

Annual Report

2024 - 2025



“Akét’óól Bee Adziilgo,
Binahji’ Annosééł:

Rooted in Strength, Growing in Purpose”

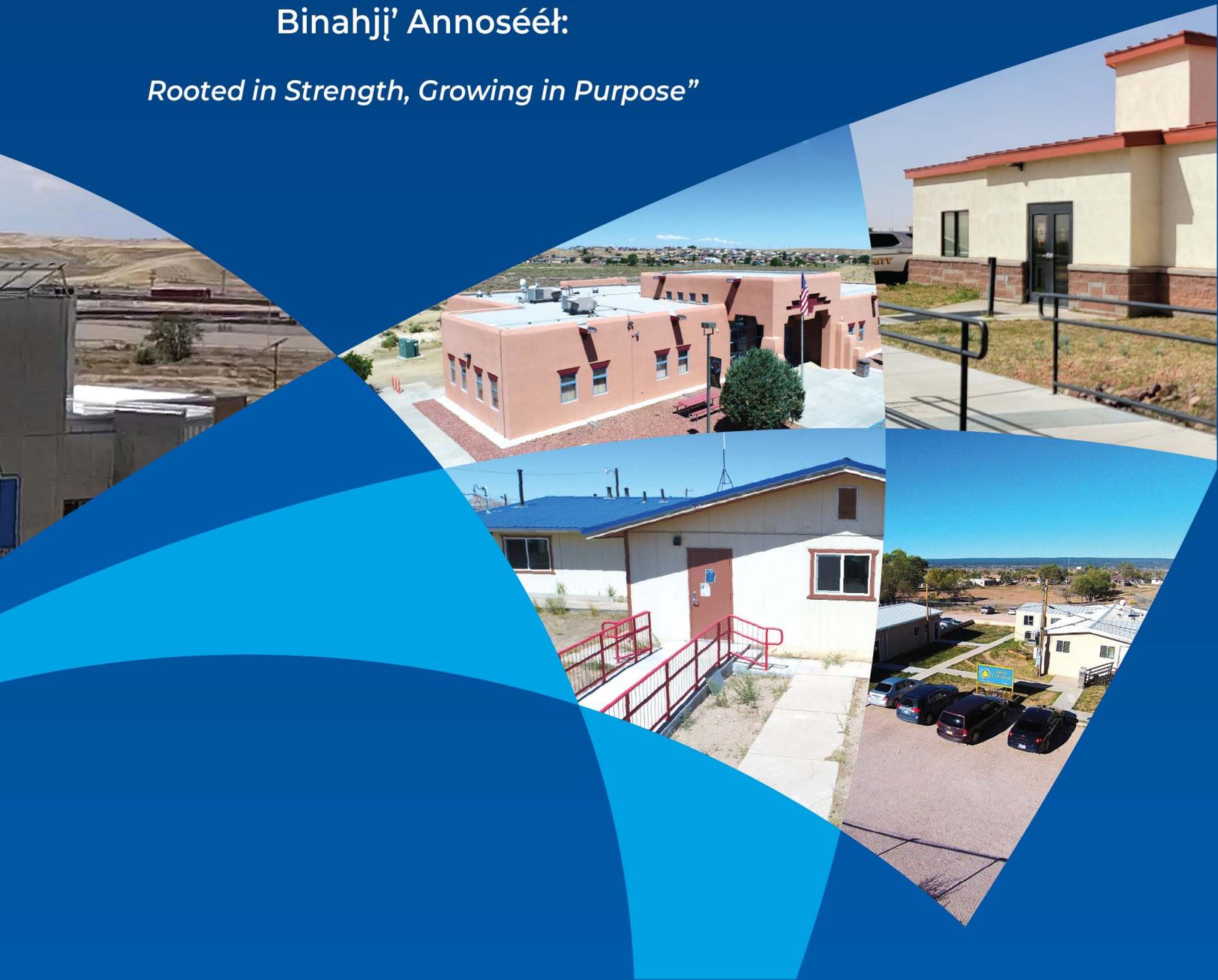


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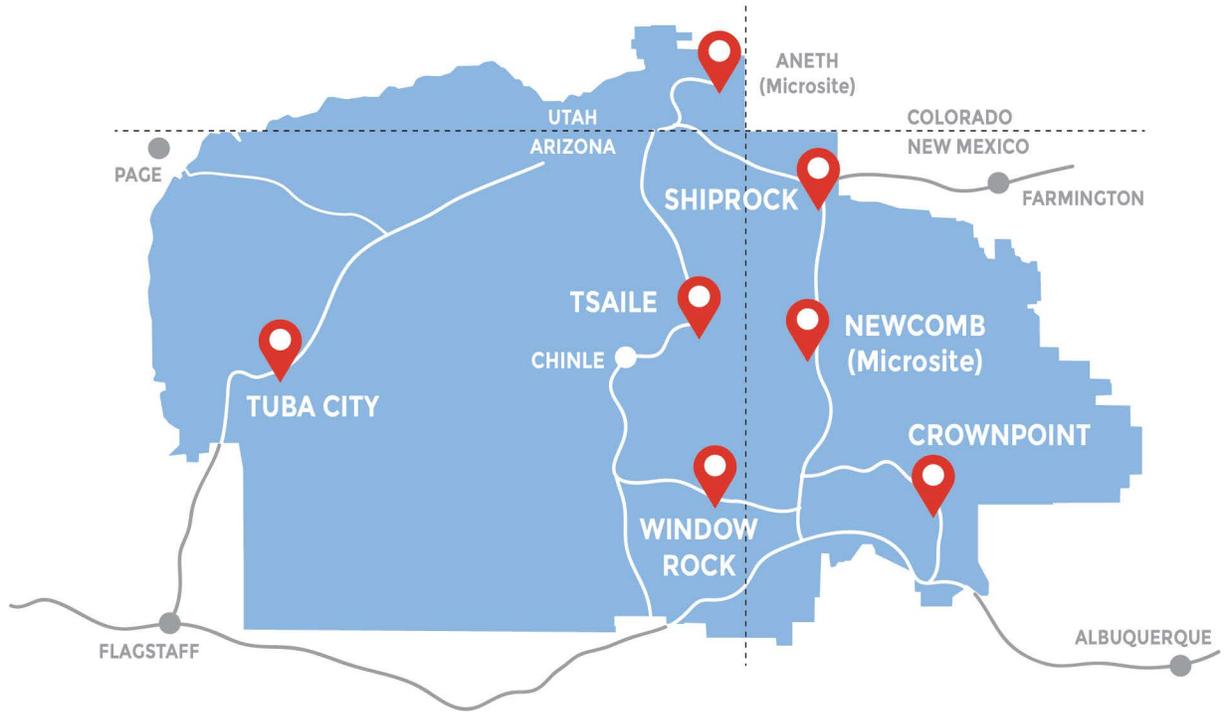
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MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Chris Burnside, Marketing & Communications Manager
 Jazzmine Martinez, Marketing Assistant
 Isaac Madson, Radio Announcer
 Patrick G. Begay, Graphic Designer
 Shane Brown, Web Developer

The Nation's College



**TSAILE
CAMPUS**
(928) 724-6600

**TUBA CITY
CENTER**
(928) 283-5113

**WINDOW ROCK
CENTER**
(928) 871-2230

**SHIPROCK
BRANCH**
(505) 368-3500

**CROWNPOINT
CENTER**
(505) 786-7391

**NEWCOMB
MICROSITE**
(928) 724-7700

**ANETH
MICROSITE**
(928) 724-7800



Established in 1968, Diné College proudly holds the distinction of being the first tribal college in the United States. As a member of the Higher Learning Commission, Diné College is dedicated to delivering exceptional educational opportunities within the Navajo Nation, where it predominantly serves Navajo students (98%).

The college provides a comprehensive range of educational programs, including General Education courses, certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and a master's degree. In the fiscal year 2024-2025, Diné College employed a dedicated team of 276 professionals. Diné College's main campus is situated in Tsaile, Arizona, and is equipped with student dormitories and a cafeteria to support a vibrant campus life.

The institution extends its reach through additional campuses in Window Rock and Tuba City, Arizona, which cater to residents of the state, while the Shiprock and Crownpoint sites serve students in New Mexico. Additionally, Diné College maintains two microsites in Newcomb, New Mexico, and Aneth, Utah. The college engages in athletic competitions, with programs in rodeo, archery, and cross-country, fostering both athletic and academic excellence. Governance of Diné College is overseen by an eight-member Board of Regents, ensuring strategic direction and oversight.

As we reflect on another year of growth and achievement, Diné College remains committed to its mission of empowering Navajo students and supporting the educational and cultural advancement of the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Diné bina'nitin t'áá íyisíí á siláago binahjji', ołta'í na'nitin náasjji' yee ínááhwiidooł'áńgíí yéego bidziilgo ádiilnít, áko Diné nilínígíí t'áá altso yá'át'éehgo bee bił nahaz'aa dooleet niidzin.

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

Nihí'ólta'gi, Diné Bidziilgo ółta'gi na'nitin ał'ąą ádaat'éii ółta'í bee nanitinígíí dóo t'áá ha'át'íí shíí bee bíká'aná'álwo'ígíí bidziilgo dóo bohónéedząągo ádiilnít niidzin. Díí binahjji' Diné bí'ólta'gi óhoo'aah ts'ídá bohónéedzáníi bee bił haz'áńjji dooleet.

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

PRINCIPLES

Our educational principles are based on Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón, the Diné traditional living system, which places human life in harmony with the natural world and universe. The system provides for protection from the imperfections in life and for the development of well-being.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yá’át’ée’h Students, Relatives, Family, and Our College Stakeholders,

At Diné College, we are guided by the Diné traditional principles and philosophy. The knowledge and belief of the sacredness of legacy, wisdom, and the circle of life are rooted in the services and support for our students. Reflecting upon the Diné traditions and philosophy, we are reminded of the significance and appreciation of the fire of knowledge lit by those who came before us our traditional elders, educators, advocates, and College Presidents who led our institution in the last 54 years.

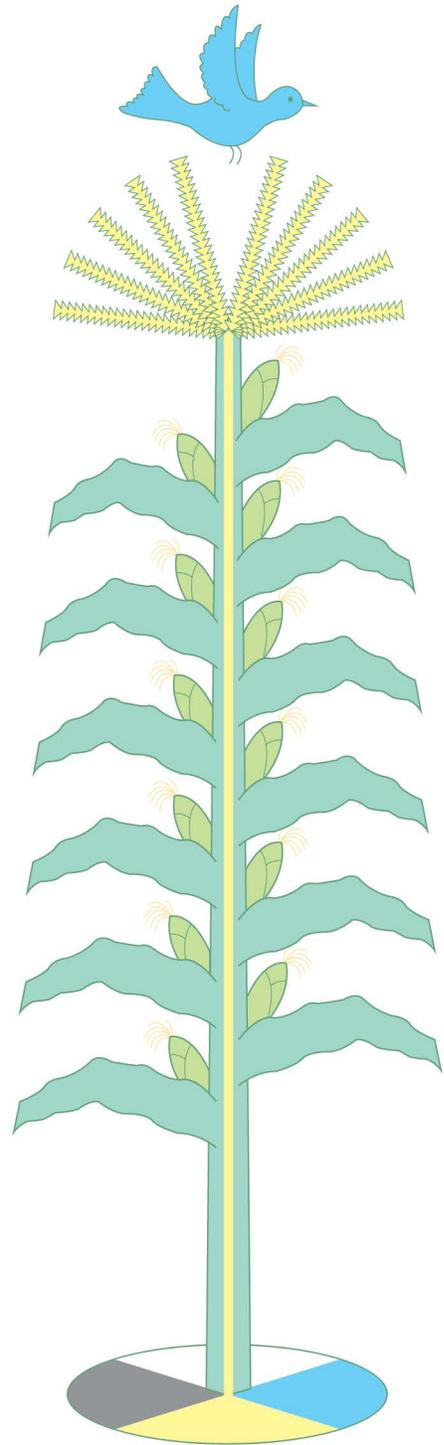
It is our responsibility as students, faculty, staff, and administrators to continue to carry the fire of knowledge forward with purpose and persistence. Our students (current and future) are at the heart of everything we do and our primary reasons of operation. Together, we must continue to create a supportive environment where every student thrives and every member of our college community to contribute to our unchanged vision to make Diné College the exemplary higher education institution for the Diné people.

In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, we faced many challenges, but we have not been deterred. The documentaries in this Annual Report holds evidences of our resilience, dedication, and unwavering spirit of our college. This moment in our history is a testament to the strength of our community and the enduring legacy of Diné College.

It is vital we continue to rise strong academically, personally, and professionally. We will soon find a new leader to take the reign to makes Diné college a beacon of hope and opportunity. Let us move forward with strength, unity, and the shared commitment to advance the teaching and learning of our students.

Ahéhee’,

Glennita Haskey
Acting President, Diné College



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

BOARD OF REGENTS



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Appointed Member,
Ceremonial Knowledge



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Education



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Acting Superintendent
of Diné Schools



Cameo Mejia
Designated member,
Staff Association
President

Yá'at'ééh, Diné College Family,

As the seasons change, we are reminded of the cycles of growth and renewal that guide us through life. It is with this spirit of newness and reflection that I share our annual report, highlighting the progress and achievements of Diné College over the past year.

Guided by the Navajo philosophy of thinking, planning, living, and reflecting, we have strengthened our academic programs to meet the needs of our students while honoring our cultural values. By weaving Navajo traditions into our curriculum, we ensure that our heritage remains vibrant as we prepare our students for the future.

This year brought new developments to our campus, including renovations and facilities that create spaces for learning, connection, and growth. These changes reflect our commitment to building a foundation for future generations.

As we look ahead, the Board of Regents remains dedicated to advancing Diné College's mission. We will continue to expand opportunities, promote sustainability, and strengthen services that support our students.

Ahéhee' to our faculty, staff, students, and supporters for your dedication. Together, we are creating a legacy that honors our past, enriches our present, and inspires the future.

Sincerely,

Anderson Hoskie

Chairperson, Board of Regents
Diné College

HONORING THE LEGACY



MOVING MOUNTAINS

Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel

Diné College President
2017-2025

Diné College took leaps and bounds under the leadership of Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel. He was a builder, and his family fondly described him as "moving mountains." Practicing the Diné concept of k'é, I called him shitsóí. His maternal grandfather was Ashjį́hí. I am Ashjį́hí.

Dr. Roessel was a visionary and a dynamic leader. He served as president of Diné College, the first tribally controlled college, from 2017-2024. In those short eight years as president, he led the college through its 50th anniversary celebration and positioned the institution for university status. There were many significant developments that he successfully led during this period of tremendous progress at Diné College.

Roessel was a staunch advocate for students, always striving to ensure they had the support they needed to succeed academically and recognizing the valuable potential of Diné College alumni and the mark they could make upon the Navajo Nation and beyond.

At every commencement, he notoriously interviewed graduating students waiting in line as he learned more about who they were and their personal goals. During his commencement addresses, he would recognize the unique educational journey of each of these students as we collectively celebrated their degrees. We—parents, children, spouses, grandparents, faculty, and staff—all beamed with pride, smiling from ear to ear as we celebrated our students' success. Dr. Roessel also hosted the annual Golfers for Scholars Annual Golf Tournament to raise scholarship money on behalf of students. Giving back was an important part of his mission, as every year the college would convene to award students. We saw the expansion of student family housing under his administration; he understood how integral family was to the educational success of our students.

Dr. Roessel garnered many awards intertribally and nationally. In December 2023, he was named to the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee. In February 2023, he was elected to the board of directors for the American Association of Colleges and Universities. He was honored by these awards, stating, “Diné College, as the nation’s first tribal college, has a unique voice and mission that can help lead higher education in these challenging times.”

One might wonder where he found support or how he became emboldened to lead the oldest tribally controlled college. One need not look too far, for he was the son of Ruth and Bob Roessel, two of the founders of Navajo Community College. He resumed the legacy of his pioneering parents as a leader of the tribal college movement. His parents were also involved in establishing the Rough Rock Demonstration School, a revolutionary development in tribally controlled education. He once stated, “Rough Rock is not only a school, but an idea.” The idea that the Diné could assume control over the education of Navajo students, fostering the development of Navajo curricula in Diné studies, the Navajo language, the cultural arts, and the oral stories of a proud people. From a very young age, he witnessed his parents assert Indian self-determination in the education of Navajo children. Rough Rock Demonstration School led to the 1975 landmark legislation P.L. 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

The Roessels also wrote, edited, and published numerous books on Navajo studies, including the famed *Navajo Stories of the Long Walk* by Ruth Roessel. The book conveyed firsthand accounts of the Long Walk and the tenacious spirit of the Diné to survive. Monty would continue this tradition, writing the books *Songs from the Loom: A Navajo Girl Learns to Weave* and *Kinaalda: A Navajo Girl Grows Up*. He was a photojournalist by training and contributed photographs for Peter Iverson’s book, *Diné: A History of the People*. Undoubtedly, Monty stood on the shoulders of giants. In many respects, he, too, was a giant in Navajo education. He led Rough Rock Demonstration School, served as director of the Bureau of Indian Education from 2013 to 2016, and finally as president of Diné College. Roessel was also the editor of the *Navajo Times*. In a January 7, 2025, editorial, George Hardeen wrote, “I knew him as Monty.” Hardeen had worked with him at the *Navajo Times* in 1984, when Monty was the managing editor there. Hardeen added, “Among all the frenetic energy of chasing breaking stories, getting them written, photographed, edited, laid out and printed, was the calming energy of Monty moving through the newsroom with a sense of ease.” He concluded, “Now he has left us . . . we send thoughts and condolences to his beautiful children Jaclyn, Bryan, Bobby, Robyn, and Kimberly, his siblings Bob, Ray, Faith, and Mary, to his beloved best friend Karina Roessel, and to his nephew Carl Slater.”

To his credit, he institutionalized the Diné College faculty promotion and ranking system for assistant, associate, full professor, and professor emeritus. His goal was to eventually have every faculty ranked and recognized with the prestigious academic titles they earned over their careers. In 2019, the first faculty were recognized during the spring commencement. At the winter 2021 commencement, Diné College conferred four honorary doctorates to Don Denetdeal, Avery Denny, Johnson Dennison, and Harry Walters.

In his welcome address, he described how they “legitimized the idea of Navajo philosophy in a college curriculum. For the first time, it had never been done before. People laughed at it, ‘oh you can’t do it, that’s not a college degree,’ but they did something new. That’s our creation story here at Diné College.” Under Dr. Roessel’s leadership, DC established four new transdisciplinary schools, including the School of Diné Studies and Education; the School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math; the School of Arts, Humanities, and English; and the School of Business and Social Science. He launched trailblazing initiatives, including the Navajo Sovereignty Institute, the Navajo Cultural Arts Program, and important initiatives toward the establishment of the first Navajo law school. In October 2023, the Diné College Board of Regents announced the establishment of Sihaasin Holdings, a tribally owned company that will advance Navajo Nation economic initiatives. At the winter 2024 commencement, Diné College hooded its first three Master of Science biology degree students, led by Dr. Shazia Tabassum-Hakim, a STEM professor at the college. There were also many new campus construction and renovation projects during his tenure. In 2018, the tallest building in the Navajo Nation, the Ned Hatathli Center, was renovated and modernized after 44 years. In October 2024, the college’s Shiprock campus opened a new STEM building. Diné College was on track to power buildings at the Tsaile campus with solar, as a renewable energy initiative was implemented.

Dr. Roessel’s contributions to the flagship college of the Tribal College Movement are immense. He possessed a vision that would propel Diné College into the 21st century, establishing many new departments and programs, securing their department budgets, and supporting the personnel in those departments who would fulfill his vision. Newly established departments include the Navajo Cultural Arts program spearheaded by Dr. Christine Ami; the Na’alkaah Bee Honít’i: Research, Innovation and Practice program; the Legislative Affairs program; and most recently the Navajo Nation School of Law degree program. With the support of the Diné College Board of Regents, he led the development of the Diné College Foundation. Embedded within every one of his initiatives was the Diné philosophy of Sa’ah Naaghái Bik’eh Hózhóón. This philosophy became the educational bedrock of Navajo Community College. These beliefs and practices of the Diné since time immemorial have guided and remained foundational to all his initiatives. Roessel, of course, had the support of many at the college to accomplish his leadership goals. Faculty came to Diné College in support of him and to advance his initiatives. And he had a special place in his heart for the arts and humanities. He taught photography to students at the college and easily fell right back into the joy of photojournalism.

Dr. Charles “Monty” Roessel was posthumously recognized as a professor emeritus at Diné College, a fitting tribute distinguishing all the noteworthy accomplishments of his tenured career in multiple disciplines—all in service to Diné College, an institution he dearly loved.

Written by Miranda J. Haskie, EdD (Diné), a professor of sociology in the School of Business and Social Science at Diné College.

BY THE NUMBERS

Diné College Annual Enrollment Report: Academic Year 2024-2025

This report provides a comprehensive summary of student enrollment, persistence, and graduation data for the 2024-2025 academic year. The data reflects key demographic and educational trends for the student body.

Enrollment Overview

Total student enrollment varied across the academic year:

Fall 2024: 1,710 students

Spring 2025: 1,502 students

Summer 2025: 493 students

Student Persistence and Completion

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the following rates were recorded for fall-to-fall cohorts:

Persistence Rate: 45%

Retention Rate: 44%

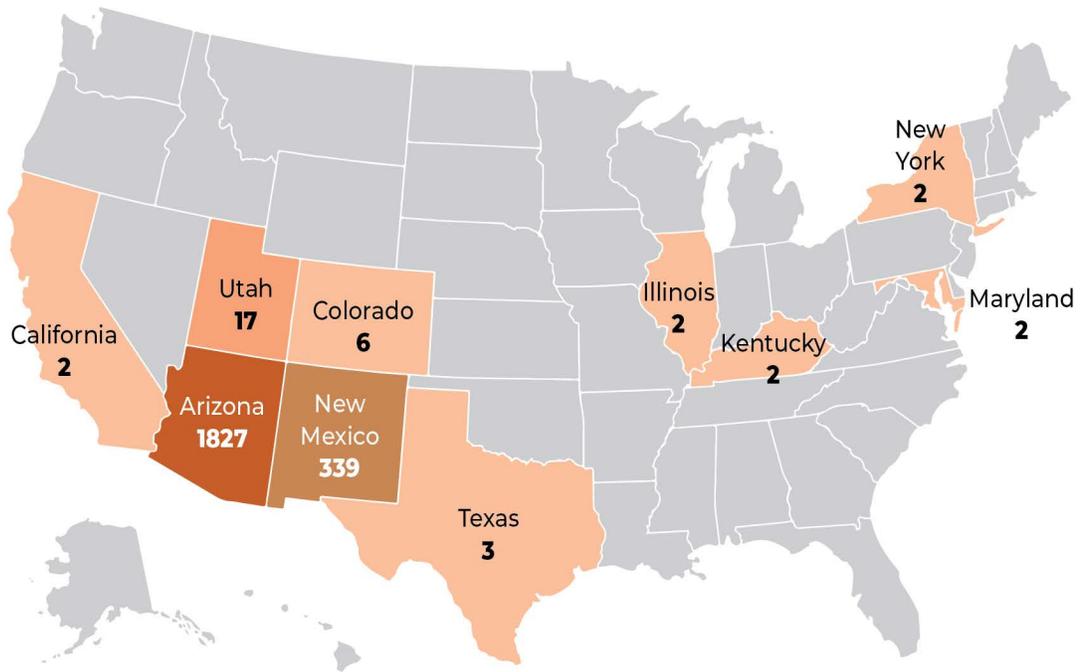
Attrition Rate: 60%

Completion Rate (Graduation): 7%

Student Demographics

The student body is predominantly composed of Native American students, accounting for 98% of the total population. A significant majority of students, 78%, are single. The largest age demographic is the 25-34 age group, comprising 576 students.

Dual enrollment remains a key program, with 337 students participating. Of these students, 216 are female (64%) and 121 are male.



Top 10 Enrollment by State (AY 24-25)



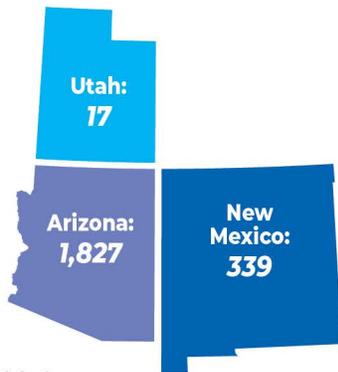
Geographic Distribution

The student population is primarily local to the region. 82% of our students in the academic year 2024-2025 reside in Arizona.

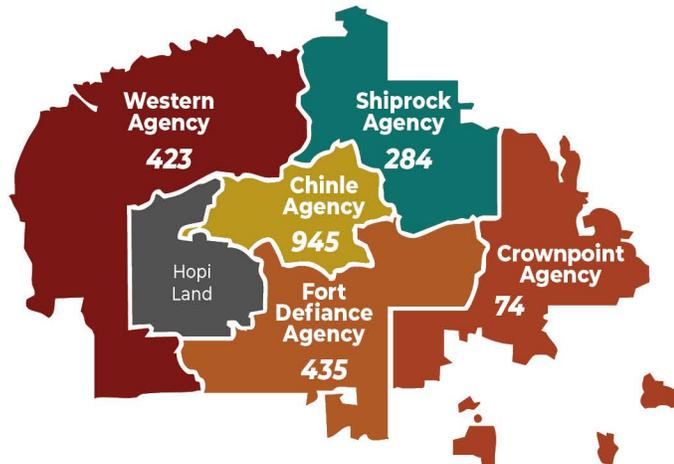
BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment by State:

A substantial majority of students (82%) reside in Arizona.



Top Enrollment by Agency:



Top 10 Enrollment by City:

The highest concentration of students comes from Chinle, with 313 students.



Academic Program Enrollment

The top academic programs by enrollment demonstrate strong interest in business, health, and social sciences.

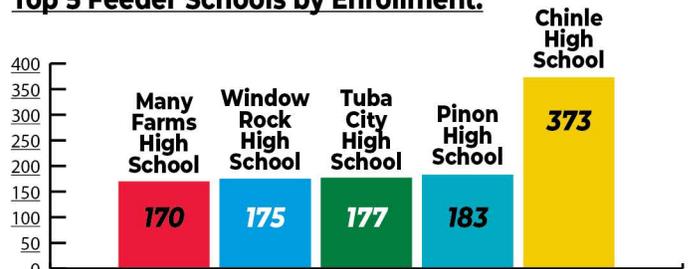
Top 10 Majors by Enrollment:



Feeder High Schools

Local high schools are the primary pipeline for new students. Chinle High School is the largest feeder school, with its graduates accounting for 17% of the student body.

Top 5 Feeder Schools by Enrollment:



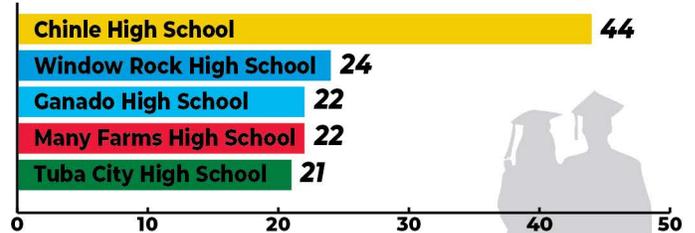
Graduation Summary (Fall 2024 & Spring 2025)

A total of 255 degrees were conferred, and 30 certificates were awarded during the academic year. The largest age group among graduates was 25-34, with 96 individuals.

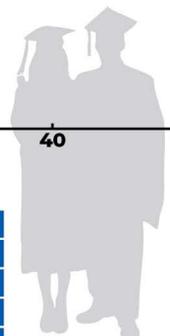
Degrees and Certificates Awarded:

Total Bachelor's Degrees:	84
Top Program: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology	24 graduates
Total Associate's Degrees:	165
Top Program: Associate of Arts in Social & Behavioral Science	30 graduates
Total Certificates:	30
Top Program: Medical Assistant Certificate	16 recipients

Top Graduate Feeder Schools:



Graduates by Agency:

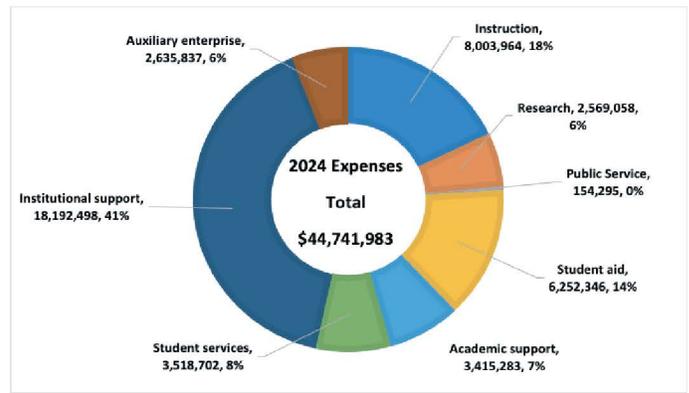
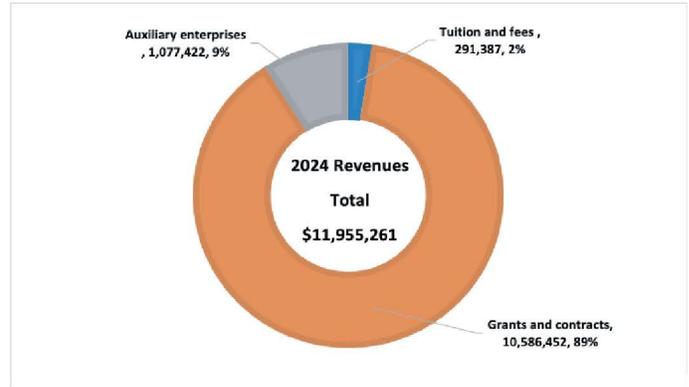


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Navajo Transitional Energy Co. Donates \$20,000 to Support Diné College’s Cultural Arts Program

Navajo Transitional Energy Co. (NTEC) donated \$20,000 to Diné College’s Navajo Cultural Arts Program (NCAP) to support cultural preservation and arts education. The funds will provide essential materials like silver, turquoise, leather, yarn, and weaving tools for students during the 2025 academic year. Additionally, \$5,000 will support the annual Art Walk, helping students gain marketing and exhibition experience. NTEC’s donation strengthens Navajo heritage while promoting educational opportunities and creative growth.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, net operating results reflected a deficit of \$32.7 million

Operating revenue fluctuated year to year, primarily due to changes in student enrollment, which directly affected tuition, federal student aid, and auxiliary enterprises revenues. Operating expenses increased by 4.3%, largely driven by higher cost in key mission areas including instruction, research, institutional support, and auxiliary services. In contrast, expenses for student aid, academic support, and student services experience a modest decline. Nonoperating activities contributed to a positive change in net assets of \$17.2 million. This improvement was driven by increased federal appropriations, scholarships, investment income, donations and capital appropriations, grants and gifts.

Revenues: 2024

Tuition and fees	291,387
Grants and contracts	10,586,452
Auxiliary enterprises	1,077,422
Total revenue	11,955,261

Expenses:

Instruction	8,003,964
Research	2,569,058
Public Service	154,295
Student aid	6,252,346
Academic support	3,415,283
Student services	3,518,702
Institutional support	18,192,498
Auxiliary enterprise	2,635,837
Total operating expenses	44,741,983
Net operating results	(32,786,722)

Nonoperating Activities:

Federal appropriations	16,051,506
Navajo Nation appropriations	4,700,000
Federal COVID grants	5,430,464
Scholarships	7,538,981
Investment income	4,548,649
Donations	203,959
Net nonoperating revenues	38,451,492
Capital appropriations, grants, and gifts	11,539,425
Total nonoperating activities	49,990,917
Change in Net Position	17,204,195

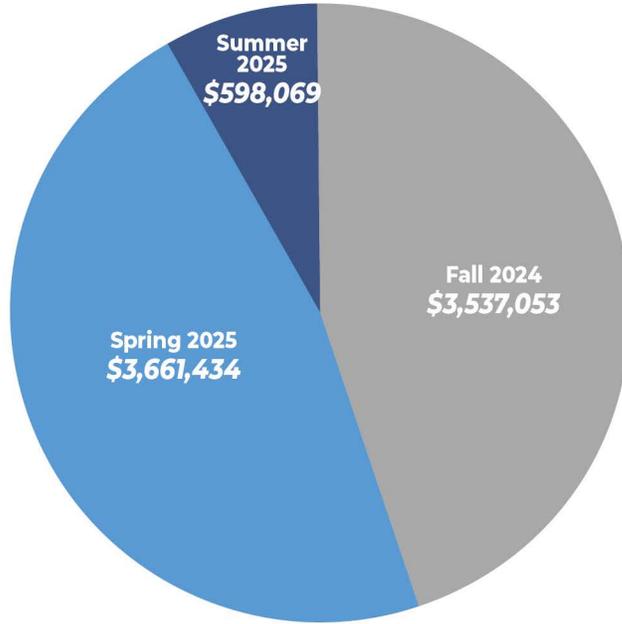
Diné College Financial Aid Office Academic Year 2024-2025

Total Financial Aid Disbursed: Amounts disbursed for Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Summer 2025.

Fall 2024- \$3,537,053

Spring 2025- \$3,661,434

Summer 2025- \$598,069



FINANCIAL AID

Pell Grant Awards: Number of students receiving Pell Grants and the total disbursed amounts for each term.



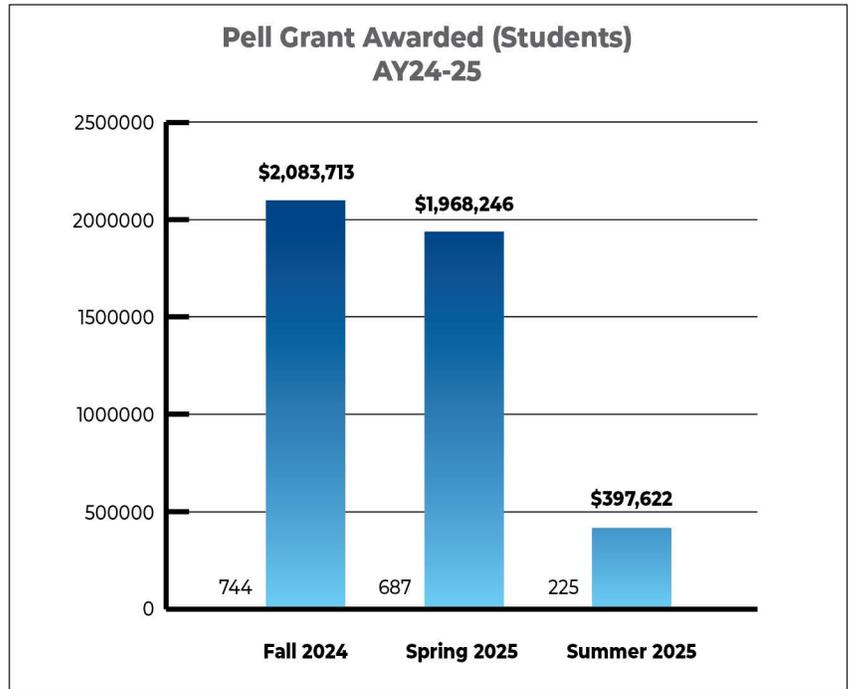
**Fall 2024- (744 students)
\$2,083,71**



**Spring 2025-(687 students)
\$1,968,246**



**Summer 2025- (225 students)
\$397,622**



Other Scholarships: Number of students receiving external scholarships and the total disbursed amounts for each term.



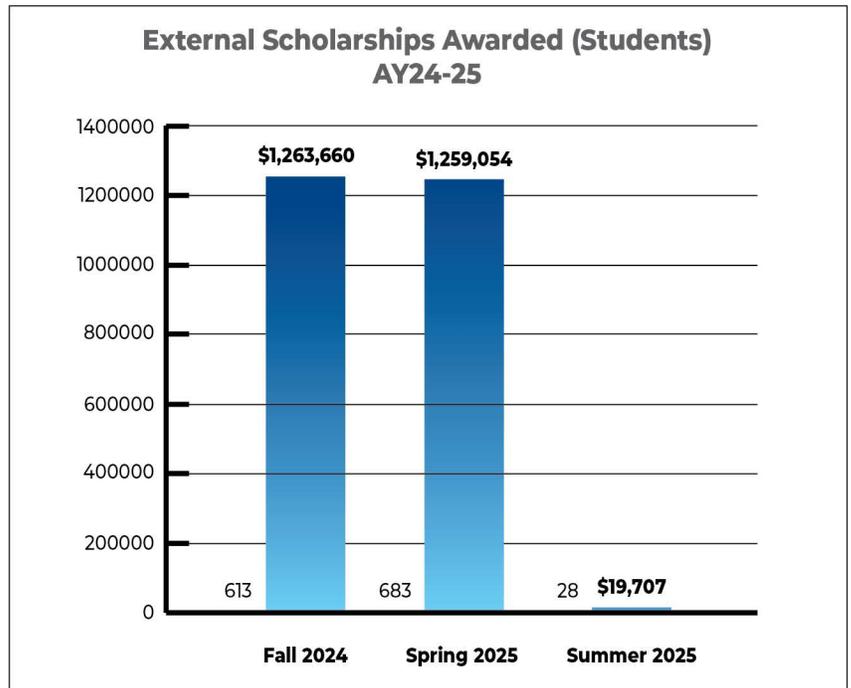
**Fall 2024- (613 students)
\$1,263,660**



**Spring 2025- (683 students)
\$1,259,054**



**Summer 2025- (28 students)
\$19,707**



October 2024



Diné College's Shiprock Campus Celebrates the Grand Opening of the New Math & Science Complex

Diné College's Shiprock campus celebrated the grand opening of its new Math and Science building, marking a significant milestone in educational advancement for the Navajo Nation. The state-of-the-art facility, funded by \$5 million from New Mexico's General Obligation Bond D, is poised to transform STEM education and bolster the local workforce.

Diné College Introduces Digital and On-Demand Diplomas in Partnership with Parchment

Graduates of Diné College will now benefit from both printed diplomas and E-Diplomas, providing immediate access to their academic accomplishments. This initiative supports Diné College's strategic focus on accessibility, as digital diplomas remove obstacles, allowing students to easily access and showcase their academic successes from anywhere. It underscores the College's commitment to making higher education and its credentials more



Diné College Celebrates Heritage and Health at the 54th Annual Western Navajo Fair Parade

Diné College proudly showcased its commitment to cultural heritage and community wellness during its participation in the 54th Annual Western Navajo Fair Parade. Students and staff from Diné College enthusiastically took to the parade route, presenting a vibrant display that highlighted Diné College's rich traditions and dynamic spirit.



Diné College Celebrates Cultural Heritage at 11th Northern Navajo Fair & Parade

Diné College participated in the 11th Northern Navajo Fair, the largest and oldest fair within the Navajo Nation. This annual event, steeped in tradition, serves as a celebration of Navajo culture and community. Diné College students and staff joined the fair's parade to showcase their commitment to integrating the Navajo traditions into education.



Diné College STEM Fest a Resounding Success

Diné College's annual STEM Fest, held October 21-22 at the Tsaille Gymnasium, welcomed 5th-8th grade and high school students for two days of hands-on STEM activities. Interactive experiments and presentations by industry professionals inspired youth to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

MILESTONES



Diné College CONVOY Project Celebrated First Year Success

Diné College announced the successful completion of the first year of the CONVOY project. The project included summer and fall internships, and students presented their work at the AISES 2024 Conference, which took place from October 03 to 5 in San Antonio, Texas. Students from Greyhills Academy High School, Tuba City High School, Tuba City Junior High School, Tuba City Boarding School, and Diné College participated.



Diné College Hosts Cultural Exchange with Kyrgyz Republic Representatives

On October 30, 2024, Diné College welcomed representatives from the Kyrgyz Republic of Central Asia, in collaboration with the Office of the Navajo Nation in Washington. Organized by Shiprock Recruiter Sonja Morgan, the visit included a campus tour, cultural presentations on Navajo history, the Diné creation story, traditional Navajo tea, and a communal lunch. Faculty, staff, and students shared insights into language and cultural practices. Diné College thanks all contributors for making this exchange meaningful and memorable.



Diné College student attend the 42 Annual ITEP Conference

Clarene Davis, a student from Diné College, participated in the 42nd Annual Conference held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in New Mexico. During the conference, Davis participated in the "Introduction to Aerosols Part 1 and 2" tutorials, highlighting her commitment to advancing knowledge in environmental science through a culturally inclusive lens.

November 2024



DC BIKE Excursion around the local campus

Students participated in a 5-mile bike ride through the beautiful wilderness of Tsaille. Biking provides low impact cardio training that is beneficial to mental, physical and spiritual health.



Diné College Career Education Program Hosts College and Career Fair

Diné College's Career Education Program hosted a College and Career Fair, offering students, alumni, and community members the opportunity to connect with colleges, universities, and employers. Attendees explored academic programs, transfer options, and career paths while engaging directly with professionals from various fields. The event supported participants in advancing their education, discovering job prospects, and expanding their professional networks—empowering them to make informed decisions about their futures.



"Good Mood Food" Student Food Box Event Held at Diné College Tsaile Campus

Diné College hosted the "Good Mood Food" Student Food Box Event on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at the Tsaile Campus. The initiative supported student well-being by providing nutritious and culturally relevant food items. Students completed the Good Mood Food Survey at pick-up. A total of 67 boxes were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The program raised awareness of food insecurity challenges faced by students.



Diné College Welcomed Window Rock High School Students

Diné College welcomed 21 students and 2 chaperones from Window Rock High School for a campus tour. During their visit, students learned about the college's academic programs and student life. The experience aimed to inspire them to consider higher education and see college as a pathway to achieving their goals and dreams.

Diné College Hosts N4WPP Water Challenge for Four Corners High School Students

On November 15, 2024, Diné College Shiprock Campus hosted the N4WPP Water Challenge, engaging Four Corners high school students in addressing water issues affecting the Navajo Nation. Organized with Navajo Technical University and New Mexico Tech, the event promoted STEM learning and careers in water resources. Keynote speaker Dwight Witherspoon, Navajo Nation water rights attorney, inspired students with his work in water justice. Diné College thanks all partners for their collaboration.

December 2024



Cameo Mejia Sworn in as New Diné College Staff Association President

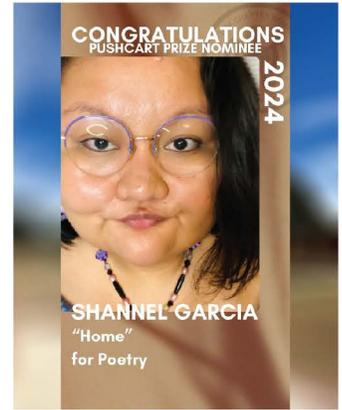
On December 3, 2024, Cameo Mejia was sworn in as a new Diné College Board regent during the Annual Board meeting. As Staff Association President, Mejia brings valuable advocacy for staff interests. The Diné College Staff Association plays a key role in representing employees, addressing welfare, safety, and salary issues, and fostering communication between staff, the College President, and the Board. Mejia's leadership promises to strengthen staff representation and support.

MILESTONES



Diné College Archery Program Focuses on Growth and Opportunity

Led by Coach Darwyn Henderson, Diné College's archery program emphasizes technique, mental focus, and fitness. With 15 student-athletes, the team recently competed with Navajo Technical University. Founded in the 1980s, the program continues to grow, aiming to expand participation and compete in regional and national collegiate events.



Diné College Students Nominated for Prestigious Pushcart Prize

Diné College proudly announces that BFA Creative Writing students Natasha Endito and Shannel Garcia were nominated for the 2024 Pushcart Prize. Endito's nonfiction "Grandma's Garden" and Garcia's poem "Home," featured in the Chapter House Journal, received high honors. The nominations highlight their talent and Diné College's commitment to uplifting Indigenous voices. Both students expressed deep gratitude and inspiration from this prestigious recognition.



Diné College Hosts Successful Diné Bizaad Multimedia Event

Diné College's Mellon Foundation-supported Diné Bizaad Multimedia Event drew a large crowd to the Tsailé Campus Student Union Building. The event celebrated Navajo language and culture revitalization through modern media, featuring Navajo filmmakers and artists. Attendees experienced the power of Diné culture expressed in contemporary forms, highlighting the important role of media in preserving and promoting Navajo heritage.



Recent Graduates Return to Diné College to Serve Communities and Students

Diné College proudly welcomed 2024 graduates Sterling R. Walter and Tyrel C. Pablo back to the institution in key roles. Walter now serves as Newcomb Microsite Manager, while Pablo works as an Academic Success Coach at the Crownpoint Center. Their return highlights Diné College's commitment to fostering community engagement and mentorship. Both bring valuable expertise and cultural understanding, strengthening support for students and advancing the College's mission.



Diné College Capstone Event Celebrates Graduating Seniors and Educational Achievements

Diné College's School of Diné Studies and Education honored graduating seniors Berlinsea Lee and Delphine Chester during a Capstone presentation. Guest speaker Dr. Florinda Jackson inspired graduates to become national education leaders. Faculty highlighted the program's success in preparing job-ready educators. Graduates reflected on personal growth and resilience. Dean David Nez and Provost Alysa Landry praised their commitment to shaping the future of the Diné Nation. The event closed with stole presentations celebrating their achievements.



Diné College Showcases Dual Credit Program at Southwest Food Excellence Winter Classic

Diné College representatives highlighted their Dual Credit Program during halftime at the Southwest Food Excellence Winter Classic at Chinle High School. The program allows high school students to earn college credits early, with courses ranging from Navajo Language to Mathematics. Students gain full access to Diné College resources, and courses are affordable or free. Credits transfer widely, helping students prepare confidently for higher education success.

January 2025



Graduates Celebrate Achievement at Diné College Commencement

On December 13, 2024, Diné College honored 137 graduates from the Class of 2024 during its commencement ceremony. Keynote speaker Charly Edsitty encouraged adaptability and perseverance, sharing lessons from her career. Provost Dr. Alysa Landry and Acting President Bo Lewis praised the graduates' resilience and cultural pride. The event celebrated Diné College's legacy as the first tribally controlled college, blending academic rigor with Navajo heritage. Graduates are now part of a growing alumni community poised to shape the future.



Nits'aqadóó Ídahwiil'aah "We are learning from you." Diné College Mellon Fellow Shane R. Hendren, Multidisciplinary Navajo/Diné Artist, provides Artist Talk Series

Diné College Mellon Fellow Shane R. Hendren, a master Navajo artist and metalsmith, continues his dedication to Indigenous art and cultural preservation. Raised on Navajo family ranches, Hendren combines traditional Diné values with innovative techniques like mokume-gane. As a 2025 Mellon Fellow, he provides mentorship, leads an Artist Talk Series, and supports archival projects, inspiring Indigenous voices. His work honors heritage and fosters storytelling within the Diné community.

MILESTONES

February 2025



Harrison Cayatineto's Research Offers Potential Breakthrough in Fighting Flaviviridae Viruses

Diné College graduate student Harrison Cayatineto has identified microRNA hsa-miR-548d-3p as a promising candidate to combat Flaviviridae viruses like dengue, Zika, and yellow fever. Using bioinformatics and Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus as a model, Cayatineto's research targets viral replication genes and is currently being tested in vitro. His study, published in *Frontiers in Bioinformatics*, may pave the way for innovative miRNA-based antiviral therapies.



Diné College Students Advocate on Capitol Hill

Diné College students Jalen Smallcanyon and Jana Stewart advocated at the AIHEC Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., engaging with Congress to support tribal college funding, workforce development, and land-grant programs. Their efforts highlighted the vital role of TCUs in empowering Indigenous communities through education and economic growth.



Shiprock Branch Campus and Crownpoint Center Attend 2025 American Indian Day at the State of New Mexico Legislature

Members of Diné College's Shiprock Branch Campus and Crownpoint Center attended the 2025 American Indian Day at the New Mexico Legislature on February 7, celebrating "Honoring Tribal Self-Determination." The College shared keepsakes and information with lawmakers, thanking Representatives Joseph Hernandez and Michelle Abeyta for their support. Senator Shannon Pinto honored late Diné College President Dr. Charles Roessel with a moment of silence. Diné College appreciates the state's ongoing commitment to tribal higher education.



Diné College Hosted Staff vs. Student Tournament

Diné College hosted a Staff vs. Student Tournament on February 12, 2025, at the college gymnasium. The event fostered community connection and wellness through friendly competition. Organized by Student Affairs and the Student Wellness Program, it emphasized engagement and positive relationships between students, staff, and community members.



Crownpoint Center Supports Eastern Navajo Agency Spelling Bee

The Crownpoint Center supported the Eastern Navajo Agency Spelling Bee, held at the new Office of Diné Youth building. Crownpoint Center Manager, Tyrone Begay and Academic Success Coach Tyrel Pablo participated in the event, celebrating academic excellence for students in grades 4-8 from local schools. The Center looks forward to continued collaboration to strengthen community partnerships.



Diné College Hosts Art Workshop with Nanibah Chacon

Diné College hosted a two-day art workshop on Feb. 18-19, 2025, led by Navajo artist and Mellon Fellow Nanibah Chacon. Students and community members collaborated on a public sculpture and FM transmitter project, blending art, storytelling, and technology to celebrate Navajo culture and voices.



Diné College Recognized as a Research Institution in New Carnegie Classifications

Diné College is now recognized as a Research Institution in the latest Carnegie Classifications, one of only two Tribal Colleges to earn this distinction. This milestone highlights the college's commitment to academic excellence, Indigenous-led research, and innovation. Vice Provost Dr. Christelle praised faculty and staff efforts, emphasizing the responsibility to expand research capacity and support Native communities. This achievement strengthens Diné College's role as a leader in Native higher education and research.



Office of External Campuses Launches Professional Development Series Focused on Strategic Design

Diné College's Office of External Campuses launched a professional development series on February 20, 2025, at Window Rock Center. Led by Dr. Don Denetdeal and Pax Harvey, the training focused on strategic design goals, Navajo culture, student success, and quality growth. The series continues through June 2025 at branch campuses.

MILESTONES



New Mexico Higher Education Day Celebrates 20 Years of Progress and Tuition-Free Education

Diné College participated in New Mexico Higher Education Day on February 25, 2025, celebrating 20 years of tuition-free education. Representatives showcased academic programs, connected with state leaders, and emphasized expanding access. The event highlighted New Mexico's commitment to affordable higher education and its impact on workforce development.

March 2025



Diné College Hosts 2025 Spring STEM Festival, Welcoming Eleven Schools

Diné College hosted its 2025 Spring STEM Festival on March 24 at the Tsaile Gymnasium, welcoming students from 11 schools. The event featured hands-on activities, workshops, and exhibits for 5th to 8th graders, promoting STEM education, career exploration, and innovation within the Navajo Nation.



Shiprock Campus Hosts Successful 2025 Nihich'iyá' T'áá Díníłzin Dóó Baa Ahééh Whiinzhin Daango Diné Bí Ch'íyá' Food Gathering, Celebrating Sustainable Navajo Agriculture and Culinary Traditions

Diné College's Shiprock Campus Land Grant Office hosted the 2025 Nihich'iyá' T'áá Díníłzin Dóó Baa Ahééh Whiinzhin Daango Diné Bí Ch'íyá' Food Gathering on March 21. The event celebrated sustainable Navajo agriculture and culinary traditions with guest speakers, demonstrations, traditional foods, and community partners promoting local food systems and cultural preservation.



Diné College Recruitment Team and Dual Credit Program Connects with Future Students at Gallup High School College and Career Fair

Diné College’s Recruitment and Dual Credit teams engaged with prospective students during Gallup High School’s College and Career Fair on March 25, 2025. They promoted academic programs, student services, and early college opportunities. The event fostered awareness and excitement about higher education among high school attendees across the region.



American Indian College Fund Visits Diné College to Strengthen Educational Opportunities

The American Indian College Fund visited Diné College on March 24, 2025, to engage with students and staff, hear their needs, and explore ways to support Native student success. Discussions focused on scholarships, student services, and cultural education, while students emphasized the importance of financial aid, clubs, and career support.



PHOTO (L-R: Jessica Holiday, Velma Hale, Orlando White, Jessica Begay, Christie Toth, Haesong Kwon, Matthew Evertson, Jesse Maloney, Lambert Martin, & Brenda Lanphear)

Diné College Hosts "Still Sacred" Event on Writing, Culture, and Language

Diné College hosted “Still Sacred,” a two-day event on March 20–21, 2025, exploring Indigenous writing, culture, and language. Scholars, students, and faculty shared perspectives on decolonizing writing instruction and preserving Diné identity. Sessions emphasized land, language, and storytelling as vital components of culturally grounded education and academic success.



Dr. Herman A. Peterson Honored for His Leadership and Contributions at Diné College

Dr. Herman A. Peterson, Director of Libraries at Diné College, is celebrated for his 13 years of service, scholarly contributions, and leadership in library sciences. A published expert on Native American history, Dr. Peterson’s dedication has enriched academic resources and supported Indigenous scholarship across higher education institutions.

MILESTONES

Diné College Hosts Spring 2025 College & Career Fair

Diné College's Spring 2025 College & Career Fair welcomed nearly 30 facilitators, offering students and community members access to internships, training, and job opportunities. The event, held at the Tsaile campus, emphasized career readiness, networking, and community engagement to support workforce development across the Navajo Nation.



AIHEC President Visits Diné College to Strengthen Tribal Education and Cultural Preservation

AIHEC President Ahniwake Rose visited Diné College to strengthen collaboration in tribal education and cultural preservation. She praised the college's commitment to Navajo traditions and academic growth, noting its expanded programs and community impact. Discussions focused on supporting Native student success, cultural leadership, and policy advocacy. Diné College students showcased achievements in academics and culture, reflecting the institution's mission to empower Indigenous communities through education and tradition.

April 2025



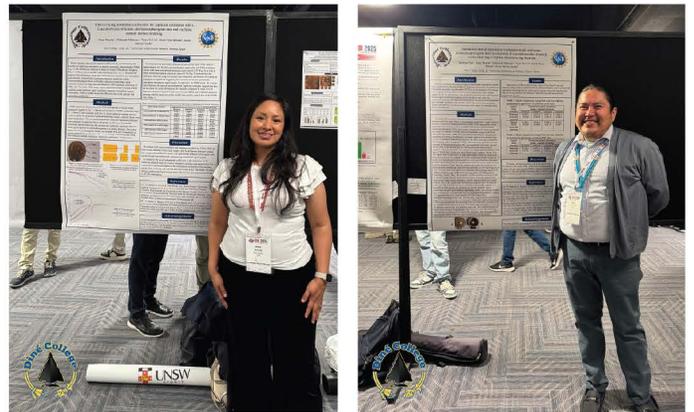
Diné College Hosts Neuroscience Workshop in Tuba City

Diné College hosted Day 2 of the Pueblo Brain Science: 4th Neuroscience Workshop at the Tuba City Center, engaging 45 participants, including college and local junior and high school students. Led by neuroscience experts, the workshop featured hands-on activities and discussions integrating science and Indigenous knowledge. The event supports Diné College's mission to promote STEM education and inspire Native students toward careers in biomedical sciences and neuroscience.



Fire Damages Diné College Student Union Building; Campus Temporarily Closed

On April 14, 2025, a fire caused significant damage to Diné College's Student Union Building, leading to the temporary closure of key facilities and the campus. No injuries were reported, but safety concerns have restricted access while investigations and recovery efforts continue. Remote learning and alternative service locations are in place, with plans to resume in-person classes soon. Campus leadership urges reliance on official updates and appreciates community resilience during this challenging time.



Diné College Students Present at Prestigious IEEE Biomedical Imaging Symposium

Diné College students Alana Benally and Sheldon Chee presented original research at the 2025 IEEE International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging in Houston. Benally, earning her MS in Biology, and Chee, a dual BS/MS student, showcased innovations in EEG signal enhancement and electrode modeling. Their work reflects Diné College's academic excellence and was supported by NSF grant #2415867. Their participation marks a milestone for the college in national biomedical research recognition.



American Indian College Fund Boosts Native Student Success at Diné College Shiprock

Diné College’s Shiprock Campus hosted the American Indian College Fund on April 24–25, 2025, to advance the Cultivating Native Student Success (CNSS) Grant. Program Officer Delphina Thomas met with the Strategic Enrollment Management Planning Committee to discuss student-centered strategies, data-driven planning, and future grant opportunities. The visit emphasized collaboration, community building, and strategic planning to improve enrollment and advising. Diné College will continue hosting annual visits to support Native student success.



Diné College Athletics Rodeo Team Competes at Grand Canyon Regional #2 in Payson, Arizona

The Diné College Athletics Rodeo Team proudly competed at the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Grand Canyon Regional #2 event held in Payson, Arizona. Over the course of two exciting days, eight student-athletes showcased their skills in a range of rodeo events. With beautiful weather and great team spirit, the competition was a rewarding experience for all involved.



Diné College Graduate Student Honored for Microbiology Research at Regional Conference

Diné College graduate student Harrison Cayatineto earned top recognition at the 64th Annual American Society for Microbiology’s Arizona-Nevada meeting for his research on microRNAs in hepatitis C treatment. Competing alongside peers from major universities, Cayatineto was one of four awardees in the graduate poster category. His success, along with research from classmates at Hakim’s Lab, reflects Diné College’s growing excellence in biomedical science and Native student achievement.



Diné College Students Attend Story Catcher Festival, meeting with three-time U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo

Three Diné College students—Shannel Garcia, Jalen Smallcanyon, and Milton Bluehouse attended the Story Catcher Festival at Western Colorado University. Awarded Young Lance Fellowships, they engaged with U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo. The festival celebrates Indigenous storytelling, empowering emerging Native writers and honoring National Poetry Month.

MILESTONES



Diné College Honors Chinle High School Students for Academic Excellence

Diné College honored 25 Chinle High School students for academic excellence in its Dual Credit Program. The program enables students to earn college credits while completing high school, easing their transition to higher education. Leaders praised student dedication and emphasized the program’s role in preparing future success.



Diné College Recognizes Excellence at Annual Awards Ceremony

Diné College honored student excellence in academics, leadership, and service at its annual awards ceremony on May 2. Key recognitions included the President’s and Deans’ Awards, scholarships, and faculty-nominated honors—highlighting the College’s commitment to academic success and community impact across all campuses.

May 2025



Many Farms High School Honors Dual Credit Students at Achievement Awards Ceremony

Many Farms High School celebrated its largest group of Dual Credit students in partnership with Diné College. At the Academic Achievement Awards, students were honored for earning college credits while balancing high school and extracurriculars—highlighting a milestone year of academic excellence, cultural pride, and college readiness.



Diné College Rodeo Team Competes in Final Spring 2025 Event

The Diné College Rodeo Team concluded its Spring 2025 season at the NIRA Grand Canyon Regional #3 in Prescott, Arizona. Eight student-athletes competed in multiple events, showcasing dedication and skill. Coach Holyan praised their hard work, marking a strong finish to a season of growth and perseverance.



Diné College Shines at the 2025 Shiprock Marathon

Diné College students and staff delivered strong performances at the 2025 Shiprock Marathon, with standout placements in both the 5K and Half Marathon. The event showcased athletic achievement, school spirit, and community engagement amid the stunning backdrop of the Navajo Nation's iconic Shiprock Pinnacle.



Diné College Shiprock Branch Celebrates Graduating Students

Diné College's Shiprock Branch celebrated its Class of 2025 with a special graduation event on May 1, honoring student perseverance and achievement. Organized through the American Indian College Fund's Cultivating Native Student Success Grant, the evening featured dinner, gifts, and heartfelt recognition—highlighting the College's continued commitment to student success and community celebration.



Diné College Tuba City Graduation Banquet Honors Student Achievement

Diné College celebrated its Tuba City graduates on May 1 with a banquet at the Hogan Restaurant. The event featured a keynote by Wayland Piestewa and honored students' academic achievements, resilience, and community support—highlighting their readiness to make meaningful contributions beyond college.



Diné College Graduate Successfully Defends Master's Thesis on Biomedical Signal Processing

Alana Benally successfully defended her Master's thesis on biomedical signal processing at Diné College on May 6. Her research, guided by Dr. Oleksandr Makeyev, contributes to advancements in human data modeling. This milestone highlights Diné College's expanding role in Indigenous-led research and graduate-level scientific achievement.

MILESTONES



DC Archery Team Shines in Tribal College Competitions

The Diné College Archery Team showcased skill and sportsmanship during competitions against Institute of American Indian Arts and Navajo Technical University in early May. Led by Coach Henderson, the Warriors earned top placements and a Sportsmanship Award, highlighting technical growth, resilience, and strong connections with fellow tribal college athletes.



Pinon High School Recognizes Outstanding Dual Credit Achievements in Collaboration with Diné College

Pinon High School celebrated its 2024–2025 Dual Credit students in partnership with Diné College, recognizing academic achievement and a growing culture of college readiness. With 50% student participation and up to 34 college credits earned per graduate, the program reflects a thriving collaboration and expanding opportunities for student success.



Diné College Celebrates Its Spring 2025 Commencement Ceremony

Diné College celebrated its Spring 2025 Commencement on May 9 at the Shiprock South Campus, honoring graduates' academic and cultural achievements. The ceremony featured inspiring remarks from leadership, awarded over 140 degrees and certificates, and emphasized the college's commitment to Navajo traditions and lifelong learning.



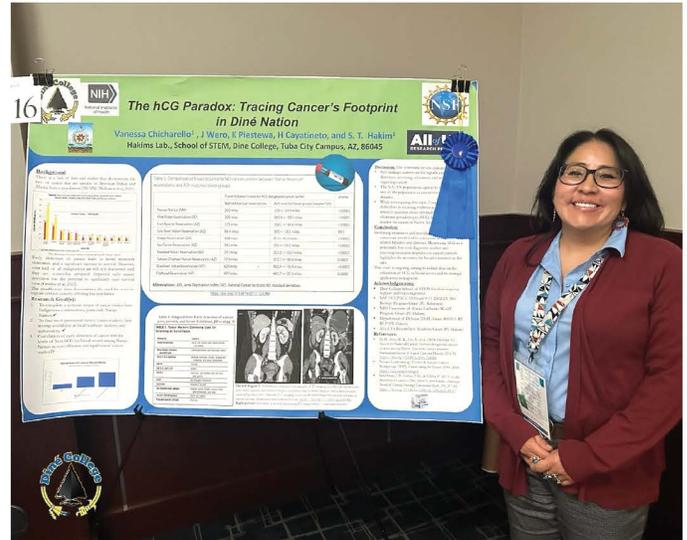
Diné College Visits KSJD to Strengthen Community Radio Collaboration

Diné College's Marketing & Communications team visited KSJD radio in Cortez, Colorado, to strengthen collaboration. The visit explored joint programming, community outreach, and ways KXWR and KSJD can support Indigenous voices, build media partnerships, and engage audiences across the Four Corners region through shared cultural and educational goals.



Diné College Honors Employees at Annual Recognition Event

Diné College honored employees celebrating 5 to 50 years of service at its Annual Recognition event in Shiprock. The ceremony highlighted staff contributions to education and Navajo cultural preservation, honoring past leadership and promoting unity, collaboration, and continuous improvement across the college's campuses and departments.



Voices of the Diné Summit Spotlights Genetic Research and Indigenous Health

Diné College faculty and students participated in the 2025 Voices of the Diné Summit, presenting groundbreaking genetic and public health research. Dr. Shazia Hakim emphasized ethical data use and education. Student Vanessa Chicharello earned top honors for her cancer research, showcasing Diné College's leadership in Indigenous health and genomics.



Article Courtesy of: Dina Horwedel, Director of Public Education, American Indian College Fund

Diné College Student, Jenabah Yazzie, Creates Winning Design

Diné College student Jenabah Yazzie won the 2024 Tribal College Blanket Design Contest with her Pendleton design, Infinite Prayer. Inspired by Navajo traditions and ancestral love, the blanket now supports scholarships through the American Indian College Fund. Yazzie received scholarships, national recognition, and highlighted Indigenous artistry on a global platform.

June 2025



Young Navajo Singer Gains Recognition for Debut Song in Native Language

Twelve-year-old Nala Rain Nelson recorded her debut Navajo-language song, featured on KXWR Warrior Radio. Mentored by artist Razor Salt Boy, Nala's single celebrates family and language preservation. Her rising talent highlights Diné College's commitment to uplifting youth voices and promoting cultural continuity through music, storytelling, and local radio programming.

MILESTONES



CONVOY Project Launched Second Cohort to Inspire Navajo Youth in Biomedical Sciences

Diné College launched the second cohort of the CONVOY project in Tuba City, engaging 23 Navajo youth in a 20-week biomedical sciences internship. Blending Navajo cultural knowledge with modern science, the program provides dual credit, mentorship, and hands-on research experience to inspire careers in health, science, and community leadership.



Diné College Hosts Chinle High School Students for Educational Campus Tour

Diné College hosted 55 Chinle High School students for a campus tour, highlighting dual credit opportunities in Navajo language, fine arts, and general education courses. The program helps rural Native students earn college credits with full financial support, strengthening pathways to higher education and academic success.



Diné College Welcomed 2025 SREP & ISEP Students

Diné College welcomed 2025 participants of the Summer Research Enhancement Program (SREP) and Indigenous Summer Enhancement Program (ISEP). Supported by Navajo NARCH, both programs offer high school and college students hands-on experiences in public health, research, and cultural learning—empowering the next generation of Native health and science professionals.



Diné College Land Grant Office Joins Navajo Nation in Hosting Wool & Mohair Buy Event

Diné College's Land Grant Office partnered with the Navajo Nation to host the Northern Navajo Wool & Mohair Buy event, supporting local producers by boosting wool quality and market access. This collaboration strengthens the agricultural economy, promotes sustainable production, and revitalizes the Navajo Nation's wool and mohair industries.



Diné College Shares Expertise and Builds Connections at American Indian College Fund Cultivating Native Student Success (CNSS) Conference

Diné College's CNSS Strategic Enrollment Management team actively participated in the 2025 Cultivating Native Student Success (CNSS) Conference in Oklahoma. Presenting on seven topics and sharing cultural practices, the team strengthened tribal college partnerships and gained valuable insights to enhance student success initiatives, supported by a \$250,000 annual CNSS grant.

July 2025



Diné College Recognized for Advancing Faculty Engagement in Articulation Task Force Meetings

Diné College received the Institutional Improvement Award for increasing faculty participation in Articulation Task Force meetings by 18%. This recognition highlights the college's dedication to fostering collaboration and ensuring seamless credit transfer, supporting student success through strengthened partnerships with Arizona higher education institutions.



Diné College Supports LGBTQ2S+ Community at "We Are Strong" Pride Festival

At the "We Are Strong" Pride Festival, Diné College hosted an informational booth offering Fall 2025 semester registration support, degree guidance, and student services. Staff engaged with attendees, reflecting the college's commitment to inclusion and support for the LGBTQ2S+ community, as emphasized by Student Recruiter Briana Clah.

MILESTONES



“Just Move It” Event Promotes Health and Community at Diné College Crownpoint

The “Just Move It” wellness event at Diné College Crownpoint engaged 337 participants in a community walk/run, promoting healthy lifestyles. Supported by Crownpoint IHS and local partners, the event registered 189 new participants and strengthened community health initiatives across the Eastern Navajo Agency.



Diné College Engages Community During 25th Navajo Nation Council Horseback Ride

During the 25th Navajo Nation Council Horseback Ride, Diné College set up in front of the Council Chambers to engage with alumni, leaders, and community members. Staff shared college resources, listened to stories, and celebrated culture during this special event as part of the 2025 Summer Session.



Diné College Welcomed the Summer Institute Class of 2025

Diné College welcomed 15 students to the Summer Institute Class of 2025, offering a transformative learning experience that fosters academic exploration and personal growth. The program supports students' college readiness and engagement, marking the start of their educational journeys with Diné College.



Diné College Crownpoint Center Ignites Community Spirit at Eastern Navajo Fair

The Crownpoint Center energized the community at the 2025 Eastern Navajo Fair Parade and Youth Day, engaging attendees with games, giveaways, and admissions outreach. Led by student ambassadors and staff, the event highlighted Diné College's presence and commitment to education, culture, and community connection in Crownpoint and surrounding areas.



Diné College Engages Community at Central Navajo Fair & Parade

The Student Recruitment & Outreach Department, alongside dedicated students, proudly participated in the Central Navajo Fair & Parade, connecting with the community and showcasing educational opportunities.



GALA Program Brings Cultural Exchange and Artistic Inspiration to Diné College

Diné College hosted the inaugural Global Arts Local Arts (GALA) program, uniting Navajo and Māori traditions through storytelling, workshops, and cultural exchange. Supported by Indiana University and GALACTIC, the four-day event empowered high school students to explore identity, creativity, and college readiness through Indigenous and global artistic perspectives.



High School Students Explore Agriculture and Culture Through Diné College's AGR 101 Summer Program

Diné College's AGR 101 summer program welcomed 11 high school students for two weeks of hands-on learning, mentorship, and cultural enrichment. Blending Navajo ecological knowledge with modern science, the program fostered interest in agricultural careers and awarded college credit through support from the Land Grant Office and New Beginnings project.



Diné College Shiprock Branch Campus Engages Farmington Community at Connie Mack World Series Parade

Diné College's Shiprock Branch Campus joined the 2025 Connie Mack World Series Parade in Farmington, NM, energizing the community with a themed float, outreach activities, and student engagement. The event highlighted the College's educational offerings and strengthened community connections through celebration, visibility, and meaningful public interaction.

MILESTONES



Diné College Wraps Up Summer Internship Program, Prepares Students for Fall Semester

The College successfully wrapped up its 10-week Ascendium Paid Internship Program, providing hands-on experience for students across nine departments. Interns gained mentorship, professional skills, and engaged in key events, all while preparing for Fall 2025 enrollment. The program reflects Diné College’s commitment to cultural values and student success.



Diné College Cafeteria Staff Earn Crisis Intervention Excellence Award

Elizabeth Tso and Tivona Endischee received the Crisis Intervention Excellence Award for swiftly relocating cafeteria operations during a campus emergency. Their quick action ensured uninterrupted meal service, highlighting exceptional teamwork and resilience that supported the Diné College community throughout the crisis.



Fall 2025 Welcome Event at Window Rock Center

Diné College Window Rock Center welcomed Fall 2025 students with the event “In Beauty We Walk into a Brighter Future”. Workshops on Canvas, ConexED, and My DC Portal, along with free resources, haircuts, and giveaways, helped students start the semester supported and connected to campus services.

August 2025



Diné College Students Expand Horizons Through Vassar College’s Exploring Transfer Program

Diné College students Raymona Calamity and Kirsten Parrish participated in Vassar College’s prestigious Exploring Transfer Program, earning credits while engaging in cultural exchange and rigorous coursework. Alumna Tylia Begaye returned as the first Diné Residential Teaching Fellow, highlighting growing collaboration and student success.



Community Gathers for 2025 Just Move It & Health Fair

Diné College and Chinle Indian Health Services co-hosted the 2025 Just Move It & Health Fair, promoting wellness through health education booths and a community walk/run. The event united all ages, featured Navajo Nation leaders, and highlighted collective commitment to health and active living.



Diné College Student Showcases Passion for Cars at 2025 Navajo Nation Fair Car Show

Diné College student Turrell Sorrell showcased his restored 2002 Ford Mustang at the 2025 Navajo Nation Fair Car Show. A Bachelor of Fine Arts major, Sorrell blends creativity with a family tradition of automotive passion, inspired by his father. His participation highlights student talent and cultural pride beyond the classroom.



First Annual Navajo Nation Horseshoe and Blacksmith Competition Brings Together Traditional Skills and Modern Techniques

Diné College co-hosted the first annual Navajo Nation Horseshoe and Blacksmith Competition, promoting traditional skills and modern farrier techniques. The event brought together farriers, blacksmiths, and educators to network, share knowledge, and build community. It showcased the College's commitment to preserving culture and advancing agricultural education.

MILESTONES



Diné College Concludes Successful Fall 2025 College & Career Fair

Diné College hosted its Fall 2025 College & Career Fair as part of Career Week, connecting students and community members with universities and employers. Held in Tsaile, the two-day event featured breakout sessions, campus tours for high schoolers, and workshops, supporting career exploration and professional development across all levels.



Diné College Showcased Float at 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair Parade

Diné College showcased its creativity and community pride with a beautifully decorated float in the 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair Parade, earning 2nd place in the judging contest. Representing multiple departments, the College honored the theme “Strength & Resilience” while celebrating Navajo women and cultural heritage with the broader community.

Diné College Students Shine at 2025 AIHEC Student Conference

Diné College proudly participated in the 36th Annual American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Student Conference, held March 8-11, 2025, in Rapid City, South Dakota. The event, themed “Ancient Wisdom, the Foundation of Our Future: Sovereignty, Unity, and Strength for Future Generations,” brought together students, faculty, and staff from Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) across the country for a dynamic celebration of Indigenous knowledge, academic excellence, cultural traditions, and leadership.

From academic competitions and cultural events to the crowning of Mr. AIHEC 2025-2026, Diné College students showed resilience, talent, and pride in representing their institution and their communities.



A Journey Begins: Students Depart for AIHEC

The journey to AIHEC 2025 began in Tsale, Arizona, where students and coaches from Diné College prepared for a week of academic rigor, cultural expression, and intertribal connection. Traveling with determination and Warrior spirit, they arrived in Rapid City energized and ready to represent Diné College on a national platform.

The Parade of Flags ceremony at the opening general session served as a unifying moment. As Diné College’s banner was carried proudly among those of 34 other TCUs, the College reaffirmed its commitment to Indigenous education, sovereignty, and cultural preservation.

Academic Excellence on Display

Diné College students participated in several academic competitions, showcasing their intellect, preparation, and teamwork across disciplines:

Science Bowl:

In their first-ever appearance, students Dayheona Yazzie, Hailey Tomasiyo, and Jocelyn Brown competed in the fast-paced Science Bowl competition. Despite being newcomers, the team demonstrated excellent teamwork and resilience under pressure. “It was an excellent experience... we fed off each other’s energy,” said Yazzie.



Critical Inquiry:

Students Nanibah Bigman, Hailey Tomasiyo, Madison Begay, and Terance Woody researched and presented on the lasting impact of residential schools. Coach Sterling Walter praised their deep engagement with cultural history and analytical thinking. The team delivered a powerful, research-based presentation that reflected both academic rigor and cultural responsibility.





Traditional Plants & Herbs:

Jocelyn Brown and Tomilethia Chee represented Diné College in this unique academic competition, identifying plants native to the region and discussing their traditional and medicinal uses. "Their preparation involved not only memorization but a deeper understanding of the importance these plants hold in tribal practices," said coach Darrell Yazzie, Jr.

Cultural Expression and Artistic Talent

In addition to academic achievements, Diné College students expressed cultural pride through traditional arts and ceremonies: Art Exhibit: Students Jocelyn Brown, Tomilethia Chee, and Nykesha Nez showcased paintings, weavings, and drawings that reflected their heritage and creativity. Chee's Two Grey Hills-style rug stood out for its intricate craftsmanship. "Their submissions reflect immense talent and dedication," said faculty advisor Dr. Nonabah Sam.



Front row (L-R): Kimberly Goodman (Great Lakes Regional Representative, Red Lake Nation College), Raven Turner (Midwest Regional Representative, Little Priest Tribal College) and Tyler LaMere (Communications, Little Priest Tribal College)

Diné College AIHEC Newly Elected Student Congress Take Lead in Federal Advocacy and Public Health Campaigns

Diné College students Jalen Smallcanyon and Jana Stewart were elected to AIHEC Student Congress, representing leadership in federal advocacy and public health. Their roles reflect dedication to cultural preservation, education, and community wellness, exemplifying Diné College's mission to empower Indigenous students and strengthen Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).





Hand Games:

The Diné College team competed in the traditional hand game tournament, guided by faculty member Avery Denny and mental health coordinator Travis Teller. Despite facing tough opponents, the students embraced the cultural roots of the game and emerged stronger as a team. “By the end of the event, they had a warrior mentality,” said Denny.

WACIPI (Powwow): Students also participated in the AIHEC WACIPI, a traditional powwow featuring intertribal dancing, drum groups, and cultural contests. The event strengthened community bonds and highlighted the rich cultural traditions that unite tribal nations.

Athletic Determination: Competing with Heart

Diné College also made a strong showing in several athletic competitions:

Archery: Competing at Thunder Horse Stables and Blackhills Archery, students Nanibah Bigman, Tomilethia Chee, Hailey Tomasiyo, and Seidel Joe took on the challenge of 3D target shooting. For several team members, it was their first time competing in collegiate archery. Coach Darwyn Henderson commended their growth and determination, noting, “They adapted well and showed incredible effort.”

5K Run, Volleyball, and More: Students also participated in the 5K run, volleyball, and hand games, bringing their competitive spirit to a wide range of events that foster wellness, discipline, and teamwork.



A Voice for the Future: Terance Woody Named Mr. AIHEC

One of the conference's most prestigious honors went to Diné College's Terance Woody, who was crowned Mr. AIHEC 2025–2026. A Diné Studies major and proud descendant of the Navajo and Hopi tribes, Woody became the first student from Diné College—and from his hometown of Rock Point, Arizona—to hold the title.

Woody's platform focuses on four key pillars: Language Revitalization, Cultural Preservation, Student Success, and Mental Wellness. He plans to represent Indigenous students across the nation with pride and purpose. “This achievement isn't just mine,” Woody said. “It's for my family, my college, and all Indigenous students who strive to uplift their voices.”



Diné College Student Wins Poetry Slam on Opening Day of the 36th Annual AIHEC Student Conference

Diné College student Terance Woody won first place at the AIHEC Poetry Slam, impressing audiences with his powerful performance. Fellow students Dayhenoa Yazzie, Madison Begay, Damien Jones, and Jalen Smallcanyon also delivered strong pieces, showcasing creativity and cultural pride. Their voices honored Indigenous traditions and inspired peers across TCUs.



Diné College Recognizes Student Achievements at the 2025 AIHEC Banquet

Diné College honored 14 students for their achievements at the 2025 AIHEC conference. Students excelled in academics, culture, poetry, and sports, showcasing resilience and leadership. Faculty coaches praised their dedication, while Acting President Glennita Haskey encouraged continued growth. The banquet celebrated their pride in Indigenous education and community.

A Defining Experience

From the moment they arrived to their final competition, Diné College students exemplified the AIHEC conference theme. They competed, presented, performed, and represented their culture with integrity and pride. Through challenges and triumphs, they strengthened their identities as scholars, artists, leaders, and ambassadors of their communities.

The 2025 AIHEC Student Conference was more than a competition—it was a journey of discovery, growth, and celebration. Diné College's students, faculty, and staff returned home not only with new experiences, but with renewed purpose.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Tanya (Teller) Dempsey

Tanya (Teller) Dempsey embodies resilience, dedication, and a deep commitment to her Navajo heritage. Born and raised in Lukachukai, Arizona, Tanya's identity is deeply rooted in her clans: Tó'aheedlínii (Water Flows Together), born for Ma'ii Deeshgiizhnií (Coyote Pass), with her maternal and paternal grandfathers tied to Tsé Nahabiłnii (Sleep Rock) and Honágháahnii (One Walks Around You). These profound cultural connections inspire her work and life.

From an early age, Tanya showed a passion for healthcare. At just three years old, she was already playing nurse, inspired by her maternal grandmother's knowledge of herbal medicine and her paternal grandmother's role as a midwife. This calling laid the foundation for a remarkable academic and professional career.

Tanya began her academic journey at Diné College, earning her Associate of Science in Health Occupations in May 1996. She continued her education at the University of New Mexico, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Biology (2001) and in Nursing (2007). Ultimately, she achieved her Doctor of Nursing Practice and Family Nurse Practitioner dual degree at the University of Arizona in 2019, paving the way for her to serve her community in meaningful ways.

With over 14 years of nursing experience, Tanya now works as a family nurse practitioner, providing primary care to Navajo patients of all ages. Her in-depth understanding of cultural and language barriers allows her to build trust and improve healthcare outcomes for her community.

Tanya takes pride in helping her patients take control of their health, bridging gaps between Western medicine and Indigenous values.

Tanya takes pride in helping her patients take control of their health, bridging gaps between Western medicine and Indigenous values.

A proud advocate for Indigenous education, Tanya encourages Navajo students to pursue their dreams, break barriers, and uplift their communities. Her story stands as a testament to the power of education, cultural pride, and faith in transforming lives and strengthening the Navajo Nation.



Helena Nez Begay Honored as a Distinguished Diné College Alumnus

Helena Nez Begay, a council delegate to the 25th Navajo Nation Council and a member of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee (HEHSC), reflects on how her educational foundation at Diné College has shaped her career and service.

Begay, who represents the Broadway/Gap, Coppermine, Kaibeto, and Tonalea/Red Lake chapters, credits her time at the college, formerly known as Navajo Community College, as pivotal to her success.

Delegate Begay, who is from LeChee, Arizona, is Tódich'ii'nii (Bitter Water People), born for Tł'ízí Łání (Many Goats People), her maternal grandfather is Nakaii Dine'é (Mexican People), and her paternal grandfather is Naasht'ézhí Dine'é (Zuni Clan).

"I started my educational journey in the late 1980s at Diné College while juggling responsibilities as a young mother," Begay said. "The college offered classes at local chapter houses, which allowed me to further my education without sacrificing time with my children. That flexibility gave me the chance to pursue my passion for early childhood education."

Begay began her studies in early childhood education through classes held at chapter houses, including foundational courses like English and math. Exams and major assignments were completed at the main campus in Tsaile.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the challenges of balancing parenthood and education, Begay thrived, ultimately earning an associate degree paired with a management certificate.

She went on to serve in key leadership roles, including as a director for the Northern Arizona Council of Governments and as a senior center supervisor serving elders in her community.

Her educational foundation enabled her to take on these roles, which mirrored the skills required to work with younger generations in early childhood education.

"The support from Diné College made all the difference," Begay noted. "The approachable instructors and accessible programs guided me along my path. I'm proud to have started my education at a place that upholds Navajo culture while encouraging professional growth."

Begay also shared some of her treasured memories of the college, particularly her time spent engaging with Navajo language and cultural classes taught on campus. "I remember sitting in classrooms designed like a hogan. The teachings about Diné traditions and the stories that connected us to our heritage made me feel at home," she recalled.

Today, as a Navajo Nation Council delegate, Begay advocates for education on the reservation, encouraging young people to consider Diné College as a culturally rich and affordable starting point for higher education. "It's not just about academics," she said. "The college nurtures your cultural identity while preparing you for the future."

Adrian Tsosie - Empowering Native Communities Through Education and Advocacy

Adrian Tsosie's remarkable academic and professional accomplishments reflect his unwavering connection to Diné College, where his educational journey began and his aspirations took shape. Adrian grew up in Shonto, Arizona, among the mesas and canyons, within a culturally rich Diné environment.

Raised in the traditions of his family's healers, he learned the principles of resilience, compassion, and humanitarian service through ceremonial practices and cultural teachings.

Adrian belongs to the Bitter Water Clan (Tódíh'ii'nii), born for the White Mountain Apache Band of Red Running into Water Clan (Dził ghá'a Táchii'nii). His maternal grandfather's clan is the Salt Water Clan (Tódik'ozhi), and his paternal grandfather's clan is the Tangle People (Ta'neeszahnii).

Adrian began his higher education at Diné College, earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2018 as part of the program's inaugural cohort. Diné College played a pivotal role in nurturing Adrian's aspirations, fostering his pride in his cultural identity, and laying a strong foundation for his academic success.

With the encouragement and mentorship rooted in the college's mission to uplift Navajo students, Adrian advanced his studies, completing a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Northern Arizona University in 2022.

He is currently a fourth-year doctoral student in NAU's Clinical Psychology program, specializing in neuropsychology.

His clinical practicum experiences inspired Adrian's interest in pediatric neuropsychology. At Scottsdale Pediatrics Behavioral Service, he works on comprehensive neurodevelopmental evaluations, diagnosing and supporting children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), learning disorders, and other developmental challenges.

His work underscores his dedication to addressing the unique needs of children and families.

Adrian's life mission is deeply rooted in his desire to bridge gaps in access to neuropsychological services within Native communities. He aspires to return to the Navajo Nation to provide culturally informed neuropsychological assessments that integrate traditional Diné values and perspectives.

He is committed to increasing early identification and support for neurodevelopmental conditions, as well as enhancing the availability of vital services in these communities.

A proud alumnus of Diné College, Adrian credits the institution with providing the foundation that empowered him to achieve his goals. His educational path, from a Diné undergraduate to a doctoral candidate, exemplifies the potential of Navajo and Indigenous students to excel in higher education while maintaining their cultural roots.

Adrian continues to inspire others to reach for higher education, take pride in their identity, and advocate for culturally grounded mental health services. His efforts represent a hopeful and impactful future for Native communities.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Venancio Aragón

Venancio Aragón is a distinguished Diné textile artist and educator. He holds degrees in Cultural Anthropology from the University of New Mexico and Native American & Indigenous Studies from Fort Lewis College. In 2020, Aragón was awarded the Rollin and Mary Ella King Native Artist Fellowship at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he focused on documenting and recreating lesser-known Diné weaving techniques.

His textile works have been widely exhibited and featured in various films and publications. Based in Farmington, New Mexico, Aragón maintains an active studio practice and will serve as the Navajo Weaving/Textile Design faculty within the Navajo Cultural Arts Program at Diné College. He is also currently pursuing a master's degree in education at Fort Lewis College.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer courses at the Tsaile campus this Fall. As an educator, I place significant value on education and the cultural arts. I have observed my students make meaningful progress as they reclaim and revitalize their textile arts traditions. I have confidence in the next generation and consider it a privilege to support them in their future pursuits.



Diné College Alumni Showcase Innovative Water Solutions At The Navajo Nation Fair

Diné College alumni Neilroy Singer and Navajo Nation Council Delegate Brenda Jesus highlighted innovative water projects at the Navajo Nation Fair, stressing the need for sustainable solutions in remote communities.

Singer, a recent Master's graduate in Biology from Diné College and current Environmental Scientist under the National Science Foundation (NSF) Water Is Life Grant, presented his project, "Refining Local Native Spring Water to Pure Quality in Remote Areas on Navajo Nation." His work focuses on improving solar-powered, UV-disinfecting water filtration systems based on community feedback and input.

"This project is about listening to our people and creating solutions that meet their needs," Singer said.

Delegate Brenda Jesus (Oaksprings, St. Michaels, & Pine Springs), a member of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and Chairperson of the Resources & Development Committee, as well as a 2019 Diné College graduate in Business Administration, joined Singer to discuss and address the importance of innovation and education in addressing local challenges.

"Diné College continues to produce leaders who are making a difference in our communities," Jesus said.

The Diné College recruiter booth, set up at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds, provided information about educational opportunities while showcasing alum achievements. Singer's booth, located alongside, drew attention to the critical role of science and technology in improving the quality of life on the Navajo Nation.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Kyle Curry Wilson, Fall 2024 Alumni Diné College Alumnus Overcomes Challenges, Inspires Fellow Graduates

Kyle Curry Wilson, a recent Diné College graduate, has shared an inspiring story of perseverance and success, offering hope to fellow alums and soon-to-be graduates. Wilson, who earned her Bachelor's and Associate's degrees in December 2024, exemplifies resilience in the face of setbacks, ultimately finding opportunities that aligned with her skills and values.

After graduating, Wilson returned to Tuba City with the goal of serving her community through positions within the Navajo Nation government, where she had previously worked.

However, despite a clear plan and confident interview performance, multiple job applications did not yield the results she had hoped.

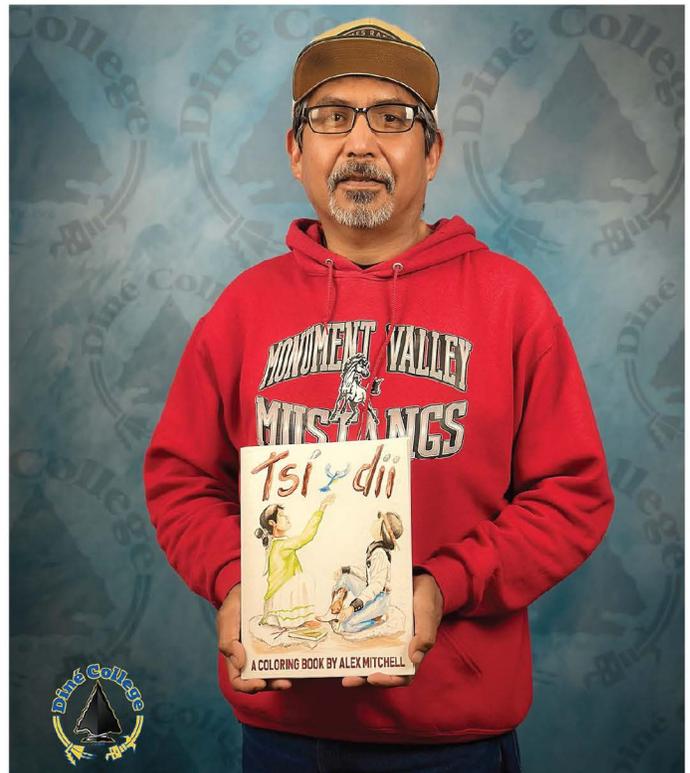
"The disappointment hit hard," Wilson said, reflecting on that period. "I reached out to programs for feedback, but the silence could have broken me. Instead, I chose to keep moving forward."

Determined to pivot, Wilson applied to the Master of Science in Addiction Counseling program at Grand Canyon University and began courses in June 2025. Shortly after, she accepted a lower-paying position, focusing on skill-building and community contribution despite the discouraging circumstances.

This path wasn't smooth, but her perseverance paid off. Almost immediately, she received an offer from a new company at a pay rate that better reflected her experience. Soon after, without applying, Wilson was recruited for another role within the same organization. Her confidence was reinvigorated as organizations recognized her value and expertise.

Wilson also received an offer from a tribal program she had previously dreamed of joining, but opted not to accept after realizing she was already thriving as another organization's top choice. "I share this story because I want others to know the path isn't always straightforward," she said. "The job you envision may not come right away, but that doesn't mean you've failed."

Wilson's message to other graduates is one of encouragement and resilience. "You've already proven your strength and resilience by earning your degree. If your plan isn't working, take a step back, breathe, re-evaluate, and dive back in. The right opportunity will find you. Keep going. Your journey is just beginning," she emphasized.



Alex Mitchell

Alex Mitchell, a proud alumnus of Diné College, hails from Black Rock Springs, a peaceful area just southeast of the college. With a connection to his Navajo roots and a passion for education, Alex's journey exemplifies determination, self-discovery, and the power of cultural identity.

Alex's academic journey began in the early 1990s, when he explored various fields, including business administration, accounting, marketing, and liberal arts. Like many students, he faced challenges in finding his true calling, often switching majors and navigating the complexities of academic life. However, his love for art, which had been a part of his life since the late 1970s, eventually guided him back to his passion.

During his time at Diné College, Alex worked in various capacities, leaving a lasting impact on the institution and its students. He tutored Navajo moccasin-making, substituted for Navajo culture and philosophy classes, and collaborated with the Museum under the guidance of Mr. Harry Walters.

Together, they curated exhibits that highlighted the importance of education from a Navajo perspective, showcasing Navajo culture, history, language, and ceremonial traditions.

Alex's journey was not without its struggles. He candidly shares how he initially felt lost, distracted, and unsure of his path. However, through perseverance and the guidance of a dedicated advisor, he found clarity and purpose. By focusing on his art and embracing his cultural heritage, Alex successfully aligned his studies with his passions, ultimately earning his degree after more than a decade of hard work.

Alex emphasizes the importance of knowing one's roots and cultural identity. He believes that understanding one's origins and identity is the cornerstone of success. To students, he advises:

Never give up: Keep pushing forward, even when the path seems unclear.

Ask questions: Seek guidance and clarity from mentors and advisors.

Stay focused: Avoid distractions and dedicate yourself to your goals.

Embrace your culture: Let your heritage and values guide you in your journey.

After graduation, Alex returned to his roots, drawing inspiration from Navajo creation stories and the natural world. He has since published two children's coloring books, blending his artistic talents with his cultural knowledge to inspire the next generation.

For Alex, graduation was a moment of accomplishment but also a reminder that the journey of self-discovery never truly ends. His story is a powerful example of resilience, cultural pride, and the transformative power of education.

Alex encourages students to stay true to themselves, embrace their heritage, and never stop learning. "There is power in education and gaining knowledge by knowing who you are," he says. His journey serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for those seeking their own path in life

Floyd and Mary Begay

Floyd and Mary Begay share a deep connection with Diné College, an institution that has played a significant role in their lives. While Floyd dedicated nearly two decades of his career to the college, Mary balanced her roles as both a student and an employee, embodying the spirit of lifelong learning and service.

Mary Begay attended Diné College to pursue her college credits in Business Administration during the late 1970s and 1980s. Her time as a student provided her with valuable knowledge and skills that she applied in her professional career. Marie's educational journey at Diné College reflects her commitment to personal growth and her dedication to supporting the Navajo Nation.

Floyd Begay, while not a student at Diné College, contributed significantly to the institution through his work, becoming an integral part of its operations and community.

Floyd Begay worked at Diné College from 1976 to 1995, dedicating nearly two decades to the institution. He began his career as a janitor on campus, ensuring a clean and welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors. Later, Floyd transitioned to working in the North Bookstore, where he supported the operations and helped students access the materials they needed for their education. His hard work and dedication made him a valued member of the college community.

Mary Begay also made significant contributions to Diné College,



working in the Human Resources Department from 1976 to 1995.

In her role, she supported the college's administrative functions, helping to manage personnel and ensure smooth operations within the institution. Her dual role as a student and employee showcased her determination and commitment to both her education and her work.

The Begays have witnessed Diné College evolve from its earlier days into the thriving institution it is today. They recall a time when the campus was smaller, with fewer buildings and resources. Floyd and Mary worked under the leadership of several administrators, including the late Dr. Dean C. Jackson and others whose names remain fondly in their memories. They've seen the addition of new facilities and programs that have expanded opportunities for students and strengthened the college's role in the community.

Floyd and Mary Begay's story is a testament to the enduring spirit of Diné College's community. As a dedicated employee and an alumna, they have left an indelible mark on the institution. Their hard work, dedication, and commitment to education and students & staff.

Share Your Story!

We want to hear from you-your milestones, memories, and successes.

Know an alum with a story, encourage them to share!

**SCAN CODE
TO SUBMIT**



SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES



Diné College Student Nykesha S. Nez Named American Indian College Fund Ambassador

Nykesha S. Nez, a junior in the School of Arts and Humanities at Diné College, has been named an American Indian College Fund Ambassador. This prestigious role allows her to share her journey and advocate for higher education among Indigenous students, while also honoring her cultural roots through art.

Nez, from Burnt Corn Valley, draws inspiration from her father's vibrant art and her traditional upbringing. Her passion for art began with pencil drawings and evolved into national recognition, including a second-place award in a 2012 competition that led to the publication of her first piece. Now, as an ambassador, she represents the organization that supported her academic path, using her platform to inspire others.

Nez credits her mentors, including Don White Singer and Teddy Draper, for shaping her artistic journey and encouraging her growth. She offered special thanks to Dr. Nonabah Sam, saying, "She's shown me what it's like to be an artist with a constantly growing network."

With plans to pursue a Master of Fine Arts, Nez aims to return to Diné College as an instructor, preserving her culture and inspiring future generations. "I want to give back to my community through art," she said, embodying the mission of the College Fund and her role as an ambassador.

For more information on the student ambassador program:
<https://collegefund.org/students/college-success/student-ambassadors/apply/>

Monique James, Academic Advisor
School of Arts and Humanities



Nykesha S. Nez



Ned Hatathli Museum Hosts Opening Reception Showcasing Art and Community

The Ned Hatathli Museum held an opening reception for Melissa A. Carroll's solo exhibition. Carroll is a Bachelor of Fine Arts student with an emphasis in traditional painting. The reception highlighted not just an individual artistic endeavor but a profound message about mental health and community through art.

"This exhibition is a testament to the power of art in addressing complex emotions and personal experiences," said Dr. Nonabah Sam, Museum Curator. "Every year, it's inspiring to witness our students grow as artists and as individuals, using their creativity to connect with and uplift the community."

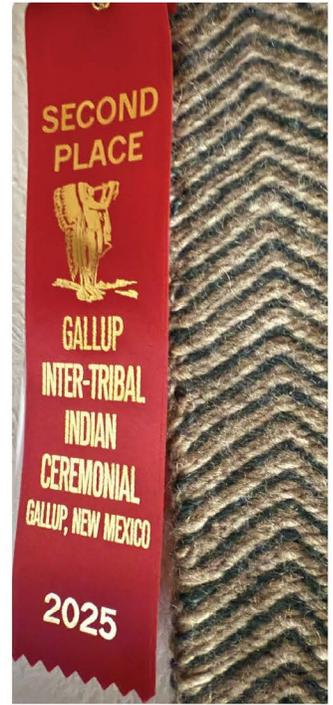
The exhibit reflects themes of identity, struggle, and resilience, a profoundly personal exploration for Carroll. Her mural features a raw and honest depiction of life's imperfections, serving as a reminder that our shared challenges can bring people together. "My art talks about mental health, how I struggle with my identity, and how I find balance in my life," said Carroll. "It's about how messy life can be, but also how we need each other to inspire and lift one another."

The exhibit also includes works from other students, emphasizing community collaboration. "The beauty of this show is the sense of togetherness it fosters," said Dr. Sam. "It's not just about individual pieces, but how art can create a space for dialogue and healing." The museum invites the community to experience this powerful exhibition and engage with the artist. Guests can view the collection and celebrate the role of art in shaping personal and communal narratives.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCE



Calvin Dominguez, Academic Advising Coordinator
School of Business and Social Science



Dr. Christine M. Ami Wins Second Place at 2025 Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial

Dr. Christine M. Ami, Associate Professor of Native American Studies and Anthropology at Diné College School of Business and Social Science, received second place in the Twill and Double-Sided Rugs category at the 2025 Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial.

Her expertly crafted Navajo rug was recognized by a panel of judges selected by the Exhibits Committee, consisting of artists, gallery owners, traders, curators, and collectors from the Native American art community. Judges are chosen for their expertise in materials, techniques, and tradition, with conflict-of-interest rules ensuring fair review.

"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition among such talented artists," Dr. Ami wrote. "This ribbon represents not just my work, but the teachings and support of my family, mentors, and community." Dr. Ami teaches a unique NAS305 Navajo Weaving Ethnographies class each Spring, where students study writings about Diné textiles by Diné and non-Diné authors, researchers, weavers, and storytellers while weaving their rugs.

The Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Exhibit remains dedicated to celebrating excellence in Native arts and providing a respected platform for artists from across North America.

Dr. Ami, takes a haunting look into a little-known moment in Navajo History in this month's High Country News issue - the U.S. government ordered a mass sheep reduction. Providing an introduction to the latest exhibit at the Navajo Nation Museum co-curated by Dr. Jennifer Denetdale and Clarenda Begay, Dr. Ami focuses on the U.S. propaganda presented in the photographs of Milton Snow who was hired to capture John Collier's assimilation successes through livestock reduction. The only cost - sheep. Her work brings to light to discussions about where sheep hold space in our current and future Diné realities.

SCHOOL OF DINÉ STUDIES & EDUCATION



Natalie Denezpi, Academic Advisor
School of Diné Studies & Education



Diné College Honors Graduates at Senior Capstone Presentation & Banquet

On May 8, 2025, the School of Diné Studies and Education at Diné College commemorated the achievements of eight graduating education students at its annual Senior Capstone Presentation & Banquet at the Senator John Pinto Library at the Diné College Shiprock Branch.

"These graduates embody resilience and commitment," said Kimberly Dominguez, Executive Director of Teacher Education at Diné College.

"Their work reflects not only academic excellence but also a deep dedication to revitalizing and preserving our Diné traditions through education."

"Education itself is sacred work," said Dr. Anthony A. Lee Sr., keynote speaker and traditional healer. "It strengthens not only each student's path but also uplifts the collective spirit of our communities. Like nurturing a cornfield, it requires persistence and care."

Presentations at the banquet highlighted each graduate's strengths and teaching philosophies. Donna James spoke about her passion for inspiring creativity and cultural pride. "Weaving Navajo culture into teaching helps students feel connected and see themselves in the classroom," she explained.

Karrington Remiro emphasized the importance of creating a culturally inclusive learning environment. "When students' identities are reflected in their education, they feel more motivated and confident," Remiro said.

Destinee Watchman shared her belief in reflective learning and real-world educational applications. "Active, hands-on learning transforms education into something meaningful and enduring," she noted.

Eric Johnson highlighted the role of safety and trust in education. "A supportive environment, both in and out of the classroom, helps students grow and thrive," he said, drawing on his extensive experience as a coach and mentor.

Diedra Benally talked about her dedication to adapting teaching strategies to meet diverse student needs. "Every child learns differently, and creating a safe, inclusive space makes a world of difference in their success," Benally explained.

Georgeett Cook reflected on cultural mentorship and its impact on students. "Our traditions hold the foundation for nurturing future generations," she shared. "Through education, we honor our roots while preparing for the future."

Alessandra Yazzie shared her teaching experiences, focusing on the importance of perseverance and adaptability. "Being an educator means more than teaching subjects. It's about instilling pride and inspiration in our students," Yazzie said.

Winona Becenti praised collaborative learning and the vital role of community support in education. "Teamwork between teachers, families, and communities is critical to student success," she said. "It's an honor to give back to my community through teaching."

The faculty also recognized the graduates' efforts and potential. "You are stepping into a profession that shapes leaders and fosters change," said Dr. Duff Galda, Diné College faculty member. "Your dedication marks the beginning of a lifetime of service to your students and communities." Dr. Susan Wolf's closing remarks reinforced the graduates' purpose as educators. "Your work is a call to action—to transform, uplift, and build justice into the roots of your classrooms and communities," Wolf said.

The Senior Capstone Presentation & Banquet represented the culmination of immense effort and dedication by the graduates, who balanced academics and cultural identity. Their achievements promise to encourage growth within their communities and preserve the richness of Diné culture.

The School of Diné Studies and Education at Diné College provides culturally responsive and bilingual education rooted in Navajo language, values, and traditions. Focusing on preparing outstanding educators, the school offers certificate, associate, and bachelor's degree programs that empower future leaders in education and community development.



Diné Bizaad Educators Gather to Share Language Teaching Strategies

Educators and advocates for Diné Bizaad, the Navajo language, gathered today for a knowledge-sharing event aimed at strengthening teaching methods and promoting the integration of Diné Bizaad into educational institutions.

The event, hosted at the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education (DODE) Auditorium, brought together educators, cultural leaders, and community stakeholders under the theme "Nihizaad Hadaalt'é Áná'oodlít – Our Language Heals."

Michelle Whitstone, Assistant Professor with Diné College's School of Diné Studies and Education, opened the event with a welcome and introduction. During her remarks, she emphasized the crucial role that educators and community leaders play in preserving the Navajo language and culture.

"This gathering represents the strength of our collective commitment to Diné Bizaad and the importance of ensuring our language thrives for generations to come," Whitstone said.

She emphasized the need for collaboration, reflection, and action to effectively integrate Diné Bizaad into all facets of education.

One of the event's key presentations, delivered by TeMerae (Te) Blackwater, Proposal Developer in the Na'alkaah Bee Honit'i - Research, Innovation, and Practice department at Diné College, focused on "Securing Our Language Future: Building Research Agendas and Finding Funding for Diné Bizaad."

Blackwater provided practical strategies for initiating research projects that align with institutional goals and accessing funding opportunities to support language preservation.

She emphasized the importance of beginning with a clear research focus and linking projects to broader strategic plans that benefit Diné communities.

Blackwater encouraged attendees to work with stakeholders to secure resources, stating, "It's about taking proactive steps now to ensure that Diné Bizaad continues to thrive in an evolving educational landscape."

The event also featured a presentation by Whitstone titled "Land-Based Language Immersion." She explored innovative themes, including dialogue-centered teaching methods, transdisciplinarity in language acquisition, and the mentor-apprenticeship model for immersive learning.

Whitstone framed her insights through perspectives on cultural performativity and practical sovereignty, providing attendees with actionable strategies to promote language fluency and cultural understanding.

This landmark event reflects Diné College's steadfast dedication to advancing Diné Bizaad's education and ensuring cultural preservation through innovation and partnership.

It concluded with a renewed sense of purpose among participants, who engaged in meaningful discussions and left with strategies to enrich language teaching in their communities.



Teacher Certification Math Workshop Supports Future Educators on the Navajo Nation

Diné College's Northwest Teacher Education Program hosted a Teacher Certification Math Workshop at the John Pinto Library, focusing on preparation for the Praxis 5017 exam. The event brought together 15 participants through a hybrid format, offering both in-person and virtual attendance options.

The workshop featured Dr. Henry Fowler, co-founder of Navajo Math Circles and a respected advocate for math literacy and culturally responsive education. Dr. Fowler led the session with a focus on building math content knowledge, instructional strategies, and classroom confidence for aspiring teachers preparing to take the Praxis 5017 exam.

"There is a shortage of teachers on the Navajo Nation, and to see teacher candidates here at the workshop is amazing," said Dr. Fowler. "They're eager to educate our younger students. I'm glad that they are taking on these leadership roles in their communities, and that is what we are preparing them for — their Praxis 5017 exam."

Kimberly Anne Dominguez, Executive Director of Teacher Education at Diné College, emphasized the importance of the workshop in supporting both current and future educators.

"This math teacher certification workshop supports both our teacher candidates and current educators in nearby schools by helping them prepare for their upcoming certification exams, enhance their math skills, and boost their confidence through improved teaching strategies," Dominguez said.

Participants engaged in topics including algebraic thinking, problem-solving, curriculum planning, and assessment methods. The workshop aimed to strengthen both math skills and culturally relevant teaching strategies for educators working within Navajo communities.



Diné College Students Showcase Creativity in Navajo Culture Class Projects

Students in Diné College's summer course, Foundations of Navajo Culture, taught by Leigh Toadlena, an Instructor in the School of Diné Studies & Education (SDSE), brought Navajo teachings to life through creative projects inspired by the Four Worlds. The class, part of a ten-week program, emphasizes cultural understanding, creativity, and collaboration.

Leigh A. Toadlena is of the Naashgalí Dine'é Clan, born for the Áshjį́hí people, her maternal grandparents are of the Tó'aheedłíiníi people, and her paternal grandparents are of the Dziłt'aad Kinyaa'aanii people.

"This summer, my students completed a project on the Four Worlds, recreating it in ways that reflected their understanding and visualization of the teachings," said Toadlena. "They used two-dimensional and three-dimensional formats to bring their ideas to life, and I wanted to showcase their work for the summer classes."

The three students—Carmen Nez, Latisha Curley, and Romero Haceesa — were graded on content, creativity, writing, and project completion. According to Toadlena, the students excelled in all areas. "They did an excellent job. I'm impressed with how they took what they read, listened to, and noted in class and recreated it in their projects," Toadlena said.

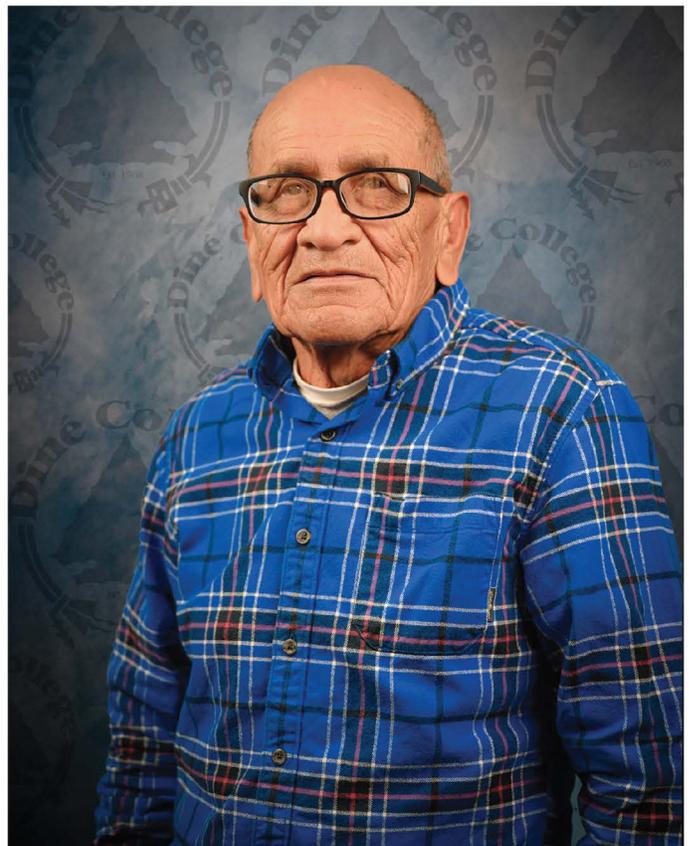
The course, which spans ten weeks, includes a variety of assignments designed to deepen students' understanding of Navajo culture. In addition to the Four Worlds project, students have engaged in writing assignments, group discussions, and readings from "FOUNDATIONS OF NAVAJO CULTURE" by Wilson Aronilth, Jr.

"The students have come together as a group through their discussions and collaborative work," Toadlena added. "They've accomplished so much in this class, and I'm excited to see how they approach their next project."



The Foundations of Navajo Culture course is part of Diné College's commitment to preserving and teaching Navajo language, culture, and traditions. By combining academic rigor with creative expression, the program empowers students to connect with their heritage in meaningful ways.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS



Edison Curtis, Academic Advisor

School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics



Faculty Retirement Recognition: Professor Dr. Mark Bauer

After more than 40 years of service, Professor Dr. Mark Bauer has retired from the Department of Public Health at Diné College. A pillar of the School of STEM, Dr. Bauer taught and mentored generations of students, leaving a lasting legacy in culturally grounded public health education.

He was instrumental in integrating the Diné Education Philosophy into the curriculum, ensuring relevance to Navajo students and communities. His research included NIH-funded studies on diabetes and cancer, USDA-supported nutrition projects, and assessments of healthy food access and dietary habits on the reservation.

Dr. Bauer led the AIDS Educational Outreach Program for 15 years and directed the CDC-funded HIV/AIDS Demonstration Program, offering outreach and anonymous testing. His community-based research also explored gardening behaviors and nutrition barriers among Navajo families.

One of his most impactful contributions is the Summer Research Enhancement Program, which introduced public health research methods to over 300 American Indian undergraduate students. The program supported internships focused on diabetes, cancer prevention, and wellness promotion.

He built strong partnerships with Tribal and IHS health programs and helped expand academic opportunities through collaborations with research-intensive institutions. Dr. Bauer served on the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board for 15 years and contributed to committees involving the Navajo Department of Health, IHS, and Diné College.

In collaboration with the Navajo Department of Health and the University of Arizona, he helped develop a Public Health Certificate and degree programs to strengthen the workforce. He continues to support the Navajo Nation Genetic Research Policy Development Working Group.

As Principal Investigator for the Navajo NARCH Partnership, Dr. Bauer fostered pathways for students from high school to graduate school in public health.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Bauer and wish him a joyful retirement.

Diné College Celebrates First Three MS Graduates in Biology

Diné College marked a historic milestone during the 2024 Fall Semester with the graduation of its first three Master of Science students in Biology.

The graduates, Neilroy Singer from Shiprock, Kaitlan James from Round Rock/Lukachukai, and Faylene Begay from Tuba City, have completed an intensive program that required both determination and endurance.

“These students have shown extraordinary commitment,” said Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim, Professor of Microbiology/Biomedical Sciences in the School of STEM. “From their first day of enrollment, they remain determined, traveled two to three times a week either to the Tuba City campus or in the field to collect their research samples, monitor the water treatment units and complete experiments; a demanding drive of two to three hours each way. Their hard work, persistence, and enthusiasm have truly paid off.”

The student’s academic journey was rigorous, involving advanced laboratory techniques, field sampling, and data collection. Their efforts culminated in accomplished research projects that will hopefully be presented at the Navajo Nation Human Research and Review Board’s January meeting. Additionally, their theses will be submitted to ProQuest®, making their findings accessible to the public after copyright.

Dr. Hakim reflected on the challenges faced by the program’s inaugural cohort, emphasizing the logistical hurdles of coordinating resources and meeting deadlines. “Transportation and postal service is a big deal within Navajo Nation. There were timing and thesis processing issues. Juggling these while arranging the required materials, equipments and facilities was a huge task,” she said. “For the next cohort, we already have many things in place to ensure a smoother experience.”



PHOTO: L-R: Kaitlan James, and Bo Lewis, Acting Diné College President.

Despite these challenges, Dr. Hakim expressed optimism about the program's future and gratitude for the support that helped bring it to fruition. "We are new to this, learning every step of the way, but we are making the best of it," she said. "Once again, thank you very much everyone at Diné College, for your tremendous support for our first three MS graduates. This is the first step in another exciting journey."

This milestone represents a significant moment for Diné College as it motivates and prepares future cohorts of graduate students to contribute to science and their communities.

For more information on Diné College STEM program.



PHOTO: L-R: Neilroy Singer, and Bo Lewis, Acting Diné College President.



PHOTO: L-R: Faylene Begay, and Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim

Diné College has been awarded a competitive UE5 Grant from the NIH's National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop an "Educational Framework of Genomic Data Science for Regional Populations."

Led by Professor Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim as PI, with Co-PIs Dr. Partha Saha and Dr. Babatunde Ojo from the Biomedical Sciences program, this imperative project is designed to create new learning opportunities, build local expertise, and inspire the next generation of scientists in genomic data science. The trio in collaboration with other STEM faculties will focus on improvement capabilities in data and genomic data science, establishment of a pipeline framework to function as a central technical hub for creating and managing research data, increase understanding of local needs in epidemiological studies, genetic disorder identification, and risk factor analysis for autoimmune disorders, and strengthen local workforce development. We will assemble a versatile team from STEM disciplines and collaborating mentors from NIH and Genomic Data Science Network (GDSCN) to coordinate training, research, and academic activities in genomic data science, and provide a technical support system (TSS) to address these challenges, said Dr. Shazia Hakim the lead PI of the project.

We, at Diné College, by undertaking this project, leading the way to prepare a skilled local workforce in genomic data sciences to facilitate collaboration between Diné College, other organizations, and regional higher education institutions to strengthen research capabilities in regional settings.



Dr. Babatunde Ojo



Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim



Dr. Partha Saha



TUBA CITY, Ariz. Harrison W. Cayatineto a brilliant research student from Hakim’s Lab presented his master thesis entitled, “Potential MicroRNA-Based Inhibitor Against the Nucleocapsid Protein in Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV): A Surrogate Model for Hepatitis C Virus”.

The defense took place in person in Room #116, Diné College, Tuba City Center, with virtual attendance via Zoom. Cayatineto’s research explores antiviral development by using BVDV as a surrogate model, providing critical insights into potential Hepatitis C virus treatments.

Conducted under the guidance of Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim, this work is seen as a valuable contribution to both veterinary and human medicine. His findings focus on hsa-miR-548d-3p, a microRNA that could disrupt viral replication by targeting essential capsid and nucleocapsid genes.

"This microRNA was identified after approximately 67,000 alignments," said Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim, Cayatineto’s research supervisor. "The sequence he found is unique, and he is now testing it through in vitro electroporation experiments. His extraordinary attention to detail and technical expertise are impressive, and he is an inspiration to his peers."

Cayatineto’s research uses the Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) as a surrogate model to explore therapeutic options for hepatitis C. He applies a bioinformatics-driven approach, using tools like miRBase, NCBI, and BLAST to pinpoint promising candidates for antiviral therapies. His ongoing experiments involve injecting hsa-miR-548d-3p into MDBK cell lines and monitoring virus inhibition through plaque assays.

This work introduces a novel approach to combating Flaviviridae viruses, which remain a global health challenge. Although further research is essential to validate these findings, Cayatineto’s study serves as a solid foundation for miRNA-based antiviral treatments. Cayatineto published his research in *Frontiers in Bioinformatics*, and *Journal of Human Virology & Retrovirology*.



Washington, D.C.—The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) announced the recipients of its 2026 Awards and Prize Program.

The awards recognize leading scientists and researchers in the field for their professional accomplishments and contributions to research, education and leadership. The American Academy of Microbiology, the honorific leadership group and scientific think tank within ASM, manages a program of awards and a prize that highlights outstanding science at every career level and sub-discipline of the microbial sciences. Recipients are chosen by a selection committee from a competitive, peer-nominated list of candidates.

Diné College’s School of STEM’s Professor and current Chair of Life Sciences and Public Health Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim is one of 20 ASM Honoree for 2026. She have been selected to receive the 2026 ASM William A. Hinton Award for Advancement of a Diverse Community of Microbiologists.

According to the recognition letter received, her accomplishments in microbiology are most deserving of this recognition! “The ASM Awards and Prize Program celebrates the ground breaking research and dedication that drive microbiology forward,” said ASM CEO Stefano Bertuzzi. “Receiving one of these awards is a meaningful recognition of a scientist’s impact and serves as an inspiration for future leaders in our field.” William A. Hinton Award is given in memory of William Augustus Hinton, a physician-research scientist, and one of the first Black scientists to join ASM. He developed the Hinton test for syphilis, which became the standard procedure due to its ease of use, cost-effectiveness and accuracy compared to earlier tests. With over 25 years of expertise in medical microbiology and biomedical sciences, Hakim’s professional journey spans prestigious institutions, pathological laboratories, and research facilities across Pakistan, the United States, and Canada including 16 years as Professor, Chair Microbiology and Dean Science and Research at Jinnah University for Women, Karachi (Pakistan’s First exclusively Women University).

SCHOOL OF TRANSFORMATION



Ongoing Activities and Accomplishments

Partnership Development

Navajo Powers (NP):

The School of Transformation is in the process of developing a partnership with the Four Corners Renewables Workforce Development Consortium to enhance renewable energy workforce training, offering industry-aligned programs, internships, mentorships, scholarships for Navajo students, and job placement opportunities.

International Code Council (ICC):

In response to the Navajo Nation Council's move to adopt building codes, we proudly advance the ICC program, led by ProTrain. This initiative has inspired industry professionals and developers. Secretary Julie Su has expressed strong support, highlighting the chance to elevate Navajo tradesmen into industry-trained professionals and create a brighter future.

Professional Development Training and Workshops

We have reported to OIPR that we have successfully provided and participated in over 30 trainings and workshops within the past year on the Navajo Nation about our program.

Workforce Development Initiatives

Navajo Nation Workforce Development (NDWD):

Our School of Transformation is committed to building strong partnerships with all six agencies of the Navajo Nation Workforce Development, showing a clear dedication to empowering our Navajo communities. We're starting to get recognition from the Navajo Nation Self-Reliance program, which has already helped 2 clients advance their careers in healthcare.

Navajo Nation Fire Department (NNFD):

The Window Rock Navajo Nation Firefighters have enrolled 10 firefighters in the Comp TIA program, with plans to work together and expand their impact across more agencies. These firefighters are redefining what it means to adapt and excel with technology, setting an example for a new generation of skilled firefighters.

Emerging Opportunities

Nízhoní Smiles:

We are exploring opportunities to collaborate with Nizhoni Smiles, Inc. Family Dental & Orthodontics, for years they have trained dental assistants and hygienists. Even future dentists before their schooling. They have taken in NN workforce high school students and adults to provide them with a trade and help them apply for jobs in the field, such as office aides, maintenance workers, billing specialists, and ortho/dental technicians. They are willing to take in students working under the Navajo Nation workforce or have graduated, looking to get their feet wet or get work experience.

Program Highlights

Enrollment for PFAL: Purpose Focused Alternative Learning

- Fall 2024: 13 Students: 7 passed
- Spring 2024: 9 Students: 7 passed

Enrollment for ProTrain:

- Fall 2024: 13 students, 10 Completed
- Spring 2025: 140 students, 49 Completed, 56 currently active
- Summer: 12 students, 1 Completed, 6 currently active
- Fall 2025: 5 students, 5 currently active

Total of Students AY 24/25: 192 Students

Projections for Future Development and Goals

ProTrain

We've partnered with ProTrain for over a year and reached key milestones. Looking ahead, our focus is on expanding training and certification offerings each quarter, particularly those aligned with the OPVP's Workforce Initiative. We'll work closely with the Navajo Department of Workforce Development to offer fast-track, instructor-led courses, each including a national certification exam voucher and any required materials.

Healthcare Partnerships

We aim to strengthen and formalize partnerships with Tuba City Medical Center, Hopi Healthcare, and Utah Navajo Health System. By addressing staffing and scheduling challenges, we can enhance collaboration and support the growth of our healthcare programs.



DUAL CREDIT



(PHOTO: L-R: Delphina Thomas, American Indian College Fund, Brandi Espuma, Tohono O'odham Community College, Francetta Begaye, Diné College, Lindy Warren, Salish Kootenai College.)

Diné College Dual Credit Program Sees Record Growth, Expands Opportunities for High School Students

Diné College's Dual Credit Program is proud to announce significant growth and continued success in preparing high school students for higher education. The program has increased its enrollment to 301 students, a notable rise from 275 last year, demonstrating its expanding impact across the region.

Through successful grant-funded initiatives, such as the CONVOY Grant, the program has provided specialized learning opportunities and addressed critical student needs, including transportation. These efforts ensure that dedicated students can fully participate and succeed in rigorous college-level coursework, earning valuable credits before high school graduation. The program focuses on providing foundational general education courses that align with students' long-term career aspirations, giving them a head start on their degree pathways.

Looking ahead, the Dual Credit Program plans to expand its reach into New Mexico, promoting new partnerships to support aspiring students, particularly those interested in high-demand fields like education.

"Our mission is to guide and support students as they transition from high school to college, equipping them with the knowledge, resources, and confidence to succeed," said Francetta Begaye, Dual Credit Director. "We are committed to helping students get a head start on their future, and our growth is a testament to the hard work of our students and the value of early college experiences."

Diné College Dual Credit Program was proud to attend the Annual Parent Summit in Pinon, AZ!

Students and parents participated in a day full of educational breakout sessions focused on important topics such as School Safety, STEM, CTE, and more. The event brought together families, educators, and community organizations to support student success and share valuable resources.

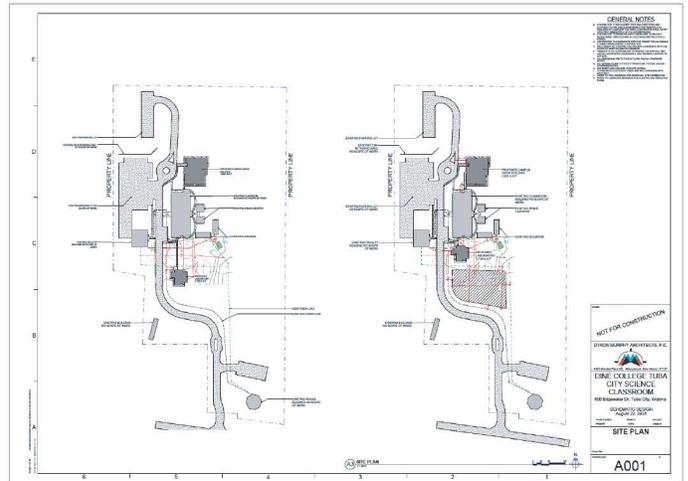


CAPITAL PROJECTS



Diné College Capital Projects: Infrastructure and Modernization

Diné College is undergoing a transformative period of infrastructure development, launching 42 capital projects to enhance its campuses, sustainability efforts, and student services. Key initiatives include the \$10 million Multipurpose Center in Window Rock, an \$8 million Campus Union Building in Tuba City, and a \$22 million energy modernization project at the Tsaile campus. Supported by Tribal, state and federal grants fund projects, these projects are designed to provide modern resources and improve the educational environment for students and the Navajo Nation.



Tuba City Campus Upgrades

Two significant projects are underway at Tuba City. An \$8 million state grant is funding a Campus Union Building that will function as a student hub, with an online library, eatery, common areas, one-stop financial aid, advice centers, and bookstore. The building aims to centralize campus life and support student needs. Additionally, a \$2 million STEM classroom building is planned to replace old modular units. Jackson noted these upgrades will provide "a controlled, clean environment suitable for sensitive scientific equipment and instruction," addressing past issues with dust and space for science activities.



Expansion in Window Rock

The new Multipurpose Center in Window Rock, Arizona, recently received site lease approval from the 25th Navajo Nation Council Resource Development Committee, allowing development to move into the site planning phase. Leon Jackson, Director of Projects Operations, said, "We're going to be moving forward with the site planning. In fact, our first meeting is tomorrow, so we're excited about that." This center marks a significant step in expanding campus services in the Navajo Nation's capital.

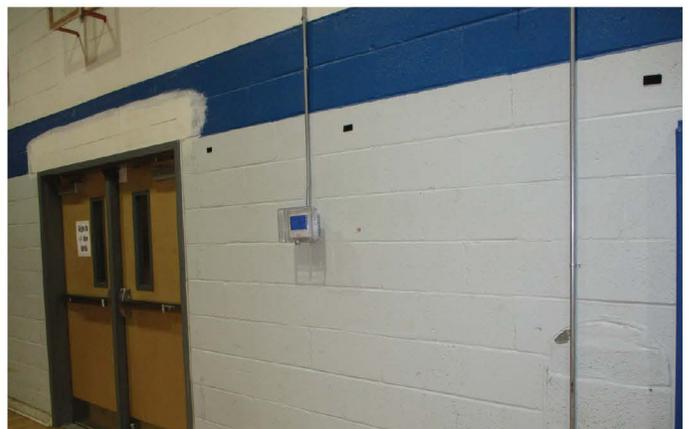


CAPITAL PROJECTS



Tsaile Energy and Modernization Initiative

The Tsaile campus is finalizing a \$22 million Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract, modernizing 17 campus buildings, with completion expected by November 30. The upgrades feature campus-wide HVAC improvements, new insulation, and the installation of air conditioning in buildings that lacked it previously. All lighting was switched to energy-efficient LEDs, and water conservation technologies were installed. A newly operational solar farm now supplies up to 90% of the campus's power, substantially reducing its reliance on the electrical grid. Science labs received ventilation upgrades, resolving issues with chemical fumes spreading in the Gorman Classroom Building.



Renovation and Innovation Spaces

Several renovation projects further improve the student experience. The Gorman Classroom Building now features standardized classrooms equipped with new technology, lighting, plumbing, and study spaces that students have received well. Diné College is also creating a Makerspace in the Tsaile campus library, scheduled for completion by mid-November, to provide innovative resources to students and the community.



Shiprock Campus Improvements

At Shiprock, \$5.05 million from a New Mexico General Obligation and severance tax bond will fund a new South Campus Student Services Center, currently in the design phase. The campus also plans to complete its \$10.4 million Agricultural Multipurpose Center, having finished Phase 1, a \$2.4 million project. A request for the next \$8.4 million is pending, with construction planned following potential approval in the upcoming election. Recent improvements included a \$325,000 HVAC system, supported by a severance tax bond, in the North Campus gymnasium.

EXTERNAL CAMPUSES



Diné College Enriches Shiprock Campus and Crownpoint Center with New Mexico Art in Public Places Program

Diné College is proud to announce the successful installation of new artwork at the Shiprock Branch Campus and Crownpoint Center, an initiative made possible through funding from the New Mexico Art in Public Places Program.

The project, which awarded more than \$150,000 to the College over several years, was designed to enhance the campus environment and create a greater sense of community and belonging for students and staff. Selection committees, composed of dedicated College staff and community members, worked diligently to choose pieces from a catalog of work by artists across the state.

"We are very pleased to have such eloquent and refined pieces on our branch campus and center," said Winifred Jumbo, Director of External Campuses and Sites. "The committees worked tirelessly to ensure that each piece was thoughtfully selected and secured at its new home. This initiative ensures a quality space both indoors and outdoors, and our overall goal is to ensure our students feel a sense of belonging within their community. What better way to celebrate this than through art?"



At the Shiprock Branch Campus, five pieces of art were installed. Two pieces, includes a striking sculpture and a metal art piece, which are now featured in the front entryway, welcoming visitors and students. The Senator John Pinto Library now houses three new paintings by talented artists, adding to the cultural richness of the space.

The Crownpoint Center has also received three new pieces, now displayed in its lobby and common areas, featuring work from two different artists.

Diné College extends its gratitude to New Mexico Arts Department of Cultural Affairs and all the artists involved for their contributions to this transformative project. The College is excited to share this new collection with students, faculty, and the public and hopes the artworks will be enjoyed by all.

Featured artists include: Jerry Brown (The Race), Donna Jean Jawrunner (Sun Lion), Sage Eriacho (Miracle Mindset), Melanie Yazzie & The Gallery Wall, Inc. (Making New Friends), Roberta Begaye (Wide Ruins), Garrett Etsitty (War Paint Horse), and Deborah Jojola (Unbalance).

EXPLORE OUR DEGREE PROGRAMS

Associate of Applied Science Degrees

Business Management
Office Administration

Associate of Arts Degrees

Business Administration
Diné Studies
Early Childhood Education
Education
Social and Behavioral Sciences
Social Work

Associate of Science Degrees

Biology
Environmental Science
Health Occupation
Mathematics
Physics
Pre-Engineering
Public Health

Bachelor of Arts Degrees

Business Administration
Diné Studies
Elementary Education
Navajo Language
Navajo Nation Law
Psychology

Bachelor Fine Arts Degrees

Emphasis in Creative Writing
Emphasis in Graphic Design
Emphasis in Navajo Silversmithing
Emphasis in Painting
Emphasis in Digital Photography
Emphasis in Navajo Weaving

Bachelor of Science Degrees

Agricultural Science
Biology
Biomedical Science
Public Health
Secondary Education, Mathematics
Secondary Education, Science

Minor Degrees

Cultural Arts
Native American Studies

Master of Science Degree

Biology

Certificate Degrees

Cultural Arts
Computer Technology
Geographic Information System
Medical Assistant
Navajo Nation Leadership
Public Health

Endorsement Programs

Art Endorsement
Math Endorsement
Early Childhood Endorsement

TUITION & FEES

 **SPRING** **\$660**
Full-Time Student
(12 credit hours)

 **FALL** **\$660**
Full-Time Student
(12 credit hours)

 **SUMMER** **\$330**
Full-Time Student
(12 credit hours)

 **APPLICATION FEE - New Student** **\$20**
(12 credit hours)

TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITY **\$20**
\$25

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

Admissions Checklist

- Online Admission Application
- \$20 New Student Application Fee
- Certificate of Indian Blood (If applicable)
- Official high school transcript with graduation date or high school equivalency credential (GED, HISET, or TASC) with test scores.
- Official college/university transcripts for other accredited colleges/universities previously attended.
- Housing Application (if living on campus)

Diné College is open enrollment and does not require ACT/SAT scores.

Diné College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

STUDENT HOUSING

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - \$640/Semester
\$190/Summer Session

\$150 Security Deposit (refundable)
Meal Plan Required • Terms and conditions apply

FAMILY HOUSING

3 BEDROOM UNIT - \$600/month

\$250 Security Deposit (refundable)
Terms and conditions apply

2 BEDROOM UNIT - \$500/month

- Meal Plan (optional), For enrolled students only
- * Available only at Diné College Tsaille Campus

RESIDENCE LIFE: (928) 724-6782

residencelife@dinecollege.edu

 **(928) 724-6634**

 **admissions@dinecollege.edu**



www.dinecollege.edu

