



DINÉ COLLEGE

THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OF THE NAVAJO

Office of the President

May 1, 2026

Dear Diné College Community, Family, and Friends,

Yá'át'ééh,

As I reflect on the month of April and look ahead to the close of this academic year, I want to express my sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to everyone who joined us for the inauguration ceremony. It was deeply meaningful to begin this journey surrounded by our community, grounded in *Sa'q'á Naaghái Bik'eh Hózhóón*, reminding us to think with care, plan with purpose, live with integrity, and reflect with humility.

I extend my deepest thanks to the Diné College Board of Regents, Chair Dr. Janet Slowman, Vice Chair Dr. Maggie George, and Regents Ashleigh Chee, Kimberlee Williams, Dr. Dolly Manson, and Claudia Edgewater, for your support and shared commitment to our students and our future.

I am grateful to Councilman Carl Slater, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, and Vice President Richelle Montoya for honoring this special day with your presence and support. I also offer special recognition to the Diné Saani Silaoltsoi Color Guard for the beautiful presentation of the colors, honoring our military men and women with pride and respect.

Thank you to Mr. Jacob Moore, Dr. Maggie Mangini, and Judge Victor Clyde for your meaningful words and contributions to this important occasion.

I extend heartfelt appreciation to the Inauguration Committee, Student Services, Maintenance & Operations, Security, Food Services, Marketing staff, and our student interns who worked tirelessly to create such a beautiful and welcoming event. Special thanks to Chris Burnside, Glennita Haskey, Liz Tso, Michelle Clah, Benita Lopez, and Travis Teller for your dedication and care.

With deep respect, I also thank Dr. Avery Denny, Dr. Johnson Dennison, Dean David Nez, Dr. Wilson Aronalith, and Mr. Harrison Morris for the prayers and songs that grounded this moment as a woman leader in the Diné way of life.

To my family, thank you for your love, strength, and constant support. I am especially grateful to my mother, who celebrated her 87th birthday with us, and to my sisters Carole and Charlene, who shared a beautiful family message. I also extend my appreciation to my sister Deana, my children Kyle, Devyn, and Cassidy, and my

grandchildren Kennedy and Kreese Dennison, as well as our extended family and friends who traveled from near and far, to share in this special day.

This inauguration was more than a ceremony, it was a powerful reminder of the vision of the founding leaders of Diné College and our shared responsibility to serve our students and communities with purpose.

As we move forward together, we will be guided by the full teachings of *Sa'q' h Naaghái Bik'eh Hózhóón*. Through *Nitsáhákees*, we will think with clarity and purpose. Through *Nahát'á*, we will plan strategically and intentionally. Through *Iiná*, we will bring those plans to life in service to our students. Through *Siihasin*, we will reflect, assess, and strengthen our work. Through *Odlah*, we will carry our vision forward with faith, commitment, and shared responsibility. And through *Ayóó iiníí*, we will center our work in care, compassion, and respect for one another.

We have many opportunities before us, and we will also face challenges. Together, we will take a thoughtful and systemic approach to our work, grounded in our values, guided by reflection, and always centered on student success. In this way, we will continue to strengthen Diné College for future generations.

Ahéhee' for your support, your encouragement, and your belief in the important work ahead.

With respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Deborah Jackson-Dennison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "J".

Dr. Deborah Jackson-Dennison
President
Diné College