediately and is expected to be completed in March 2022. The funding for the Shiprock math and science Building (MSB) comes from a General Obligation Bonds that was passed by the New Mexico voters in November 2018 in the amount of \$5 million and the New Mexico Capital Outlay funds in the amount of \$2,407,615 million.
- Diné College renews the College's radio station (Warrior Radio on KXWR 92.1 FM) license. The renewal is good for another 10 years.
- Incident Command Center announced soft opening of the college campus for the summer. Several departments slowly lift restrictions that allowed students and employees to return on-site

safely and receive some face-to-face services.



JULY 2021

•Diné College's microbiology professor Shazia Hakim led an investigation on soils across the Navajo Reservation that could aid in fighting bacteria. Her findings were recently published in the *International Journal*

of Innovative Science and Research Technology. Undergraduate students as part of a NSF-TCUP Internship program conducted the study. This is an ongoing study with a lot of potential.

• Diné College professor Oleksandr Makeyev has received a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that would make it easier for doctors to diagnose disorders in the brain, heart, intestines, or uterus. The patent, "Concentric ring electrodes for improved accuracy of Laplacian estimation," was issued on June 29, 2021. Dr. Makeyev has a second patent application pending, and a third one in the preparation stages.

AUGUST 2021

• Public health nurse Joy Shannon Reich donates \$10,000 to Diné College to offer as a scholarship for students enrolled in the STEM program.



- Diné College hosted the First Annual Diné College Scholarship Fishing Tournament at Wheatfields and Tsaile Lake on July 31, 2021. All proceeds from the fishing tournament supported the Diné College Scholarship Fund. A total of \$6,665 was raised for the Warrior Scholarship Fund, as well as \$4,605 from sponsorships and donations to support the 2021 Diné College Scholarship Fishing Tournament. A total of 148 people registered and participated in the event catching over 45 rainbow and brown trout that were weighed in the competition with the prize going to the heaviest catch.

- Diné College offers a new Native American Studies (NAS) minor. This is the first minor program that the college will offer. The Native American Studies minor will focus on contemporary Indigenous communities, critical analysis of colonialisms, and re-imaging of Native self-determination.

- The Diné College Bachelor of Fine Arts program received about \$50,000 worth of silversmithing equipment for the silversmithing program from artist Nicki Adler.

- Diné College offered a challenge, “The Fall 2021 Challenge,” to all students who enrolled full-time for the Fall 2021 semester and receive a 2.0 GPA or better will receive free tuition for the Spring 2022 semester at Diné College. Diné College also offered a 50 percent tuition discount as well as a 50 percent residential discount for student housing for the Fall 2021 Semester. Additionally, the new student application fee, technology fee, and student activity fees were all waived.

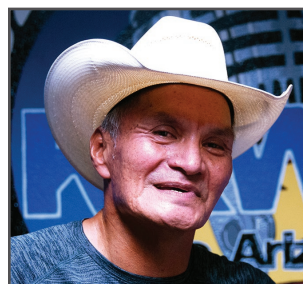
- Better Place Forests, an organization who creates conservation memorial forests, generously donated \$5,000 to the Diné College Warrior Scholarship Fund.

- Diné College marked another “first” among tribal colleges by granting faculty status to their librarians. Faculty status will give the librarians the opportunity to work up through the ranks of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and full Professor. Additionally, Diné College library will soon be rolling out the Ebsco Discovery Service, which will allow students to search the library’s catalog simultaneously with most of the College’s other databases.

- After the second week of classes for the Fall 2021 semester, Diné College had 1,339 students registered: a decrease of 29 students from last Fall’s 2020 enrollment. 823 students returned this fall, which is higher than last year’s continuing student enrollment. For the Fall 2021 semester, the college increased the number of online courses and instituted a mask and vaccination mandate for students, staff, and closed the campus to visitors.

- Diné College joined the trend in increasing their minimum wage to \$15 an hour for regular full-time employees as of August 26, 2021, which positively impacted more than two thirds of the College’s workforce. Diné College has 284 employees.

- The Employer Student Loan Repayment Program was presented to and approved by the Board of Regents for up to \$5,000 of loan repayment.



- Well known Navajo rodeo champion Ed Holyan joins Diné College as rodeo coach for the 2021-2022 academic year. Holyan says he is excited to return and help the next generation.

SEPTEMBER 2021

- Diné College holds Annual Golf Tournament in Farmington, New Mexico.

- The *Business Journal* publishes a story about Diné College that runs in several cities: Albuquerque, Los Angeles, and Denver.

- Diné College’s library hosts open house for refurbishment of the second floor of the Tsaile Library.

- Diné College Warrior and alumni, Triston Black, has been named one of 14 Arizona nominees for the National Association of Secretaries of State John Lewis Youth Leadership Award.

In the Media Spotlight

This past year, the College has received a lot of media exposure at the national level. It started last August, with a regional *Associated Press* story entitled “Enrollment Exceeds Expectations At Diné College.” The story ran in hundreds of media outlets including radio, television, and print media.

Then on October 25th, the state’s largest daily newspaper, the *Arizona Republic* ran a feature story on how the college dealt with the pandemic: “How one of the oldest tribal colleges in the U.S. opened for students during a pandemic.” Another October story was by an online and print publication *Inside Higher Ed*, “Innovating and Adapting: Tribal Colleges in the Pandemic.”

In November, a national daily print newspaper, the *Christian Science Monitor* published a story on enrollment at tribal colleges, “As Native freshman enrollment falls sharply, tribal colleges respond,” which featured the College.

In December, *National Public Radio* featured an interview with Dr. Christine Ami and other panelist, on a widely-circulated opinion piece she wrote for *Indian Country TODAY*. The interview was titled, “Native Americans Express Skepticism Over COVID-19 Vaccine.”



Then in January 2021, Jack Healy of the *New York Times* contacted the College and interviewed Diné Studies Prof. Avery Denny about traditional Navajo culture. Healey’s story was published on Jan. 12th, “Elders’ COVID deaths create a cultural crisis for Native Americans.”

Then in March, the *Trusteeship*, a national magazine published their feature story on the Diné College Board of Regents for their March/April 2021 issue. The interview chronicled the board’s triumph in overcoming challenges to receive the 2021 John Nason award.

Another story ran on March 16th entitled “Trying Times for Tribal Colleges” in *Inside Higher Ed*. The second article on March 24th was from Arizona State University’s *Cronkite News* service which featured a story that was reprinted by numerous regional news publications, “One generation away: Diné College fights to keep Navajo culture alive during pandemic.”

Then in May, Albuquerque’s *NPR* station KUNM under their Mountain West Community, aired an interview with the college president titled “Tribal College Leaders Welcome Biden’s Education Proposal.” The story was re-aired on numerous public radio stations in several states. Univ. of Arizona news service released an article, “U Arizona, Diné College to Train Next Generation of Navajo Water Scientists.” and was reprinted in numerous publications locally and regionally.



In August 2021, *EdTech* magazine, a national magazine ran a cover story about the College’s effort to expand and improve internet access to students. “Bringing Connectivity to Rural, Tribal Colleges.” Then on Aug. 23, the *Christian Science Monitor* profiled tribal colleges, featuring our photo, “Tribal colleges honor students’ past, prepare them for future.” *Diverse Issues in Education* also published an online story, “Broadband access still a struggle for tribal colleges and universities 18-months into the pandemic.”

In September 2021, the *Business Journal* publishes a story about Diné College that runs in several cities: Albuquerque, Los Angeles, and Denver.



In 2020, total operating revenues decreased in grants and contracts, due to a decrease in funding received from the Higher Education Institutional Aid Grant. This decrease also impacted the Auxiliary revenue which was a result in decrease operations by the College during the year due to the COVID-19. Total operating expenses decreased, primarily due to a decrease in Instruction and Auxiliary expenses. The decreases were partially offset by an increase in institutional support. Operating revenue fluctuates year-to-year due to enrollment, which affects tuition, federal student aid, and Auxiliary enterprises. Overall, these financial transactions resulted in a positive change in net asset of \$3.7 million for 2020.

OPERATING REVENUES

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tuition and Fees, Net	284,780	337,309	297,593	284,981
Grants and Contracts	4,868,507	5,873,638	7,299,118	6,894,983
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,055,703	913,711	1,078,955	768,887
Total Revenue	6,208,990	7,124,658	8,675,666	7,948,851

EXPENSES

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Instruction	9,394,391	9,505,833	9,563,755	8,542,925
Research	799,237	1,227,146	1,553,302	1,643,252
Public Service	12,557	-	2,170	562
Student Aid	5,037,282	5,209,197	5,128,034	4,783,223
Academic Support	2,396,815	2,948,140	2,518,292	2,357,761
Student Service	1,541,703	1,452,018	1,649,137	1,302,894
Institutional Support	12,883,941	13,674,911	14,389,610	14,685,619
Auxiliary Enterprises	2,330,803	1,978,052	2,036,653	1,720,580
Total Expenses	34,396,729	35,995,297	36,840,953	35,036,816
Net Operating Results	(28,187,739)	(28,870,639)	(28,165,287)	(27,087,965)

NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Federal Appropriations	13,960,848	13,598,810	13,580,928	13,967,528
Navajo Nation Appropriations	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,700,000	4,699,999
Federal COVID-19 Grants	-	-	-	3,482,821
Scholarships	7,483,707	7,034,462	7,342,688	6,844,710
Investments Income	495,627	419,262	604,386	730,622
Net Non-operating Activities	26,140,182	25,252,534	26,228,002	29,725,680
Capital Appropriations, Grants & Gifts	2,538,479	5,532,554	7,416,173	1,105,554
Total Non-operating Activities	28,678,661	30,785,088	33,644,175	30,831,234
TOTAL RESULTS	490,922	1,914,449	5,478,888	3,743,269

DINÉ COLLEGE FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Pandemic Causes a Year of Ups and Downs, Adjustments, and Progress

Six weeks into the Fall 2020 semester, as students were settled into the new school year, the pandemic wasn't letting up. On October 8, 2020 the Navajo Nation was seeing about 30 deaths a week and on average 33 positive cases per day. The tribe also imposed nightly 9 pm to 5 am curfews as well as weekend lockdowns to prevent travel off the reservation.

At the College, "...new students, especially those who had been out of school for a while, had to adjust to registering online, and taking classes via Zoom or Blackboard," said Diné College Provost Geraldine Garrity. "It was a shock to a lot of students as well as faculty -- everyone had to make an adjustment."

While other nearby colleges and universities were experiencing 5-17% drops in enrollment, the College only had 42 less students enrolled than the previous year – a two percent decrease.

"The school decided to offer a 50 percent tuition grant, registration discounts, and Wi-Fi sticks, along with laptop loaners for students," said Director of Enrollment Management Priscilla Leonard. "We got the word out and students came."

The *Associated Press* ran a news story that ran in hundreds of TV, radio, and print media: "Enrollment exceeds expectations" and the *Arizona Republic* "How one of the oldest tribal colleges in the U.S. opened for students during the pandemic."

If switching the entire institution to an online environment in a short time span wasn't challenging enough, the College decided to hold a first-ever winter graduation ceremony. "The idea was to incorporate social distancing and have a smaller graduating class by having a winter and spring ceremony," said Provost Garrity. "We recognized 36 students and a lot of people viewed the ceremony online."



Vaccine Becomes Available

Then in late January, there was good news. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced that two vaccinations would soon be available. In early February, the College implemented a vaccination mandate to be completed by March 18th to allow staff to safely return to campus. As of September 2021, about 92% of staff are vaccinated. The College also issued a mask mandate and continued campus closure to the public.



Shazia Tabassum Hakim Professor Microbiology & Biomedical Sciences, School of STEM

1. How did you and your students adapt to COVID-19?

"Beside regular Zoom lectures and live sessions, I have invited guest lectures in my live sessions from experts in the field. I tried getting my students enrolled in course-related webinars and lots of DIY weekend experiments that they can complete, while having fun with their families. So not only the students felt accomplished but they were also able to motivate their siblings, kids and elders towards good science."

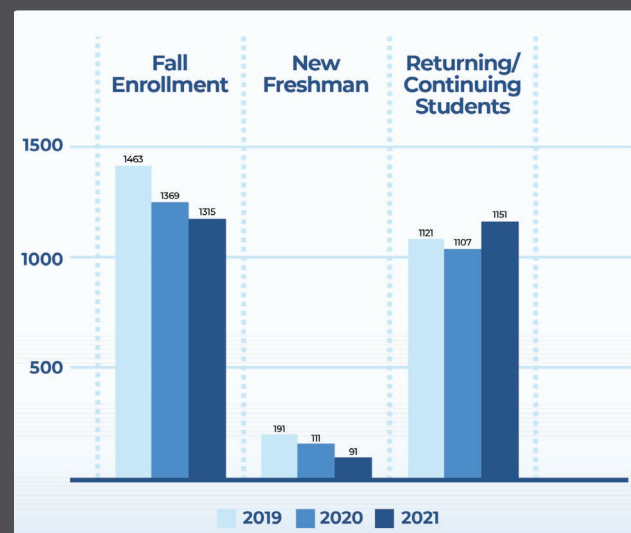
2. What did our school do right or wrong this year?

"Best thing the school did was to help students continue their education by offering laptops, Mi-Fi hot spots, and more Internet band width to increase access to course material. Second thing was offering a low tuition fee that again motivated students to continue their education. And above, the introduction of new programs to help students, families, and community members explore more horizons. Upgrades to the overall infrastructure for precautionary measures related to COVID-19 is also commendable."

Spring came around, which again brought another challenge: spring commencement. "At the beginning a number of students chose to receive their diploma virtually, but as we got closer, they felt more comfortable with the safety protocols in place and they all showed up," said Provost Garrity. "Our commencement had a huge viewership."

By June, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez lifted the weekend restrictions and nightly curfew. It appears things were returning to normal, then a new variant started getting a foothold.

Story continues on next page.



"COVID-19 is not going to stop us"

While the pandemic persisted, the College plowed forward. "Since Fall 2020, we added three new bachelor degrees, a minor in Native American Studies, and a Certified Medical Assistant program," said Provost Garrity. The Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) certificate program is the first of its kind ever offered on the Navajo Nation. Four students are set to graduate from the program during Fall 2021.

In mid-June, the College also held a groundbreaking for a \$7.4 million math and science building at the Shiprock campus. The completion date is Spring 2022. The largest percentage of students seeking degrees are in STEM related programs.

As registration for Fall 2021 begun, there was suddenly a variant of COVID-19 that was reportedly highly contagious. This resulted in the College deciding to only allow a few in-person courses and continue to keep most classes online. Once again, the College only saw a slight decrease in enrollment.

The College also incentivized enrollment by informing full-time students that they could receive free spring tuition if they earned at least a 2.0 GPA in the fall semester.

By mid-September, the pandemic is now back up to 20-30 cases per day on Navajo. "But COVID-19 is not going to stop us. With prayer and hope, we will continue to move forward to fulfill our mission: educating students," Garrity said.



Karla M. Cavarra Britton, PhD Professor of Art History



1. How did you and your students adapt to COVID-19?

"My students and I adapted to COVID-19 by focusing on how to make online teaching and learning work. We aimed to connect live via Zoom on a weekly basis. Sometimes, if necessary, I would connect with students by telephone and text. Also in the art history courses, we made use of Zoom to connect students with guest speakers (who otherwise may not have travelled to Tsaile). In March 2021, we hosted a virtual arts conference for students, "What is Diné Art Today?" which called attention to how Navajo artists were coping with the pandemic. This conference brought together instructors, artists, and curators from across the US and Canada."

2. What did our school do right or wrong this year?

"The College made sure that each student had access to a laptop and wi-fi. I had students who borrowed a laptop and who would use the internet service at their chapter house. The College also made sure that we all got vaccinated as quickly as possible. I was grateful to have been vaccinated by the Indian Health Service at the clinic in Tsaile in February 2021. It was also important that the College found a way to hold the commencements in Spring 2020 and Spring 2021 and Convocation (via Zoom and with precautions in person). On the downside, the breakdown of Diné College's email system (for 5 or 6 weeks) in the middle of the pandemic in the spring semester 2021 was disruptive and added to the sense of chaos for students and faculty."



New Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences Degree

Diné College's first cohort of the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science (B.S) started in the Fall 2021 with 20 enrolled students. This is the first-degree program of its kind among Tribal Colleges & Universities.

"The COVID-19 pandemic elevated the importance of careers in health care, both on and off the Navajo Nation. This program is designed to prepare students to pursue a career in biomedical science and other health care professions," said Dr. Shazia Hakim.

The Diné College B.S. in Biomedical Science incorporates a Navajo perspective into the research and teaching of this program. "Traditional wisdom and knowledge passed from generation-to-generation by our elders has tremendous value within all indigenous communities and cultures of the world, because people find security and mental peace leading to maintenance of good mental health and a sense of harmony," said Dr. Hakim.

The Navajo Nation job market and economy is struggling to fulfill healthcare provider positions with qualified and enrolled members. This program will provide the opportunity for our own people to obtain the necessary education to fill those vacancies.

New Native American Studies Minor

In Fall 2021, the College began offering a new Native American Studies (NAS) minor.

Dr. Christine Ami, Diné College Associate Professor said the Native American Studies Minor at Diné College seeks to broaden, connect and dialogue the variety of Navajo realities experienced by our students with that of tribal nations and Indigenous communities throughout the Americas and the globe.

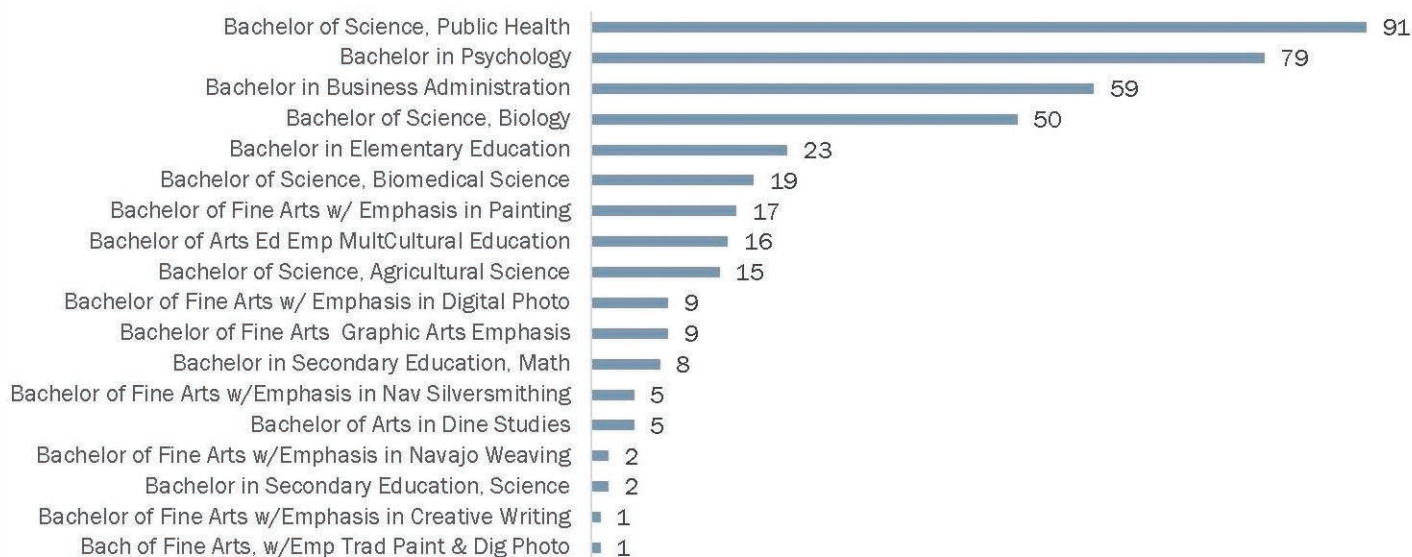
"Not only will this minor help us as a Native Nation to understand how other Indigenous communities have continued to exude self-determination in the 21st century in spite of termination and assimilation projects, but it will also allow for our students to broaden their understanding of their own disciplines as it applies to Native peoples. This means that students will evaluate the manners in which their disciplines have failed to include Native peoples but will also provide pathways for how Native American Studies approaches may enrich their academic studies. This minor is about evoking Native self-determination," said Ami

The Native American Studies minor will focus on contemporary Indigenous communities, critical analysis of colonialisms, and re-imaging of Native self-determination. This minor draws from interdisciplinary perspectives and complements all Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Fine Arts programs at the College.



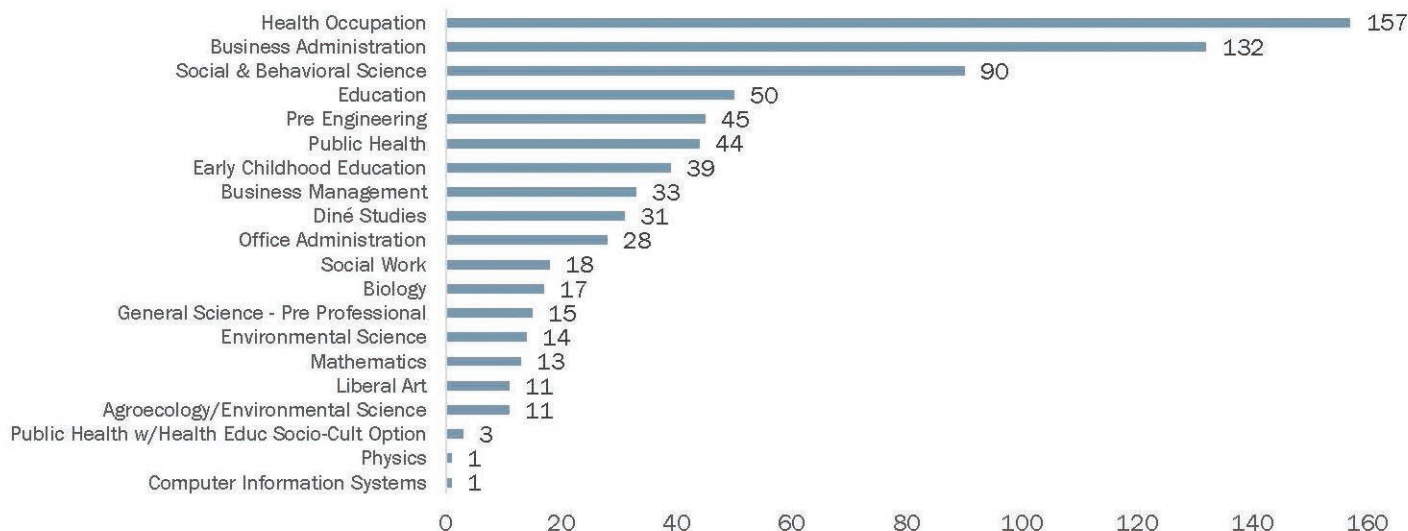
Bachelor Degree Majors: Fall 2021

As of September 1, 2021



Associate Degree Majors: Fall 2021

As of September 1, 2021



Certificate Program Majors: Fall 2021

As of September 1, 2021





New Bachelor Degree: BFA in Creative Writing

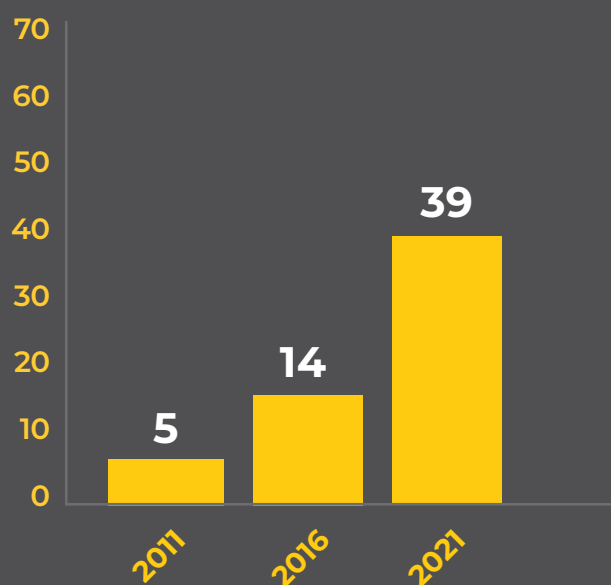
Diné College began offering a new Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in creative writing in the Fall of 2021.

The degree curriculum includes workshop courses in genres including poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, which researched shows to be the most popular genres. Students have a variety of options to choose from for writing classes that include world writing to Diné storytelling. During their final year, students will work on a substantial body of original creative work.

Since the founding of the College in 1968, there has been a wealth of literary talent such as Leslie Marmon Silko, Rex Lee Jim, and many others. The famed *Navajo Community College Press* also published prominent titles in Diné and Native literature. Since then, the Saad Na'ach'aah Reading series, organized by Orlando White, has continued to bring famous poets and writers to the college, including Joy Harjo, Arthur Sze, Natalie Diaz, Luci Tahahonso, and Simon Ortiz.

"As an indigenous-centered institution with critically-acclaimed and published faculty at the College, it is only fitting to offer this degree program to allow the Navajo people to sustain the tradition and role of storytelling through the intense study of the creative writing discipline," said Diné College President, Charles "Monty" Roessel.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFERRED BACHELOR DEGREE GRADUATES



Recognizing and Appreciating

Dr. Wilson Aronilth Jr., Professor of Diné Studies - 43 Years

Anna Walter, Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and English - 3 Years and many prior years as adjunct faculty.

King Mike Jr., Instructor - 33 years

Amelia Black, Associate Professor - 10 years

Andrew Kwon, Assistant Professor - 5 years

Remembering

Thomas Atcitty served as Navajo Community College President 1972 to 1977 - 5 Years.

Dr. Herbert Benally Professor of Diné studies, 1984 to 2020 - 36 Years.

Karlets Dennison former rodeo coach, 1992 to 2013 - 21 Years.

Shelia White Faculty of Arts, Humanities and English, 2005 to 2021 Assistant Professor - 16 years.

Nelson BeGaye served as a former Diné College Board of Regents 2015 to 2019 - 4 Years.



From left, Greg Bigman, Sharon Todacheenie, Daniel Tso, Charles "Monty" Roessel, Letanya Thinn, Theresa Hatathlie. Not pictured, Johnson Dennison, Anderson Hoskie.

Board of Regents Receive Leadership Award

The AGB John W. Nason Award for Board Leadership honors higher education governing boards that demonstrate exceptional leadership and initiative.

According to the March/April issue of *Trusteeship* magazine, Honorees are chosen from more than 35 nominations "...illustrating the crucial work of boards from both public and private institutions, statewide systems, and institutionally related foundations," the magazine said in a profile about each of the six honorees for 2020-2021. "Like every college and university, these institutions had to face new challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in addition to more foreseeable problems and necessary shifts in strategy."

The article summarized some challenges Diné College overcame in recent years, including how it dealt with the pandemic. It said, "...the board's own transformation played a pivotal role in ending internal discord and offering students greater opportunities and degrees with more worth in the job market. The board held a retreat in 2016 to undertake a self-evaluation, aired members' concerns, and reset priorities."

"The retreat resulted in the formulation of goals that laid the foundation for a common voice and direction for the college," Board President Greg Bigman tells the magazine.

"Out of this came a board determined to chart a new strategic direction for Diné [College] in collaboration with the college president that included improving student success, bolstering the college's financial health, transforming its culture, expanding its technological

capability," it reads, "and engaging in nation building for the Nation."

"To further transform itself and the institution, the regents revised the board charter to improve transparency and communication, professionalize board membership and create standing committees that aligned with core functions of the college...With the college marking its 50th anniversary in 2018, the board created a foundation to drive fundraising, including \$400,000 for scholarships; arranged for more training about ethics and stewardship; and finalized a code of conduct policy for itself."

It continues: "Unlike some institutions, Diné [College] did not experience a big enrollment drop when COVID-19 struck and it switched to online learning. Enrollment for spring 2021 was down only two percent from before the pandemic struck. And the CARES Act and other sources gave the college funds to make long needed infrastructure repairs and improved technology for students, including loaner laptops and Wi-Fi improvements in the vast area it serves...The work of moving Diné [College] forward in its second half-century is far from finished."

"There are so many things out there on the table for us to do," said Bigman. "But the most important thing is always maintaining that close relationship with our partners, whether it's government, business, or industry, and looking at how we start to move the needle of change within our society as the Navajo Nation and our surrounding communities."

The 41st Annual American Book Awards, featuring Jake Skeets

The Before Columbus Foundation recognizes the winners of the 41st Annual American Book Awards, including Jake Skeets, author of *Eyes Bottle Dark with a Mouthful of Flowers*. Skeets is an Assistant Professor of English.

The American Book Awards were created to provide recognition for outstanding literary achievement from the entire spectrum of America's diverse literary community. The purpose of the awards is to recognize literary excellence without limitations or restrictions. There are no categories, no nominees, and therefore,

no losers. The award winners range from well-known and established writers to under-recognized authors and first works. There are no quotas for diversity, the winners list simply reflects it as a natural process. The Before Columbus Foundation views American culture as inclusive and has always considered the term "multicultural" to be not a description of various categories, groups, or "special interests," but rather as the definition of all of American literature. The Awards are not bestowed by an industry organization, but rather are a writers' award given by other writers.

Marketing & Communications Department Garners Five Awards

The Marketing & Communications Department won a number of awards at this year's National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR). NCMPR is a national organization with seven regions across the country and advocates for colleges and universities who are members. Diné College is in District 6 region which includes community and technical colleges in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Territory of Guam.

The team received four awards in the following categories:

- **Brochure – Silver:** Initial 2019 bachelor degrees brochure created by the marketing team.
- **Novelty Advertising – Bronze:** 2020 poster calendar, which featured a photo taken by Ray Landry, now a Diné College student.

•Special Event/Fundraising Campaign – Silver:

Activities surrounding the May 2020 graduation during the pandemic. This included news stories featured on the event, newspaper advertising designs, statements and photos of graduating students on the college website to honor them since there was no graduation.

•Wild Card – Gold: The College Song

In addition, Marketing & Communications Director George Joe received the 2020 District 6 Communicator of the Year award. As being a recipient of this award, he automatically became one of seven national finalist for Communicator of the Year award by the NCMPR. The Communicator Award is one of the most prestigious awards presented to an NCMPR member who has demonstrated leadership and ability in the area of two-year college communications.



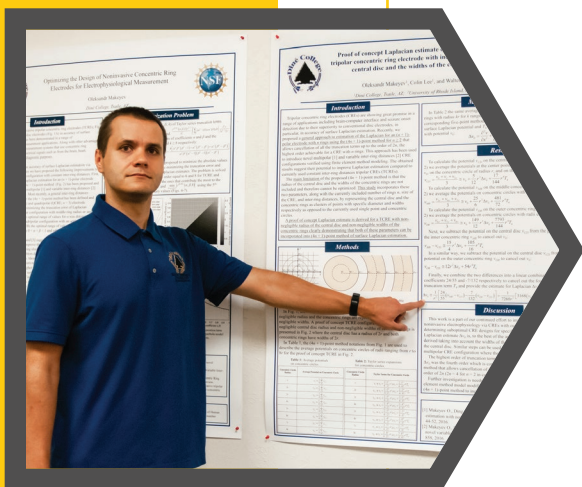
George Joe
Director of Marketing &
Communications



Jazzmine Martinez
Marketing Assistant



Scott H. Tom
Graphic Design & Digital Media
Specialist



First Diné College Patent

Associate Professor Dr. Oleksandr Makeyev received a patent “Concentric ring electrodes for improved accuracy of Laplacian estimation,” by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in June 2021. The patent would make it easier for doctors to diagnose disorders in the brain, heart, intestines, and uterus.

The approval of this patent is the result of multiple projects, grants, and publications. The results for this patent were obtained during the middle of the pandemic and the patent application was submitted in October 2020. Dr. Makeyev has a second patent application pending, and a third one in the preparation stages.

“The approval of this scientific patent shows our growth and entrance into the academic entrepreneurship field as an institution of higher education and exhibits the highly qualified and esteemed faculty we have educating our students,” said Diné College President Charles “Monty” Roessel. It is believed to be the first patent ever to be issued to a tribal college.



Creating the next generation of water scientists

In collaboration with The University of Arizona, Diné College received a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to train the next generation of Navajo water scientists. The goal of the internship is to provide the skills, knowledge and experiences necessary to prepare students for a career path in STEM.

“Water scarcity is increasing day-by-day, and we need our own Navajo water scientists who understand the traditional values associated with water and its importance. For Navajos, water is life. Water is used for a number of ceremonial purposes,” said Diné College Professor and principal investigator on the grant, Dr. Shazia Hakim.

The research team will identify and address the possible presence of microbial and chemical contaminants in treated wastewater, the use of pressure-driven membrane filtration systems to polish effluent before reuse, and potential technical impediments to agricultural use of polished effluent.

Testing the Reservation Soil

Microbiology Professor, Dr. Shazia Hakim is conducting research into soils across the Navajo Reservation that could aid in fighting bacteria. The research findings were published in the *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*.

A baseline study was conducted to determine if soil from certain parts of the Navajo reservation hold antibiotic producer strains of bacteria or fungi that can be a promising source for the future. Soil were collected from various locations on the Navajo Nation including, Tuba City, Moenave, Rare Metals, and Moencopi Wash.

The study was conducted by an undergraduate student as part of a NSF-TCUP Internship program. Dr. Hakim said, nine out of 104 selected colonies were gram-positive bacterial strains that showed the antibacterial activity against the test strain of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, a bacterium.



Cultivating Brain Scientist

The University of Arizona in collaboration with Diné College have created the Undergraduate Ready for Burgeoning Research for American Indian Neuroscientists (URBRAIN) partnership. The program is culturally-aware and community oriented. This program works to provide opportunities to students in biomedical research. At the onset of the program, two Diné College students were selected to participate in a 10-week long summer internship in Tucson to participate in an annual neuroscience program. This program also offers a yearlong fellowship. The program is now in its second year.

The purpose of this program is to prepare Diné College students for graduate programs at top tier research universities. The program seeks to create a model of culturally grounded STEM education by:

1. Developing a cooperative training program between Diné College and the University of Arizona.
2. Building Diné College research capacity.
3. Creating best practices for re-establishing trust between the Diné and neuroscience community.





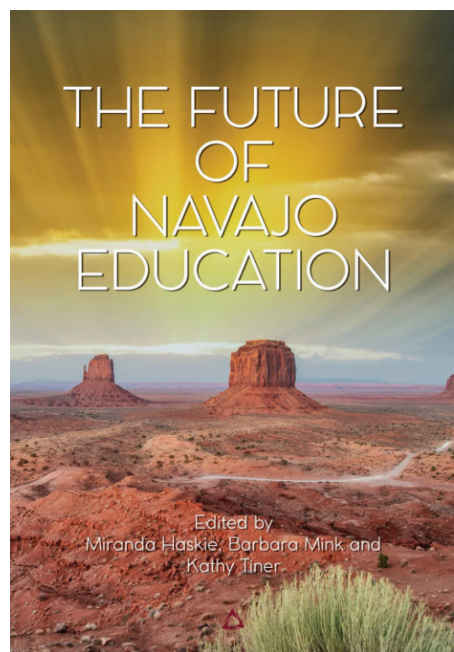
Sociology Professor Co-edits *The Future of Navajo Education*

Dr. Miranda Haskie, Diné College Sociology Professor, School of Business and Social Science, co-edited *The Future of Navajo Education*.

Undoubtedly, the Navajo Nation faces challenges uniquely different than those faced by education institutions, such as preservation and fostering of the Navajo language and cultural values. The book mentions various case studies that highlight the Navajo Nation's efforts to boost career prospects of its students with educational programs while also safeguarding Navajo language and traditions. "There is a common thread throughout several chapters of the book referencing the Navajo philosophy of Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón with the underlying principles of hózhó and k'é. Leading and teaching with these Navajo principles are evident in the work of these Navajo leaders and scholars," said Haskie.

The book, published in July, was created from a collaborative effort by prominent Navajo leaders and scholars including Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez; Dr. Manley Begay, Professor of Applied Indigenous Studies at

Northern Arizona University; Dr. Henry Fowler, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Navajo Technical University; Hon. Robert Yazzie, Chief Justice Emeritus of the Navajo Nation; and Dr. Haskie. The book is the brainchild of Dr. Barbara Mink, Dean of the School of Leadership Studies at Fielding Graduate University.



Diné College Students Publish Peer Reviewed Papers on Cancer

Diné College undergraduates Harrison Cayatineto, Gilberta Yazzie and Chantanielle S. Clyde working in the Laboratory of Pharmacogenetics and Health Care Disparities under Professor J. Angel de Soto have published three peer reviewed papers in clinical cancer research.

These studies were retrospective analysis of cancer clinical trials in the U.S. The first paper by student Harrison Cayatineto, "The Systemic Exclusion of Native Americans from Cancer Clinical Trials" was published in the *Journal of Medical Research and Health Science*.

The second paper by Gilberta Yazzie, "Colon Cancer: The Exclusion of Native Americans and Hispanics from Clinical Trials in the United States" was published in the *Acta Journal of Medical Science*.

The third paper by Chantanielle S. Clyde, "The Underrepresentation of Minorities and Non-Generalizability of Breast Cancer Clinical Trials?", was published in the *Innovative Journal of Medical and Health Science*.

"The therapeutic interventions to treat cancer are determined by the outcome of clinical trials which seek a high efficacy and low toxicity for a particular cancer treatment," said Dr. Joseph de Soto, the advisor. "The efficacy and toxicity are determined by the interplay of the medication with an individual's biology which differs even within a particular ethnic group. These differences are magnified between ethnic groups hence, clinical trials that only include one ethnic group may not be generalizable. This means the treatment may not work as well in various ethnic groups and even be toxic or deadly."

Dr. de Soto added that in the paper by Yazzie, only two Native Americans could be identified out of half a million clinical trial participants for colon cancer. "These papers provide substantial evidence for the higher death rates from cancer in Native Americans though they are less likely to get cancer in part due to the non-generalizability of cancer clinical trials, which in turn is due to the exclusion of Native Americans and other ethnic minorities from clinical trials," he said.



SAHE now in year two of National Endowment of the Humanities Grant

The School of Arts, Humanities, and English (SAHE) is in the second year of two grants which are designed to benefit the academic opportunities of their Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) students:

1. SAHE received a grant of \$100,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide for a lecture series and online conference by contemporary Navajo artists and designers, with the intention of mounting an exhibition and producing a related documentary publication.
2. The second grant from ArtPlace has developed from a collaborative partnership between SAHE and the Indigenous Design and Planning Institute (iD+Pi) at the University of New Mexico. This grant is focused on developing curriculum at SAHE that will expand our BFA students' study of Navajo art into applied community engagement practices.



Staff and faculty publish *How Tobacco Saved the World from Destruction and Healed the People*

Nát'oh Baa Hane': How Tobacco Saved the World from Destruction and Healed the People, was published October 22, 2020 in the *Theory & Event Journal* by Johns Hopkins University Press. This article was authored by Professor Avery Denny of the School of Diné Studies and Education, Adrian Lerma (Office of Development & Alumni Relations), and Michael Lerma (Dean of the School of Business & Social Science). The article tells the story of the emergence of tobacco as a medicine to be used by the 'five finger Earth surface people' to resolve issues that relate to health and society. It is the culmination of a collaborative dawn in research and traditional knowledge pioneered at Diné College. The article offers warnings for the abuse of medicine. These teachings encourage readers to move forward with a faith in Sa'ah Naaghái Bikeh Hózhóón from a place of awareness, and not fear. The article was first presented at the *21st Diné Studies Conference*, held at Diné College in 2019.



Art History Professor published in *Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion and the Arts in the West*

In September of 2021, SAHE's Professor of Art History Dr. Karla Britton submitted an 8000 word (peer-reviewed) and illustrated article, "Overview of Religious Art and Architecture: Native American," for the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion and the Arts in the West: Renaissance to the Present*. (Oxford University Press, 2021). The article was commissioned by the editors.

Summary of Renovation and New Projects

The Department of Capital Projects (DCP) manages the Capital Improvement and Investment Planning (CIIP) for the College. The DCP is working to close out projects stemming from the COVID-19. The DCP recently began working on updating the 5-year Capital Improvements and Investments Plan for FY 2022-2027. Currently, there are 159 projects on the overall CIIP listing for the College. The projects comprise of architectural and engineering projects for upcoming facilities, deferred maintenance and renovation projects. The development and intent of the CIIP is to compliment the College's academic plan to ensure facilities are renovated to best meet the needs of each academic programs' objectives. Therefore, the CIIP committee members consist of individuals from various College programs, such as, academics, Student Affairs, Operations and Maintenance, Finance, administration, and personnel. This allows comprehensive input from all departments to ensure projects are planned in the best interest of students and academic needs. This fiscal year, DCP has completed 23 projects and has 23 active projects. The DCP staff continues to work within the College's mission, vision and philosophy while executing the duties and responsibilities of the department to successfully complete projects.

COVID-19 PROJECTS



Outdoor Learning Spaces

Outdoor learning spaces were created at the Tuba City, Shiprock, Window Rock, and Tsaile campus to provide space for outdoor face-to-face instruction while remaining compliant to CDC and social distancing practices. These spaces are there for utilization by the faculty and can be scheduled for use through each center director's office. The outdoor learning spaces are equipped with outdoor furniture with the exception of the Tsaile campus. The Information Technology Department also installed outdoor Wi-Fi access at these locations for students and staff. To date, these spaces have been well received and the College plans to add additional outdoor learning spaces in the future.

Safety and Distance Learning Upgrades

DCP is working with the architects to ensure the design meets the technological needs of instructors. Each classroom is being designed to have distance learning capabilities, and face-to-face instruction. Renovations on the Tsaile Gorman Classroom Building (GCB) is anticipated to be completed by March 2022. Renovations to include a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrade along with new classroom design. The total project cost was \$2,298,506.14 and funded by the Cononavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.





RENOVATION DEVELOPMENT

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Proposed Amphitheater at Tsaile Campus



Future project for the Tsaile Campus is construction of an amphitheater. The college is currently seeking funding sources for this project that has an estimated cost of \$480,594.78.

Shiprock Math and Science Building to be Completed in Spring 2022

Diné College held a groundbreaking for a \$7.4 million math and science building at the Shiprock, NM campus on June 28, 2021. The project is expected to be completed in March 2022. The funding for the new math and science building comes from a General Obligation Bond for \$5 million and \$2.4 million from New Mexico Capital Outlay funds.

This new math and science building will house the College's math and science departments, instructional mathematics and science classrooms, science laboratories, support spaces such as student commons, hallways, electrical/mechanical rooms, restrooms, four faculty offices and three meeting rooms.

Current census data shows that the primary focus of jobs on the Navajo Nation are in the field of STEM. Additional research shows that 80% of Diné College graduates remain within their community. Each year the school of STEM represents about 43% of overall graduates. With the addition of this new building, it will support the College's position of ensuring our students are able to meet the workforce needs of the Navajo Nation.





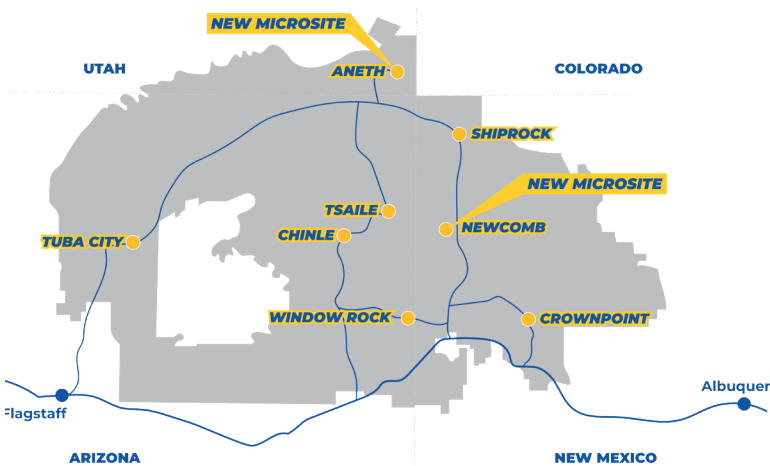
Aneth, Utah



Newcomb, New Mexico

New Local Sites for Students

In 2021, Diné College opened two microsites: one in Newcomb, NM and the other in Aneth, UT. The purpose of these microsites, or learning centers is to provide Diné College students and the community with reliable internet access. The sites create a space for students to attend online classes and complete their schoolwork. The funding for the two new microsites came from the CARES Act funding.



Agricultural Multi-Purpose Center - Shiprock Campus

The Agriculture Multi-purpose Center (AMC) will house classrooms. The building is to serve as the headquarters of the business center for training in horticulture and tribal agriculture. All of the farm's operations will be coordinated through the AMC.

In 2019, the New Mexico State Legislature passed Senate Bill 280. This bill authorized funding for the Shiprock AMC. The project will cost \$2,989,291.45 and isv estimated to be completed in spring 2024.





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