



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



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Mission Statement

Rooted in Diné language and culture, our mission is to advance quality post-secondary student learning and development to ensure the well-being of the Diné people.



Diné College is the first tribally controlled institution in the United States. Established in 1968 as Navajo Community College, it was renamed Diné College in 1997. Located on the Navajo Nation, Diné College serves a predominantly Navajo student population (92%). Diné College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as a four-year institution. The College offers General Education courses that provide students with a high-quality experience while earning various certificates, associate, bachelor's and a master's degree.

ABOUT DINE COLLEGE

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Vision Statement

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

Spring 2022 Enrollment	1139
Full-time Faculty	63
2021-22 Degrees Conferred	196
Bachelor Degree Conferred	58
PHD Faculty	35
American Indian Faculty	34
Dine College Campuses	6
Microsites	2
Certificate Programs	6
Associate Programs	16
Bachelor Programs (*19 Majors)	12
Chief Manuelito Scholars AY2021-22	87
Alumni	4268
Alumni Staff	95
Full-time Staff	277

The College's annual budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 was \$23,960,140 with 277 full-time employees. That is \$894,000 more than last year's budget. Diné College's main campus is in Tsaile, Arizona. Campuses in Window Rock, and Tuba City serve Arizona residents, while the Shiprock and Crownpoint sites serves New Mexico residents. Our two Microsites are in Newcomb, New Mexico and Aneth, Utah. The school participates in athletic competitions in rodeo, archery, and cross-country. The College is governed by an eight-member Board of Regents.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

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As the College closes out its annual strategic goals, we look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with our stakeholders. Now, more than ever, education is critical for Nation Building not only within the Navajo Nation but to our surrounding partners.

The college has built a close relationship with the State of Arizona to address the educational inequities by supporting their transition into higher education. Today, the college has increased student retention rate among first-time freshmen by 52% and increased the transition of high school graduates into higher education.

Our relationship with the State of New Mexico is moving the region forward with the construction of S.T.E.M. building at our Shiprock location. Those relationships started years ago with the approval of a General Obligation Bond by the New Mexico voters. The initiative holds the possibility of providing millions, possibly billions, in revenue for the energy and healthcare sectors of the economy. But more important, solving the complex problems and concerns with our people to integrate new technology aligned with our customary values.

Lastly, our relationship with the Navajo Nation is now far beyond the Diné Policy Institute and expands into the programs and research performed by our facility. Today, our students are entering the workforce to address the issues that impact our Nation, like healthcare, mental health, education, and economic development. This impact will only be stronger with our new degree programs and our new charter paving the way for new and innovative ways to implement the technologies developed at the college in our communities.

The dream of a higher education is a sovereign right of our Navajo People because the source of knowledge surrounds us within the four sacred mountains and the heavenly sky above us. This sovereign right means that we continue on as a stronger Navajo Nation with a deeper insight into ourselves and our language and culture.

I want to thank all our partners, donors, stakeholders, faculty, staff and students that support our mission to advance quality post-secondary student learning and development to ensure the well-being of our People.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "G. H. Bigman".

GREG H. BIGMAN
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

5 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Warrior Family and Friends,

The state of Diné College is strong. By any measure, the Nation's College is meeting its goals, and as important, its aspirations. Our financials, as you see in our annual report reflect a strong college financially. What is most important about this state is that Diné College is able to achieve lofty goals, improvements to the College, and new programs to meet the needs of our students and the Navajo Nation.

Our enrollment is eighteen percent above last year. But maybe the most important number is that we are improving the number of students who do not withdraw or drop classes early in the semester. We achieve this, by being strategic in how we offered support to students. Our number one goal coming out of the pandemic was to improve support for student success while maintaining a safe environment. One of the biggest factors that we have seen over the years, is how the lack of textbooks in students' hands at the beginning of classes, directly correlates with student success. Our free textbook initiative, while still ironing out the bumps, has had a profound impact on our students.

This is not to say that we do not have challenges. Some are out of our hands and some we control. We are all very aware of inflation and that has a direct impact on our student's ability to afford college and raise a family. Our initiatives as identified above and as targeted for this specific point in time allow us the opportunity to meet these opportunities head-on. Recent surveys have shown the profound impact that scholarships have for student success. Yet, our students continue to fall behind in applying for scholarships. One of the initiatives we are exploring is to provide "automatic scholarships." By this I mean, students will receive a set amount. This type of student support has had a profound impact of nearly twenty percent on student success.

I bring this to your attention because in order to meet the needs of a changing Navajo economy, a changing Navajo society, a changing Navajo healthcare system, a changing Navajo public safety system, and a myriad of opportunities before Diné College and as an extension of the Navajo Nation, we must be ready and we must be prepared.

It is with this optimism that I say the state of Diné College is strong and that we will rise to the challenge to build a truly unique Navajo University system.

DR. CHARLES ROESSEL
DINÉ COLLEGE PRESIDENT





BOARD OF REGENTS

GREG BIGMAN - PRESIDENT

NORTHERN AGENCY

THERESA HATATHLIE - VICE PRESIDENT

WESTERN AGENCY

SHARON TODACHEENIE

FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY

Dr. Harold G. Begay

Ex-Officio member
Superintendent of Diné Schools

ANDERSON HOSKIE

EASTERN AGENCY

DANIEL TSO - MEMBER

NN HEALTH, EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES

EARLSON MANSON, A.S.D.C.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

WINIFRED JUMBO

Designated member
Staff Association President

MILTON BLUEHOUSE JR.

Designated member
Faculty Association President



CABINET

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Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel

President

Dr. Geraldine Garrity, Provost

Provost

Marie R. Etsitty-Nez

Vice President of External Campuses & Sites

Bo Lewis

Vice President of Finance & Administration

Glennita Haskey

Vice President of Student Affairs



SCHOOL DEANS

Rex Lee Jim

Dean School of Diné
Studies and Education

Dr. Karla Britton

Dean School of Arts and Humanities

Patrick Blackwater

Interim Dean School of Business and
Social Sciences

James Tutt

Dean School of Science,
Technology, Engineering,
and Mathematics

2022 GRADUATES: JULY & DECEMBER 2021, MAY 2022

383

*Largest Age
Group (25-34
Age Group)*

196

*Degrees
Conferred*

58

Bachelor's

16

*Top Program:
B.A. Elementary
Education*

114

Associate's

25

*Top program:
A.S. Health
Occupation*

24

Certificate

12

*Top program:
Public Health
Certificate*

DEGREES AWARDED

715

*Degrees
over 4yrs*

13:1

*Student to
Faculty
Ratio*

80%

*Single
students*

GATEWAY SUCCESS RATE

81%

*Math
(110,114)*

596

English (101)

BY THE

NUMBERS

RATES

55%

*Persistence
(Term-to-
Term)*

36%

*Retention
(Year-to-
Year)*



FUNDRAISING

Diné College experienced its best fundraising year to-date during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, with 10% of incoming donations coming from major donors who gave between \$50,000 and \$1,375,000. Gifts from individual donors, non-profit organizations, corporations, and foundations are used to bolster academic programs, provide support for over 1,500 college students in communities across Arizona,

New Mexico and Utah. As a direct result of fundraising, hundreds of institutional scholarships are distributed to deserving students every year.



Diné College Raises \$ 2,179,821

The generosity of donors and sponsors strengthens Diné College's ability to support our future leaders and academics of the Navajo Nation. This past year, the College successfully established three endowed scholarship funds, including the Diné-Biligaana Social Sciences Scholarship Fund, the Navajo Cultural Arts Scholarship Fund, and the Jack & Maggie Eutsler Scholarship Fund. In addition to monetary gifts, the College also received non-monetary asset donations, such as a rug collection from the 1950s and 1960s for the Ned Hatathlie Museum.

	AMOUNT RAISED 2020-2021 FY	AMOUNT RAISED 2021-2022 FY
Diné College Scholarship Fishing Tournament	\$7,565	\$10,122
Power of Education Blanket Sales	\$13,350	\$9,300
Season of Giving Virtual Art Auction	\$9,894	\$6,666
GivingTuesday Warrior Day of Giving	\$100	\$500
Diné College Rodeo & Jackpot Bull-riding		\$3000



2021 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



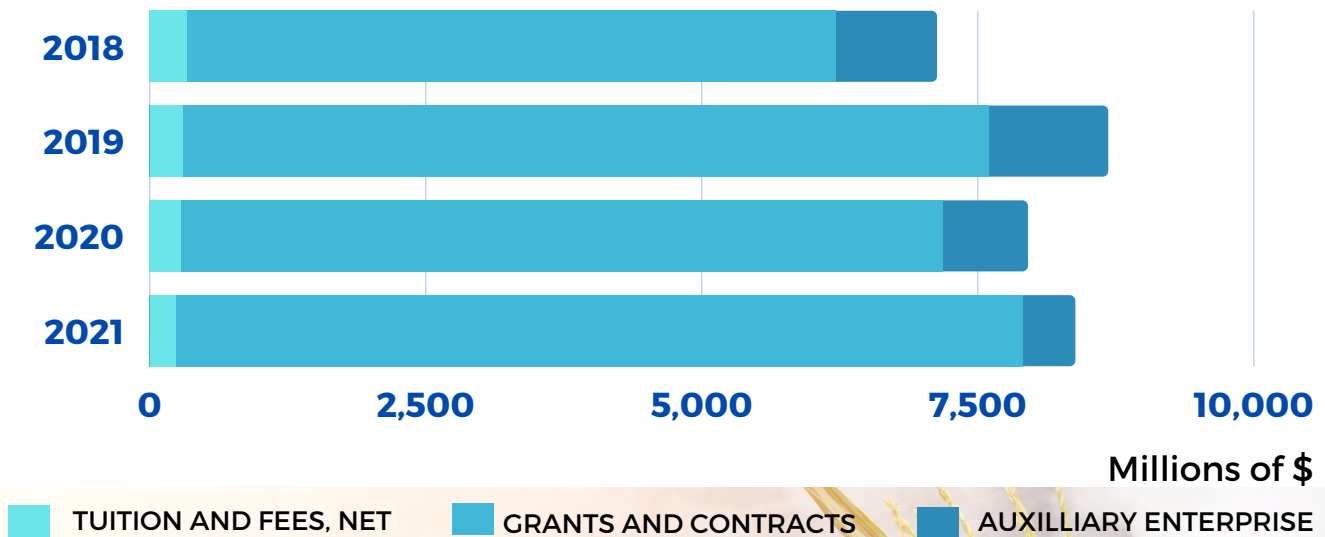
Net operating results were negative \$31.7 million in 2021. Operating revenue fluctuates year to year due to enrollment, which affects tuition, federal student aid, and Auxiliary enterprises. Operating expenses rose by 14 percent resulting from mainly essential mission cost of instruction and student aid, other areas had slight increase as well. Nonoperating activities resulted in positive change in net asset of \$14.9 Million, the income increased due to funding from Federal COVID funding and Loan Forgiveness of federal capital appropriations of \$14.6 Million.

REVENUES	2018	2019	2020	2021
TUITION AND FEES, NET	337	298	285	232
GRANTS AND CONTRACTS	5,874	7,299	6,895	7,672
AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES	914	1,079	769	474
TOTAL REVENUE	7,125	8,676	7,949	8,378

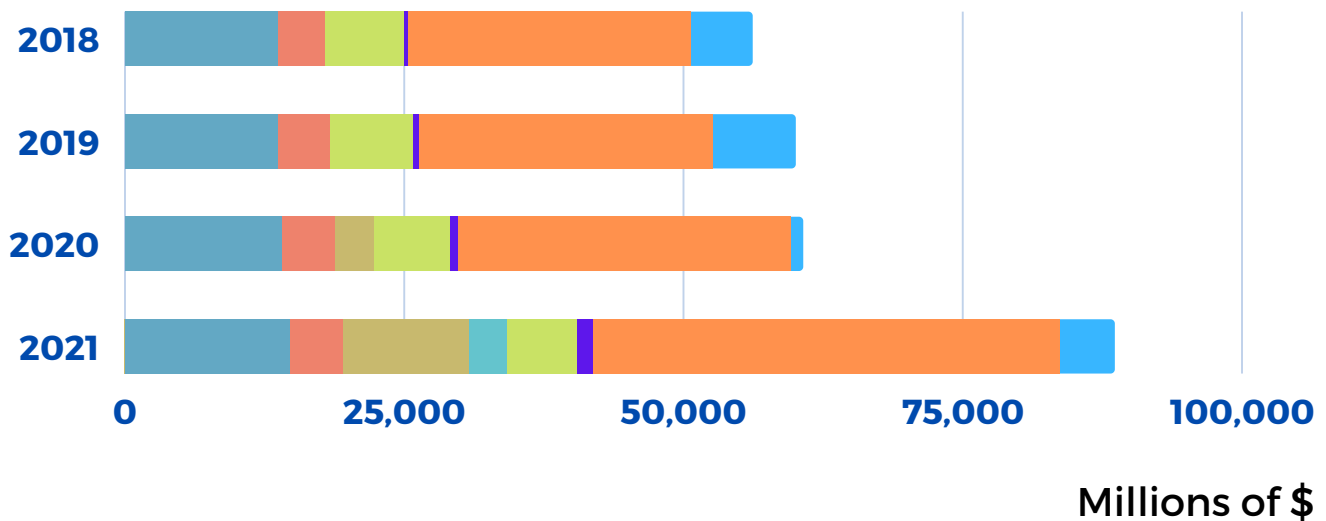
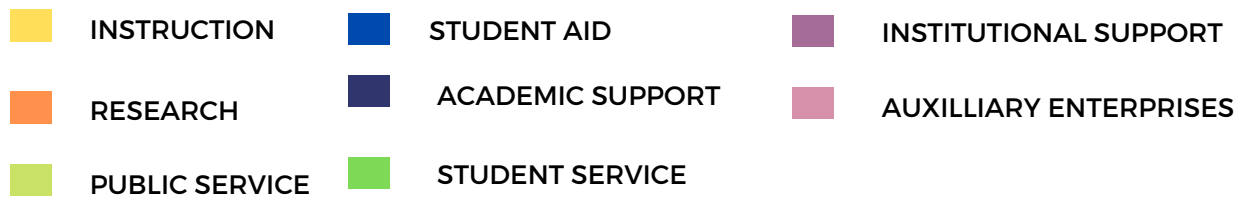
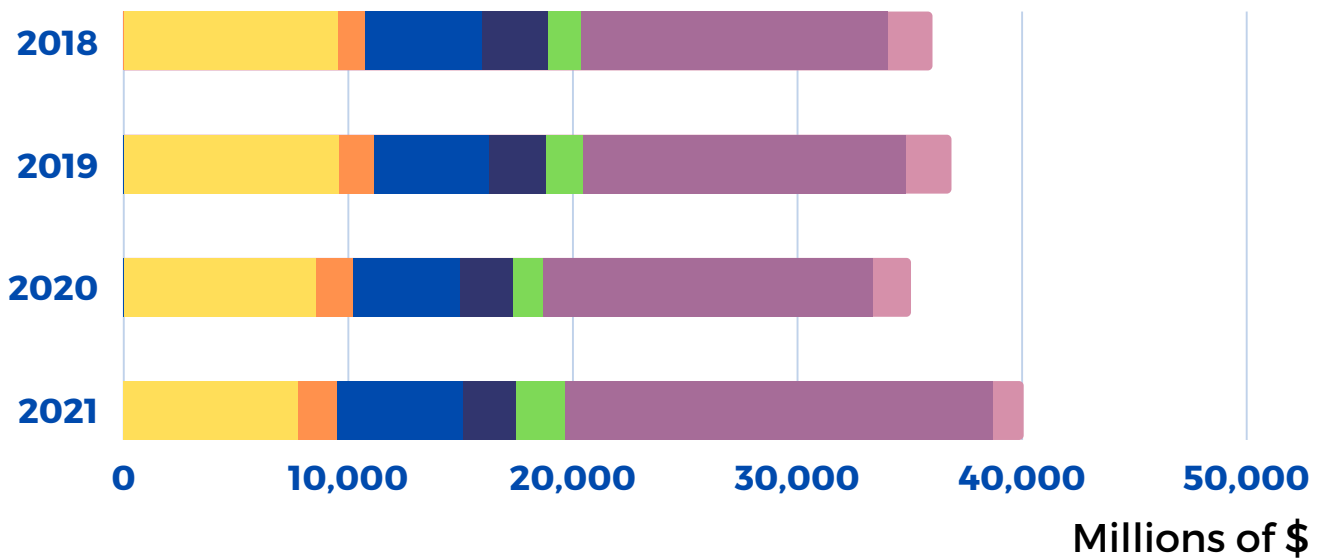
EXPENSES	2018	2019	2020	2021
INSTRUCTION	9,506	9,564	8,543	7,757
RESEARCH	1,227	1,553	1,643	1,720
PUBLIC SERVICE	-	2	-	-
STUDENT AID	5,209	5,128	4,783	5,606
ACADEMIC SUPPORT	2,948	2,518	2,358	2,370
STUDENT SERVICE	1,452	1,649	1,303	2,193
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	13,675	14,390	14,686	19,037
AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES	1,978	2,037	1,721	1,375
NET OPERATING RESULTS	35,995	36,841	35,037	40,058

NONOPERATING ACTIVITIES	2018	2019	2020	2021
FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS	13,599	13,581	13,967	14,724
NAVAJO NATION APPROPRIATIONS	4,200	4,700	4,700	4,700
FEDERAL COVID GRANTS		-	3,483	11,304
LOAN FORGIVENESS		-	-	3,381
SCHOLARSHIPS	7,034	7,343	6,844	6,187
INVESTMENT INCOME	419	604	731	1,454
NET NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	25,253	26,228	29,725	41,750
CAPITAL A PPROP, GRANTS & GIFTS	5,532	7,416	1,106	4,914
TOTAL RESULTS	1,915	5,479	3,743	14,984

Revenues



EXPENSES



MILESTONES



SEPTEMBER 2021

DINÉ COLLEGE HELD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IN FARMINGTON

Diné College hosted their annual Golfers for Scholars golf tournament in Farmington, NM at the Piñon Hills Golf Course on September 25, 2021.



DINÉ COLLEGE ALUMNI NAMED NOMINEE FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE JOHN LEWIS YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

A former Diné College Warrior and alumni, Triston Black, has been named one of 14 Arizona nominees for the National Association of Secretaries of State John Lewis Youth Leadership Award. The John Lewis Youth Leadership Award was created as an initiative by the National Association of Secretaries of State to honor the life and achievements of the late Congressman John Lewis and aims to inspire Americans by awarding a civic-minded young person in each state who exemplifies public service and advocacy for civil rights.



NOVEMBER 2021

DINÉ COLLEGE SUPPORTED STUDENTS WITH TUITION GRANTS FOR THE SPRING 2022 SEMESTER

Diné College offered 106 in-person classes and 244 online classes for the Spring 2022 semester. The College offered a 50 percent tuition grant and residential grant for student and family housing. A fee grant was also applied to Technology, Student Activity, and Admission Application fees for students who enrolled for the Spring 2022 Semester. The “Fall 2021 Challenge” was offered to all students who enrolled full-time during the Fall 2021 semester and receive a 2.0 GPA or better would be eligible to receive a full tuition grant for the Spring 2022 semester. There was a 22 percent increase in Spring enrollment from the previous year. The College aims to exceed pre-COVID-19 enrollment numbers.

DINÉ COLLEGE LIBRARIES RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES - \$3,000 GRANT WILL HELP THE LIBRARY WORK WITH RESIDENTS ON BUILDING A NAVAJO LANGUAGE VIRTUAL RESOURCE CENTER

Diné College Libraries has been selected as one of 100 libraries to participate in round three of Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that helps library workers better serve their small and rural communities – the only Tribal College and University library of this round. The competitive award comes with a \$3,000 grant that will help the library enhance Navajo language learning and teaching online resources based on community input.



DECEMBER 2021

Diné College Tops All Colleges and Universities in Number of Psychology Graduates

Diné College has long been a leader in higher education, now it is also leading the country in the number of psychology major's it graduates. In the November issue of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, the college is listed as tied for number one with the University of New Mexico. That same issue also ranks Diné College seventh for Biomedical Sciences.

DINÉ COLLEGE GRADUATES 82 AND BESTOWS 4 HONORARY DOCTORATES

Diné College celebrated its Fall Commencement on Friday, Dec. 10 by awarding 82 degrees and certificates and 4 honorary doctorates. Taking place in the Piñon Pit Gymnasium and with the season's first snowstorm blanketing the earth and trees, this marks only the second Fall Commence in the college's history. The College also awarded four Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters, the first time in more than 20 years, to four individuals who helped crystallize the concept of Navajo philosophy within academia. "These four, Johnson Dennison, Harry Walters, Don Denetdeal, and Avery Denny were pioneers in the advancement of Diné College.

STEM PROFESSOR REPRESENTED DINÉ COLLEGE AS INVITED KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT "13TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF PAKISTAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY (PSM)"

Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim, Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Microbiology, School of STEM, Diné College – Tuba City center was invited as Keynote Speaker to talk about "COVID or Dikos Ntsaaígíí (the 'cough' that kills) and Indigenous Populations Globally", at the "13th Biennial Conference of Pakistan Society for Microbiology (PSM)". The conference was held at the Government College University Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan during December 22nd-24th, 2021. The main theme of the conference is "Pandemics, Epidemics: Public Health challenges for Microbiologists".



JANUARY 2022

DINÉ COLLEGE LAUNCHED STRATEGIC ROAD MAP FOR THE FUTURE

Diné College launched a strategic design process that will chart a new plan to meet the needs of the Navajo Nation. Over the months, The Nation's College met with key stakeholders, community members, students (current and former) to hear from them as to how to make the college better and more responsive to the needs of our people.



**Arizona State
University**

FEBRUARY 2022

DINÉ COLLEGE AND ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY PARTNER TO OFFER COLLEGE STUDENTS TRANSFER PATHWAYS WITH MYPATH2ASU™ COLLABORATION

Diné College announced a new alliance with Arizona State University to provide students a seamless transfer experience with the MyPath2ASU program. MyPath2ASU™ allows students to take the steps needed, at the start of their college experience, to successfully plan their transfer to ASU, ensuring a smooth transition process and student success. MyPath2ASU™ is a set of customized tools available to transfer students from accredited, U.S. regional institutions. These tools ensure a seamless transfer experience to ASU after earning credits or an associate degree from a U.S. community college or university and shortening the time to degree completion.



DINÉ COLLEGE ANNOUNCED BRANDON LESTER AS THE NEW ASDC PRESIDENT

Brandon Lester was recently sworn in as the new Associated Students of Diné College (ASDC) President at a ceremony that took place in the Ned Hatalie Cultural building. Lester, the former vice-president of ASDC will fill the role of president for the remainder of the semester. The primary purpose of the governing body of ASDC is to serve Diné College as the representative student voice at the campus, local, state, and national levels, by way of Nitsáhákees, Nahat'á, Íiná, Siihasin, through social guidance, well-being, learning diversity, accountability, unity, and student leadership.



DINÉ COLLEGE STRATEGIC DESIGN TEAM HEARD FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Diné College kicked off its Strategic Design process with a webinar. The College launched its strategic design process to chart a new path for the future. In an effort for more inclusivity and transparency, the College hosted numerous town hall meetings, listening sessions, and stakeholder committee meetings, which conducted in person and virtually. During the webinar, the new strategic themes were unveiled that will help guide the college into the next decade. The themes are: Quality and Growth, Accessibility, College Health and Wellness, Holistic Integration, Culture and Environment, and Facilities. The event included about 90 participants and received nearly 1,000 views on Diné College's Facebook page. Students, faculty, staff, donors, and community members joined the conversation of how the 6 strategic themes will shape the future of the College.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE MAJORS

The Diné-Biligaana Social Sciences Scholarship will provide Diné College students with a \$500 annual scholarship to support their educational journey. The scholarship will be made available to students enrolled in a bachelor program within the School of Business and Social Science, pursuing a Social and Behavioral Science, Psychology, or Sociology degree. The Diné-Biligaana Social Sciences Scholarship resulted from the collaborative efforts between Diné College and Larry L. Bucher, LCSW/C, a School Counselor who previously worked at Rough Rock Demonstration School and The Lower Greasewood Elementary School to provide social-emotional and educational services to school administrators, students, and parents in the 1990s.



CITIZEN SCIENCE WATER FAIR: AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

After more than 2 years of the COVID-19 Pandemic the Citizen Science Water fair event hosts decided to reschedule this wonderful and exciting event for our communities, “A pure learning and outreach activity”. The fair targets the communities of Tuba City, Tonalea, Cameron, Coalmine, Shonto, and Bodaway Gap, however, other communities of the Navajo reservation including Tsaile, Chinle and Kayenta were also welcomed to join the event. The fair was a collaborative effort between Diné College, University of Utah, and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency.

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR DINÉ STUDIES AND S.T.E.M. MAJORS

A former social worker on the Navajo Nation has donated \$25,000 to Diné College to establish the Jack and Maggie Eutsler Scholarship. The scholarship will provide Diné College students with a \$500 annual scholarship starting Fall 2022. The scholarship will be made available to students enrolled in an associate or bachelor degree program within the School of Diné Studies and Education or the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Ms. Elizabeth Eutsler chose to honor her parent’s dedication to education and their long-time support for Navajo culture by creating a scholarship for Diné College students.

APRIL 2022

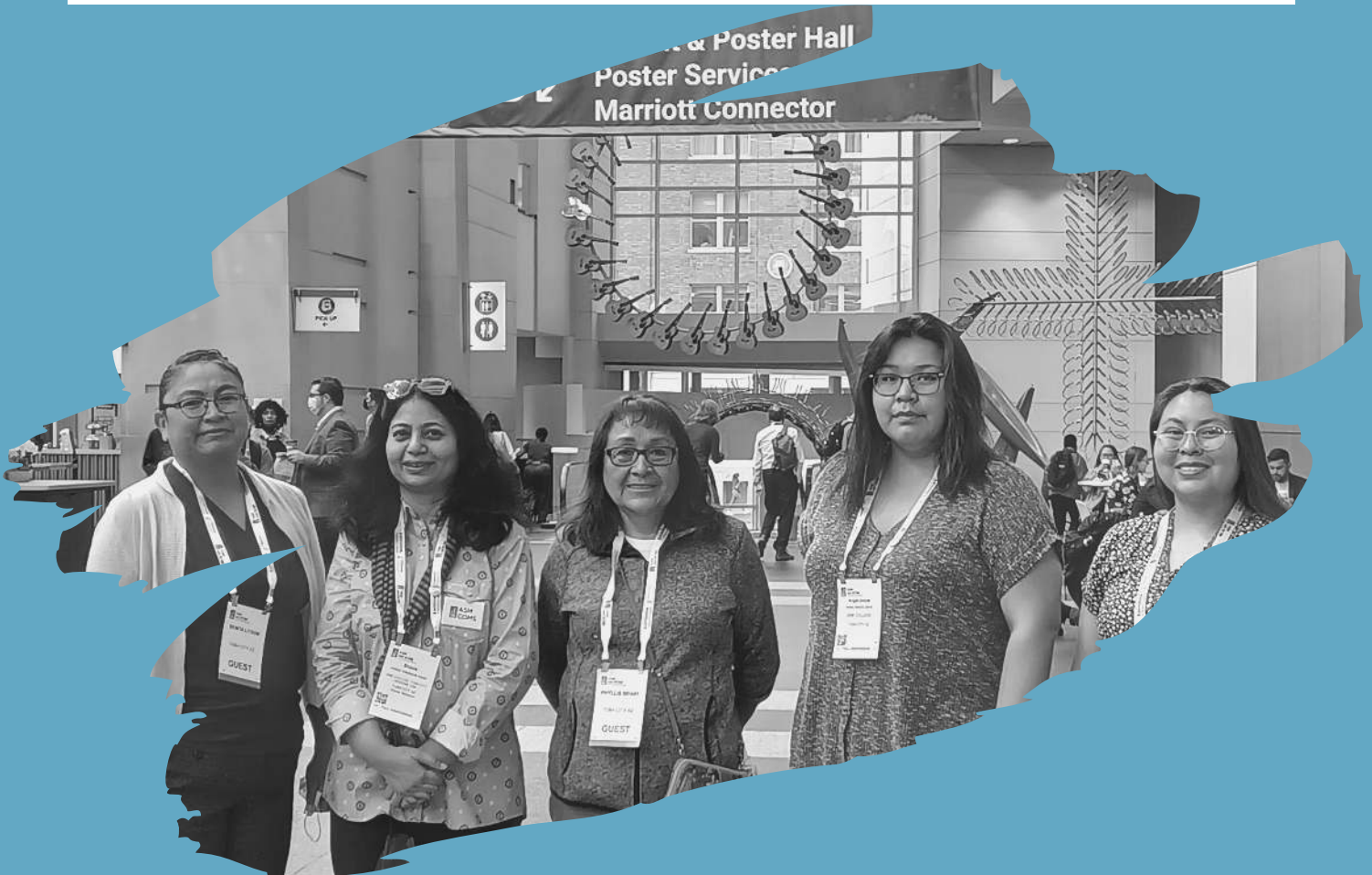
ARIZONA GOVERNOR DUCEY SIGNS SENATE BILL 1300 TO STRENGTHEN THE TRIBAL COLLEGE DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

On March 18th, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed Senate Bill (SB) 1300, approving amendments to the Tribal College Dual Enrollment Program. The Tribal College Dual Enrollment Program comprises of three Tribal colleges and universities in the state of Arizona, such as Diné College, Navajo Technical University, and Tohono O'odham Community College.

MAY 2022

DINÉ COLLEGE TOPS FUNDRAISING GOAL IN FIRST QUARTER WITH \$2.1 MILLION

Diné College raised more than \$2.1 million in the first quarter of this year. A few years ago, the board of regents prioritized fundraising and we are beginning to see the benefits. The College broke the record in the first three months of 2022. The unprecedented campaign was propelled by eleven large donations from individuals, corporations, and organizations in support of academic growth and institutional stability. The college saw its biggest boost in donations this year.



MAY 2022

FOUR DINÉ COLLEGE MICROBIOLOGY STUDENT'S INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2022 AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY CONFERENCE

Diné College, Medical Microbiology Students and Water researchers presented at ASM-Microbe 2022, Annual International moot of American Society for Microbiology was held in Washington DC, this past summer. The team submitted 5 abstracts for the annual conference of microbiology "ASM-Microbe" in Washington DC. This conference hosted one of the largest gatherings of microbiologists in the world. Four out of the five research abstracts submitted by our Medical Microbiology BIO-488 students were accepted for poster presentations. Of the four one research abstract submitted by our USDA- NIFA-TCRGP sponsored research assistant Ms. Tori Fulton, not only got accepted for both

poster and oral presentation, but also received a prestigious 2022 Minority Travel Award of \$1000 and Complementary conference registration \$390. This travel award encourages increased participation of underrepresented minority (URM) students in ASM Microbe.



AMENDED DINÉ COLLEGE CHARTER MODERNIZES OPERATIONS

On May 5, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signed Legislation 0011-22 into law, empowering the Diné College Board of Regents to professionalize Board membership, modernize operations and facilities, and create alternative revenue sources. "This historic legislation reflects the shared commitment of the Board of Regents, the Navajo Nation Council, and the President of the Navajo Nation to enhance educational opportunities for the Navajo people," said President Bigman, Diné College Board of Regents Chairman.

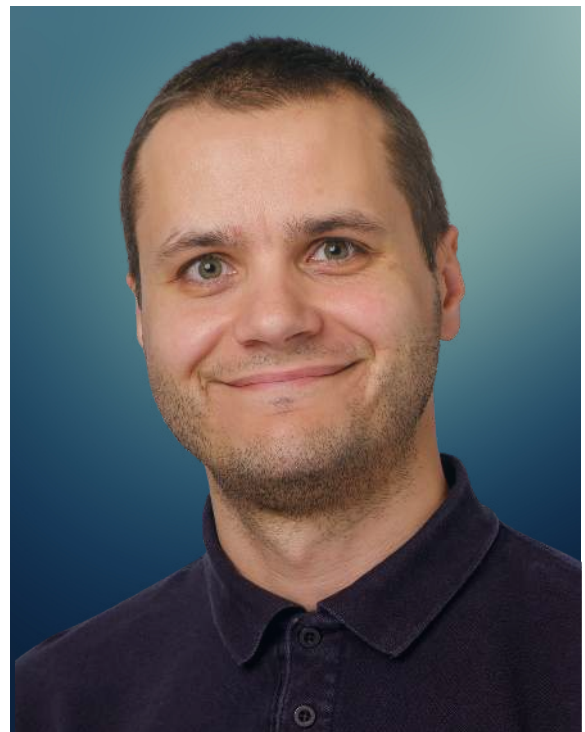




JUNE 2022

DINÉ COLLEGE PROFESSOR'S FUNDING PROPOSAL RECEIVES AN AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Diné College Associate Professor Dr. Oleksandr Makeyev has received a \$200,000 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a funding proposal "Validating the Optimal Design of Concentric Ring Electrodes on Phantom Data", that would bring forth cutting-edge research and most directly relates to issued and pending patents as well as involves international collaboration.



DINÉ COLLEGE SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES HIRES NEW ENGLISH FACULTY MEMBER

Diné College welcomed Assistant Professor, Brie Jontry. Prof. Jontry holds a bachelor's degree in English from West Chester University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in English from the University of Alaska.



JUNE 2022

DINÉ COLLEGE RECEIVES \$100,000 ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMBER FOR CLIMATE RESEARCH

Diné College received a generous gift from Enertron Company that will allow faculty and students to research climate impact within the Navajo Nation. Dr. Scott Bender, science faculty, said "This specialized environmental simulation testing chamber enables faculty and students to simulate all climates seen across the Navajo Nation." The \$100,000 CSZ Environmental Simulation and Testing Chamber will be used in the School of STEM at the college. This scientific equipment will open the door to undergraduate and faculty research projects in the areas of climate change, agriculture, material testing and biomedical/veterinary science fields.

JULY 2022

DINÉ COLLEGE ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO ALL STUDENTS TO COVER TUITION, MEALS, RESIDENTIAL AND BOOKS

In an effort to assist students to earn their degree, continue towards their degree or to enter college for the first time, Diné College offered grants to all students to fully cover tuition, meals and residential halls, as well as, books. This fall, Diné College provided 100% grants to make college more accessible and increase student success. Funding for this plan will come from monies the college received through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

AUGUST 2022



DINÉ COLLEGE PROFESSOR RECEIVES NEH FACULTY AWARD

Diné College Native American Studies Faculty, Dr. Christine Ami (Diné), was one of 25 professors nationwide selected to receive a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Award for Faculty. This award will support the completion of her first book that re-writes the significance of sheep and the practices of traditional sheep butchering in Diné history and culture from Diné perspectives.

DINÉ COLLEGE PROFESSOR PUBLISHES RESEARCH WITH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY (ASM)

Diné College professor was a part of a team of researchers who demonstrated that greenhouse gas-eating microorganisms in caves can disperse across the environment easily. This may help explain ubiquitous observations of sub atmospheric methane concentrations in cave-air. greenhouse. Kevin D Webster, PhD Assistant Professor of STEM, and his team examined samples that were collected from 21 different limestone caves throughout North America. The story of the discovery, titled Diversity and Composition of Methanotroph Communities in Caves was published in the American Society for Microbiology; Microbiology Spectrum on August 9, 2022. The project was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, National Speleological Society, National Geographic Society Expeditions Council, National Science Foundation, U.S. Army Research Office, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.





ACADEMICS

THE NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES (NAS) MINOR

The Native American Studies (NAS) Minor was the first minor program to launch at Diné College. This School of Business and Social Science program seeks to broaden, connect and dialogue the variety of Navajo realities experienced by our students with that of tribal nations and Indigenous communities throughout the Americas and the globe. The NAS faculty are excited to announce that we graduated our first minor student Spring 2022 - Kristy Manuelito graduated with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Native American Studies. Four NAS minor students are expected to graduate this academic year from the disciplines of Diné Studies, Psychology and Public Health. As the NAS minor grows, NAS classes are also now eligible for general education electives to help students meet degree checklist requirements. For more information on the NAS minor, contact Dr. Christine Ami at cmami@dinecollege.edu.





AWARDS/HONORS

DR CHRISTINE AMI

Diné College Native American Studies Faculty, Dr. Christine Ami (Diné), was one of 25 professors nationwide selected to receive a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Award for Faculty. The NEH Faculty Award supports advanced research in the humanities by scholars, teachers, and staff at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. This award will support the completion of her first book that re-writes the significance of sheep and the practices of traditional sheep butchering in Diné history and culture from Diné perspectives.

In addition to the book manuscript, Dr. Ami will create three new courses associated with the book project:

- 1 Indigenous Butchering Practices of the Americas
- 2 Introduction to Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- 3 Indigenous Perspectives of Animal Studies, all of which will contribute to the growth of the Native American Studies program at Diné College and food sovereignty initiatives of the Navajo Nation.

Dr. Ami will be hosting a workshop in the Spring on how to apply for NEH Faculty Awards.



STEM PROFESSOR DR. SHAZIA TABASSUM HAKIM RECEIVES FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each academic year, a faculty member of the year is selected as form of the highest recognition of going above and beyond regular contractual obligations. The nomination process begins two months prior to the Spring commencement. The nomination forms are sent to students, faculty, and staff members of the College Community. The Office of the Provost receives the nominations, and the selection process begins. The decision is based on the criteria created by the Provost and the Deans. The Provost and Deans come together two weeks prior to Spring commencement and make the final selection. The Faculty of Year receives a certificate and a small token of appreciation as a form of recognition and appreciation. Last academic year, we began to also acknowledge the nominees informal with certificates and a small token of appreciation.

For the AY2022, Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim received the honor of the Faculty of the Year. She was nominated by multiple students, faculty, and staff members. One faculty conveyed that Dr. Hakim "has enthusiasm for teaching through her mentorship, has guided students to present their research at conferences, and implemented a program that is much needed on the Navajo reservation", Another faculty member wrote, "I was so impressed with the expertise in scientific knowledge of Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim" A staff wrote, "she is accessible to her students and never turns them away".

One student described her as "A positive light in our darkness. She arrived as a blessing, from the universe. We are fortunate to have her, and she has brought hozhó to our college. With her soft, kind voice, she understands and assists without hesitation. Her words continue to inspire me as a single mother. She respects our culture, knows how to tie our Dine culture, with the concept of scientific learning" We are grateful and blessed to have great faculty at Dine College. We continue to encourage students, faculty, and staff members to submit nominations each year to honor those who go above and beyond every day.



OFFICE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT



ENHANCING SERVICES AND PROCESSES ARE TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH.

"We are creating a real customer service ethic," said Andrea Christelle, Vice Provost for Research, "and establishing a culture where people know they can get support at every stage of the grant lifecycle." With dedicated pre-award and post-award support it will be easier for researchers to secure, execute, and report on research projects. The Professional Development Coordinator will also move under the Office of Research and provide targeted training opportunities for Diné College faculty and staff.

DINÉ COLLEGE IS LEVELING UP RESEARCH INITIATIVES AS IT CONTINUES TO MAKE MOVES TOWARD BECOMING A UNIVERSITY.

"With the newly established Office of Research we are creating a new standard of what it means to be a Tribally-controlled institution of higher learning," said Provost Geraldine Garrity. "We've been moving in this direction strategically for some time, and have now formalized this commitment by hiring a Vice Provost for Research and putting more support in place for faculty, staff, and students to pursue projects and secure external funding."

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE RESEARCH OFFICE INCLUDE IMPLEMENTING NEW RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION SOFTWARE, ESTABLISHING INTERNAL RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING RESEARCHERS, STARTING A RESEARCH MENTOR PROGRAM, AND RENEGOTIATING THE RECOVERY RATE FOR FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

A STRONG RESEARCH PROGRAM IS THE FOUNDATION OF A UNIVERSITY, AND THE RESEARCH OFFICE SIGNALS THAT DINÉ COLLEGE IS HEADED FOR A NEW INSTITUTIONAL STATUS.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



PARTNERING WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Bridge to STEAM is a collaboration led by co-PIs Demetra Skaltsas from Diné College and Karen Francis-Begay of The University of Arizona. Diné College students were able to participate in the 27th Annual Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium (UROC) Research Poster Session in August, 2022. Those students and their topics were

Jessica Begay (Biology) “Exploration of Aquatic Endophytes and their Antimicrobial Metabolites in Navajo Lake” (mentored by Dr. Luisa Iknker, Environmental Science, University of Arizona)

Darrell Yazzie, Jr. (Agriculture: Plants emphasis) “Contrast of Seed Ball Forms Used in Restoration” (mentored by Dr. Elise Cornish, Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona)

DINÉ COLLEGE HELD A RESEARCH RETREAT ON THE NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

over 30 faculty and staff had the opportunity to learn more about the research administration process, and share what was working at the College and where they saw need for improvement and augmented services. The retreat was facilitated by Lori Schultz, Vice President for Research Intelligence at the University of Arizona. Diné College also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Arizona, and their research administrators have provided guidance and Diné College builds its research program.





COLLABORATIONS WITHIN THE COLLEGE

Dual Enrollment and the Land Grant Office teamed up to win a \$500,000 award that provides paths for high school students to study agriculture in a close-to-home higher education setting. New Mexico State University Agricultural Science Center (Farmington) and several Navajo Nation high schools are also partners in this endeavor. This project takes the long view, reaching out and recruiting students when they are still in high school, allowing them to earn college credit there that can be applied to a degree at Diné College, and charting a trajectory on to graduate school at NMSU. These agriculturalists will have both Navajo cultural knowledge and western scientific knowledge and serve as a new generation of land stewards and entrepreneurs. Benita Liston, the Director of the Land Grant Office, served as PI for this initiative, and Winifred Jumbo, Director of Dual Enrollment will assist with high school outreach and onboarding.



RESEARCH IN THE ARTS

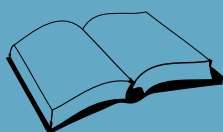


Diné College has world-class collections in the Museum within the Ned A. Hatathli Cultural Center, and the Ruth and Bob Roessel Archival Center. Museum Curator Nonabah Sam secured funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to support positions for an Assistant Archivist and Collections Assistant. These staffers will assist with documenting the cultural significance of a collection of 78 sand paintings by recording and coordination with practitioners and knowledge holders. During COVID-19 many practitioners were lost, which makes this task time sensitive and of great cultural importance.

She truly believes in her work as a preservationist, but also as an educator. Her work certainly reaches beyond Diné College, where she has been employed for ten years, and out to the community. “Our stories should be expressed, from our own truths, as American Indians and First Nations People. Our stories have always been told with a misconception, from the non-native view and until now we are able to showcase a true history, of all our accounts and events, from our own eyes. That is very important, especially for our children, because we want them to know and understand the importance of culture and language and history”. She is also an Adjunct faculty, in the School of Arts and Humanities.

DINÉ LANGUAGE AND TRADITION

Dean of Diné Studies and Education Rex Lee Jim received an award from the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Living Languages program to bring Medicine Men from around the Navajo Nation to Diné College. This project includes a robust student participation component, and student researchers will travel around the Navajo Nation to visit Medicine Men in situ so that they can develop a better understanding of how sacred knowledge is localized and context specific.





IT DIRECTOR WINS \$2.9 MILLION FOR BROADBAND ACCESS, HARDWARE FOR STUDENTS, AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Access to technology is essential for educational success. Ihab Saleh, Director of Information Technology won an award that puts new technology directly in the hands of students. Mobile hotspots and their subscriptions will be paid for, 770 laptops will be purchased for students. In addition, broadband services will be assured at sites in Aneth, Chinle, Crownpoint, Dilcon, Newcomb, Shiprock, Tsaile, Tuba City and Window Rock. Printing kiosks will be available at these sites not only for Diné College students, but also members of the community. None of this can be implemented without staff, though, which is why this award is also used to invest in our current staff through additional training and professional development as well as recruit new staff.



CROWNPOINT CENTER MANAGER MEAL KIT VOUCHERS TO STUDENTS



Diné College Center, Crownpoint, NM.

You can't learn on an empty stomach, so the saying goes and Tyrone J. Begay, Crownpoint Center Manager knows. The New Mexico Higher Education Department will be supplying funding so all students at this campus can obtain meal kit vouchers for those who are in need. Reviewers commented on the innovativeness of Begay's vision, and his commitment to student wellbeing. Mr. Begay mentioned, "this award will greatly benefit the students who are in need of some assistance as the pandemic has impacted each of them in some way."



Diné College held a groundbreaking for a \$7.4 million math and science building at the Shiprock, NM campus on June 28, 2021. The funding for the new math and science building comes from a General Obligation Bond for \$5 million and \$2.4 million from New Mexico Capital Outlay funds. This new math and science building will house the College's math and science departments, instructional mathematics and science classrooms, science laboratories, support spaces such as student commons, hallways, electrical/mechanical rooms, restrooms, four faculty offices and three meeting rooms. This project is nearing completion and will be opened in Fall of 2023.

The Gorman Classroom Building renovation project is nearing completion. The anticipated full reopening of the building is going to be Fall 2023. Currently, there is one section of the building which is undergoing structural remediation. Helical piers will be used to stabilize the building. This portion of the project was recently approved by the Board of Regents. Also starting inside the GCB is the restroom upgrades for all four restrooms.

Starting in October 2022, Year-out will begin installing / upgrading the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems for all the dormitories. This project will be completed by April 2023. These upgrades are part of the Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract the College recently entered with Year-out.

Recently approved by the Board of Regents for construction is the Shiprock Fire and Safety Lane project. This project will be underway in the spring of 2023. Other projects funded by the Navajo Nation are outdoor learning center enhancements at Tsaile, Shiprock, Tuba City and Window Rock. The project's objectives are to provide outdoor learning spaces which are conducive to the educational environment. When completed, these spaces will give students, staff, and visitors places to meet, study, or simply spend time out of doors.





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