



**THE
NATION'S
COLLEGE**

www.dinecollege.edu

TSAILE, ARIZONA

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DINE COLLEGE

THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OF THE NAVAJO

September 16, 2026

Distinguished Members of the Congressional Delegation,

Yá'át'ééh. On behalf of Diné College, thank you for your continued partnership in advancing higher education across the Navajo Nation. It is my honor to share our institution's story and invite your continued support for the vital work we do together.

A Legacy of Firsts

Diné College holds a distinguished place in American history. Founded in 1968, we became the first tribally controlled college in the United States. That achievement set a national precedent and opened the door for the tribal college movement that now serves Native communities nationwide.

Our main campus sits in Tsaile, Arizona, in the heart of the Navajo Nation. We also serve students through campuses and centers in Window Rock and Tuba City, Arizona, and in Shiprock and Crownpoint, New Mexico. This network allows us to reach students across a vast region that spans three states you represent.

Academic Excellence

We offer a full range of academic pathways to meet our students' needs. These include six certificate programs, associate degree programs, bachelor's degree programs, and a master's degree in biology, our flagship STEM offering. This progression allows students to begin, continue, and complete advanced study without leaving their communities.

Our academic model is cross-disciplinary and flexible, with virtual, in-person, and hybrid options designed to fit the lives of the people we serve.

A Mission Rooted in Navajo Values

What sets Diné College apart is our foundation. Our educational philosophy is grounded in the Navajo way of life. We prepare students to thrive in modern careers while honoring the language, culture, and traditions that define who we are.

Through our Navajo Language Immersion Institute, we work to preserve and revitalize the Diné language for future generations. Our research programs, including the NSF Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (NSF-TCUP) and the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH), build capacity in science and health while training the next generation of Native researchers.

Our Land Grant Office extends this mission further, supporting agriculture, youth development, and community programs that strengthen food security and economic resilience across the Navajo Nation.

A Call to Continued Partnership

Tribal colleges like ours depend on sustained federal investment. That support fuels our classrooms, our laboratories, our language programs, and the research that improves lives far beyond our campuses.

I respectfully ask each of you to continue championing tribal colleges and universities in Congress. Your advocacy protects opportunity for thousands of students and honors the federal trust responsibility to Native nations.

We are proud to educate the leaders, scientists, teachers, and stewards of tomorrow. With your partnership, we will continue to grow that promise.

Ahéhee' for your service and your commitment to Indian Country.

Respectfully,



Dr. Deborah J. Dennison, President
Diné College



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Introduction

In 1968, Diné College (the College), formerly known as Navajo Community College (NCC), became the first tribally controlled college in the Nation. The purpose of the College is to provide educational opportunities to the Navajo people for the economic and social development of the Navajo Nation. The founding principle of the College was to instill education with Navajo history, culture, and language. In 1971, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Act (the NCC Act). The NCC Act authorized \$2 Million annual funding for “operation, maintenance and construction.” Since 1971, no funding has been appropriated.

Diné College is currently facing a critical issue that jeopardizes its ability to secure essential funding. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has yet to release the second half of Diné College in a funding limbo.

Background

Diné College is seeking a reauthorization of its ability to receive federal funds and resources, and sustainable funding path to deal with the growing deficiency backlog for operation, maintenance, and construction projects. Infrastructure and deferred maintenance costs and efforts only get more expensive due to the delay in funding. The College needs a reliable funding source so that it can address operation and maintenance issues as they arise and plan for the future with certainty.

Since 1971, Diné College has expanded to five campuses and two microsites. The incomplete facilities analysis report is preventing the calculation of necessary funding attached to the Diné College Act reauthorization. Diné College has recently met with Senators Kelly, Lujan, Grisham, Krahava, Sinema, and Representative Crane; however, their assistance is limited by the missing second portion of the facilities analysis report.

Communication Efforts with BIA

Initiating contact with the BIA in 2018, Diné College faced delays until April 2021, when a meeting with Judith Wilson, the Director of Office and Facilities at BIA, took place. Despite efforts to collaborate on the missing report, Diné College was informed in 2023 that the report is still missing, leading to ongoing challenges in securing funding.

In the most recent meeting on January 4, 2024, Dr. Roessel met with Assistant Secretary on Indian Affairs, Brian Newland. The outcome of this meeting resulted in Assistant Secretary Newland directing his staff to complete a new facility analysis of the facility assessment (2018) to provide a recommendation on the amount of O&M funding for Diné College.

Conclusion

The release of the missing facilities report is pivotal for Diné College’s ability to include appropriation in the reauthorization of the Diné College Act/ BIA is currently working on producing the facility analysis report.

Appendix A

Diné College Act Chronological Timeline

Diné College Act would provide funding to Diné College for capital improvement projects and operational funding. It would also provide critical funding to improve access to higher education opportunities for Navajo students and families. Diné College (DC) is the only Tribal College or University with its “enabling” Act.

Diné College Act Public Law 92-189- December 15, 1971

- Authorize grants for Navajo Community College and other purposes.
- Purpose: to assist the Navajo Tribe of Indians in providing education to the members of the tribe.
- Known as the Navajo Community College (cited as).
- The Secretary of Interior is authorized to assist the tribe in constructing, maintaining, and operating the Navajo Community College.
- Other qualified applicants have educational opportunities suited to their unique needs and interests.
- Authorized appropriated not to exceed \$5,500,000 for construction.

Navajo Community College Act was revised in 2009-2014

- Act of 2014 revision authorized Secretary for each academic year to grant the College an amount equal to \$4,000 for each full-time “Indian student” in attendance with the College.
- Adjustments for overpayments and underpayments shall be applied to the remainder of such funds and delivered no later than July 1st of each year.
- Section 202 requires Navajo Community College to expand to better serve the needs of the population. Diné College has not received such funding since the enactment of the Navajo Community College Act.
- Provide higher education programs and vocational and technical education for citizens of the Navajo Nation and others.
- Preserve and protect the Navajo language, philosophy, and culture for citizens of the Navajo Nation and others.
- Provide Navajo communities and people with employment and training opportunities.
- Provide economic development and community outreach for Navajo communities and people.
- Provide students, employees, and the public with a safe learning, working, and living environment.
- Directs the Department of the Interior to fund the operation and maintenance of the College separately from tribal colleges and universities recognized and funded by the Tribally Controlled or University Assistance Act of 1978.
- Specifies inventory prepared by the College identifying repairs, alterations, and renovations to facilities required to meet health and safety standards and other factors to be submitted.
- Specifies Interior to conduct a detailed survey of all capital projects and facility needs of the College and to report to specified congressional committees.
- Specifies Interior to use the College’s Inventory as baseline data.

H.R. 4807 Diné College Act of 2018

- Name cited as Diné College Act
- Includes reference to Treaty of 1868 education responsibilities sec2(1).
- References Resolution CAP-35-97 Diné College name change.
- Section 2(6) states Diné College’s educational philosophy and principles.
- References Executive Order 13592 educational responsibilities.
- Section 3(1) states purpose of the Act to exercise right to self-determination.
- Section 3(2) states distinction of institution of Navajo language, culture, traditions, and history.

- Section 8(C) amounts appropriated \$7,500,000 for each fiscal year.
- Survey and study of capital projects for Diné College no later than October 31, 2018.
- Inventory prepared to identify repairs, alterations, and renovations no later than January 31, 2018.
- Act supersedes PL 92-189 and PL 95-471 and the Higher Education Act of 2010.

President Nygren's Letters to Congress

- October 9, 2023- meeting with President Nygren regarding DCA & O&M
- November 15, 2023- received signed letters to Congress from President Nygren's office
- December 19, 2023- Rep. Crane's office sent letter directing BIA to produce the report.



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FY2025 Financial Report | Annual Report Summary

Financial stewardship and mission support. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, Diné College strengthened its overall financial position while continuing to support instruction, research, student services, institutional operations, and capital improvements. The College's FY2025 basic financial statement present fairly, in all material respects, the College's financial position, changes in net position, and cash flows in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Financial Position at a Glance

Measure	FY2025	FY2024
Total assets	\$195,541,094	\$185,214,156
- Total liabilities	\$27,913,067	\$29,489,597
Total net position	\$167,628,027	\$155,724,559
Cash and cash equivalents	\$75,821,736	\$47,500,742
Capital assets, net	\$94,155,690	\$90,332,315
Notes payable	\$154,982	\$213,816

Difference between total assets and total liabilities

Revenue, Expenses, and Annual Results

Measure	FY2025	FY2024
Operating revenues	\$18,866,684	\$11,955,261
Operating expenses	\$45,717,226	\$44,741,983
Operating loss*	\$(26,850,542)	\$(32,786,722)
Net nonoperating revenues	\$34,754,826	\$38,451,492
Capital appropriations, grants, and gifts	\$3,999,184	\$11,539,425
Increase in net position	\$11,903,468	\$17,204,195

***Operating loss:** Diné College operating revenues do not include significant nonexchange funding sources—such as federal and Navajo Nation appropriations, scholarships, and certain grants—that are reported as nonoperating revenue under governmental accounting standards.

Key Findings

- The College reported an \$11.9 million increase in net position, ending FY2025.
- Operating revenues increased \$6.9 million, driven principally by grants and contracts, which rose from \$10.6 million in FY2024 to \$16.7 million in FY2025.
- Total operating expenses increased modestly by \$1 million. Instruction, research, and institutional support increased, while student aid and academic support declined. Institutional support included \$1.9 million in losses associated with the April 2025 Student Union Building fire.

- Cash and cash equivalents increased by \$28.3 million. The increase reflected the timing of grant reimbursements and receipts at year-end, noncapital financing activity, and proceeds from the sale and maturity of investments.
- The College continued to invest in facilities and infrastructure. Net capital assets increased \$3.8 million, including ongoing Solar Project construction. Construction in progress ended the year at \$12.8 million, and open capital commitments totaled \$7.8 million.

Revenue Sources and Outlook

Major Nonoperating Revenue Source	FY2025	FY2024	Observation
Federal appropriations	\$15,395,615	\$16,051,506	Declined student headcount
Navajo Nation appropriations	*\$4,700,000	\$4,700,000	Stable core support
Federal COVID grants	\$2,084,605	\$5,430,464	Declined as pandemic-era funds wind down
Scholarships	\$6,253,002	\$7,538,981	Lower scholarship activity included with student headcount
Investment income	\$3,335,339	\$4,548,649	Lower year-over-year returns
Tax incentive credits	\$2,776,739	—	Employee Retention Credit and; Solar Energy Credit
Donations	\$222,255	\$203,959	Increase in philanthropic support
Interest on Capital asset-related debt	(\$12,729)	(\$22,067)	Lower interest cost
Net Nonoperating revenues	\$34,754,826	\$38,451,492	Decline primarily reflects reduced COVID grants and lower federal appropriations
Capital appropriations, grants, and gifts	\$3,999,184	\$11,539,425	FY2024 had included State of Arizona funding for the Student Success Center
Total nonoperating activities	\$38,751,010	\$49,990,917	Resources offset the operating loss and supported the annual increase
* Navajo Nation appropriations are pending reimbursement.			

Looking ahead. The College's long-term financial outlook remains closely connected to federal appropriations and Navajo Nation support. The audited statements note that Navajo Nation funding is scheduled to increase from \$4.7 million to \$6 million beginning in FY2027 under the amended Navajo Higher Education Act. This anticipated increase is expected to enhance stability and support instructional programs, student services, and institutional operations.

Financial Statement

Diné College remains committed to transparent, responsible, and mission-centered stewardship of the resources entrusted to it. FY2025 financial results demonstrate continued progress in strengthening the College's financial position, expanding grant-supported activity, maintaining core governmental and Navajo Nation funding partnerships, and investing in facilities and infrastructure that support students and communities across the Navajo Nation.

Source: Diné College Financial Statement.



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Operations & Maintenance Cost Analysis

10-Year Spending Trend FY2015–FY2025

1. Ten-Year Total O&M Cost Trend

The table below shows total O&M infrastructure spending by fiscal year, drawn from the full transaction ledger, along with percentage change.

Fiscal Year	Total O&M Cost	YoY Change
FY 2015	\$1,568,554	—
FY 2016	\$1,775,099	+13.2%
FY 2017	\$1,615,411	-9.0%
FY 2018	\$2,537,629	+57.1%
FY 2019	\$2,246,176	-11.5%
FY 2020	\$1,820,023	-19.0%
FY 2021	\$2,313,821	+27.1%
FY 2022	\$2,764,613	+19.5%
FY 2023	\$2,882,007	+4.2%
FY 2024	\$2,763,883	-4.1%
FY 2025	\$3,318,770	+20.1%
10-Yr Avg	\$2,327,817	—

2. Cost Breakdown by Category

O&M costs are tracked across seven broad categories. The table below shows total spend per category for selected fiscal years across the 5-year window (post-COVID).

Category	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Personnel Expenses	\$1,642,364	\$1,841,023	\$1,783,849	\$1,900,503	\$2,016,139
Contracts/Consultants	\$0	\$0	\$13,444	\$2,516	\$500
General Operating Supplies	\$250,253	\$431,057	\$430,115	\$556,289	\$676,417
R&M Buildings	\$263,990	\$219,709	\$314,666	\$170,731	\$117,211
R&M Vehicles/Equipment	\$124,823	\$212,546	\$285,789	\$99,780	\$474,364
Travel & Training	\$32,391	\$60,278	\$54,145	\$34,065	\$34,140
Communications	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,313,821	\$2,764,613	\$2,882,007	\$2,763,883	\$3,318,770

Key observations:

- ❖ Personnel Expenses nearly tripled over the decade (+11.2%) and is by far the largest and fastest-structural cost driver — this is a staffing-cost story, not an equipment one.
- ❖ General Operating Supplies grew steadily (+11.0%), roughly tracking personnel growth.
- ❖ R&M Vehicles/Equipment is volatile but trending up (+13.1%), with a sharp FY2025 spike (+375%) suggesting a large one-time repair or fleet replacement cycle.
- ❖ R&M Buildings within the O&M Department has declined steadily (-12.8%) — down to about a quarter of its FY2015 level.
 - Many of full building repairs and fixtures above the amounts of \$65,000 for services were contracted and supported within Capital Projects.
 - Minor fixtures and support of the O&M repairs are based on the ticketing systems and have been mostly supported with the R&M Equipment such as the HVAC system updates.

3. Category-Level Growth Analysis

Comparing FY2015 to FY2025 for each material category clarifies which cost centers are structural growth drivers versus one-time or declining items.

Category	FY2015	FY2025	10-Yr CAGR
Personnel Expenses	\$699,204	\$2,016,139	+11.2%
R&M Vehicles/Equipment	\$138,975	\$474,364	+13.1%
General Operating Supplies	\$239,036	\$676,417	+11.0%
Travel & Training	\$26,459	\$34,140	+2.6%
R&M Buildings	\$462,986	\$117,211	-12.8%

4. Recommended Budget — Amount Needed to Continue

The blended baseline (\$3,620,670 for FY2026) represents the amount required simply to continue current spending trends. A 10% contingency is added to reduce the risk of a mid-year shortfall. This yields the following recommended budget need over a 3-year planning horizon:

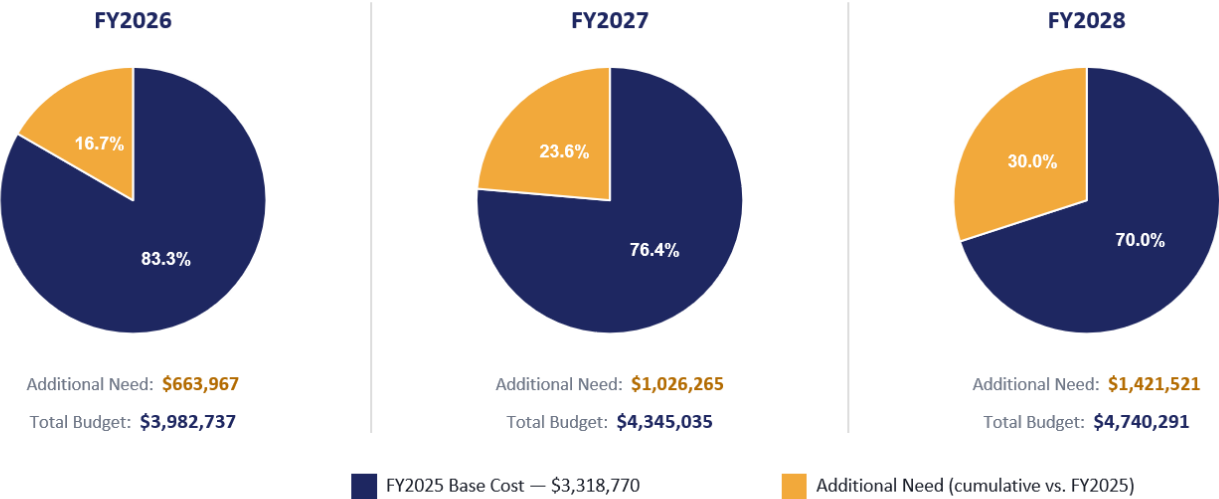
Fiscal Year	Baseline Need (Blended Trend)	Recommended Budget (+10% Contingency)	Incremental \$ vs. FY2025
FY 2026	\$3,620,670	\$3,982,737	+\$663,967
FY 2027	\$3,950,032	\$4,345,035	+\$1,026,265
FY 2028	\$4,309,356	\$4,740,292	+\$1,421,521

Recommendation:

- ❖ Request \$3,982,737–\$4,163,770 for FY2026 (blended trend + 10–15% contingency).
- ❖ Treat Personnel Expenses as the primary budget driver going forward — with an 11%+, even small headcount or wage changes will move the total materially.
- ❖ The FY2025 R&M Vehicles/Equipment to determine if it is one-time (fleet replacement) or the start of a new run rate.

Operations & Maintenance: 3-Year Cost vs. Need

FY2025 base cost held constant; "Additional Need" is the cumulative funding gap vs. FY2025, per year



By FY2028, Operations & Maintenance needs \$4,740,291 — a 42.8% increase over the FY2025 base cost of \$3,318,770.



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Information Technology Cost Analysis

10-Year Spending Trend FY2015–FY2025

1. Ten-Year Total IT Cost Trend

The table below shows total IT infrastructure spending by fiscal year, drawn from the full transaction ledger, along with percentage change.

Fiscal Year	Total IT Cost	YoY Change
FY 2015	\$1,371,516	—
FY 2016	\$1,607,758	+17.2%
FY 2017	\$1,979,873	+23.1%
FY 2018	\$1,917,655	-3.1%
FY 2019	\$2,163,589	+12.8%
FY 2020	\$1,605,988	-25.8%
FY 2021	\$1,424,427	-11.3%
FY 2022	\$2,326,495	+63.3%
FY 2023	\$1,704,044	-26.8%
FY 2024	\$2,073,041	+21.7%
FY 2025	\$2,944,723	+42.0%
10-Yr Avg	\$1,919,919	—

2. Cost Breakdown by Category

IT costs are categorized across eight broad categories. The table below shows total spend per category for selected fiscal years across the 5-year window (post-COVID).

Category	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Personnel Expenses	\$661,045	\$800,358	\$550,467	\$657,692	\$629,785
Contracts/Consultants	\$564,934	\$1,262,385	\$827,570	\$759,090	\$1,287,767
Cap Exp: Computer Equip	\$126,008	\$161,846	\$155,912	\$200,351	\$170,424
Utilities/Communication	\$52,016	\$58,850	\$152,194	\$409,851	\$826,307
General Operating Supplies	\$10,352	\$22,114	\$3,864	\$13,882	\$21,449
Training & Travel	\$6,082	\$20,941	\$14,036	\$17,756	\$8,990
R & M: Equipment	\$3,991	\$0	\$0	\$14,420	\$0
Total	\$1,424,428	\$2,326,494	\$1,704,044	\$2,073,041	\$2,944,723

Key observations:

- ❖ Contracts/Consultants nearly quadrupled (10-yr of +14.3%) and is the single largest cost driver.
 - This encompasses all software purchases (i.e. Jenzabar, SoftDocs, Microsoft, etc.), external IT related consultant support (i.e. Data Base Admin. Support, Software support services, etc.).
- ❖ Utilities/Communication grew +17.3%, with a sharp jump beginning FY2023 (network/telecom cost increases).
 - Many of the Utilities and Communication support are from the local organizations:
 - Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA)
 - Frontier
 - CellularOne
- ❖ Personnel Expenses have stayed roughly flat (+0.4%) — cost growth is not driven by headcount.
- ❖ Capital equipment (computers) grew only modestly (+1.3%), suggesting hardware refresh cycles have been conservative.
- ❖ Training & Travel and General Operating Supplies have both declined over the period.
 - Many of the supporting cost for training & travel of the IT department were utilized to help support institutional costs such as Capital Equipment, Utilities and Communication.
 - IT professional development were also transition for online learning development and virtual attendance.

3. Category-Level Growth Analysis

Comparing FY2015 to FY2025 for each category clarifies which cost centers are structural growth drivers versus one-time or declining items.

Category	FY2015	FY2025	Percentage
Contracts/Consultants	\$338,323	\$1,287,767	+14.3%
Utilities/Communication	\$167,180	\$826,307	+17.3%
Cap Exp: Computer Equip	\$150,487	\$170,424	+1.3%
Personnel Expenses	\$604,882	\$629,785	+0.4%
General Operating Supplies	\$24,602	\$21,449	-1.4%
Training & Travel	\$27,131	\$8,990	-10.5%

4. Recommended Budget — Amount Needed to Continue

The blended baseline (\$3,270,092 for FY2026) represents the amount required simply to continue current spending trends. A 10% contingency is added to reduce the risk of a mid-year shortfall. This yields the following recommended budget need over a 3-year planning horizon:

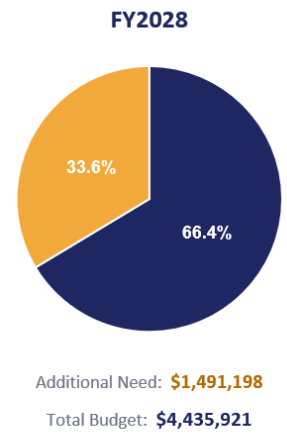
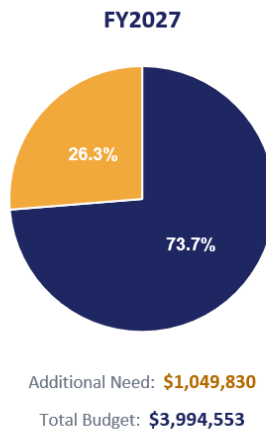
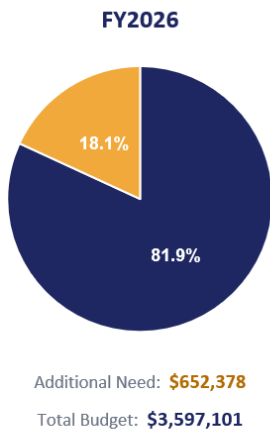
Fiscal Year	Baseline Need (Blended Trend)	Recommended Budget (+10% Contingency)	Incremental \$ vs. FY2025
FY 2026	\$3,270,092	\$3,597,101	+\$652,378
FY 2027	\$3,631,412	\$3,994,553	+\$1,049,830
FY 2028	\$4,032,655	\$4,435,920	+\$1,491,198

Recommendation:

- ❖ Request \$3,597,101–\$3,760,606 for FY2026 (blended trend + 10–15% contingency).
- ❖ Prioritize the Contracts/Consultants and Utilities/Communication line items in budget review — they represent the largest and fastest-growing shares of spend and the best opportunity for cost negotiation or consolidation.
- ❖ Treat Personnel and Capital Equipment as comparatively stable baselines when building next year's budget.

Information Technology: 3-Year Cost vs. Need

FY2025 base cost held constant; "Additional Need" is the cumulative funding gap vs. FY2025, per year



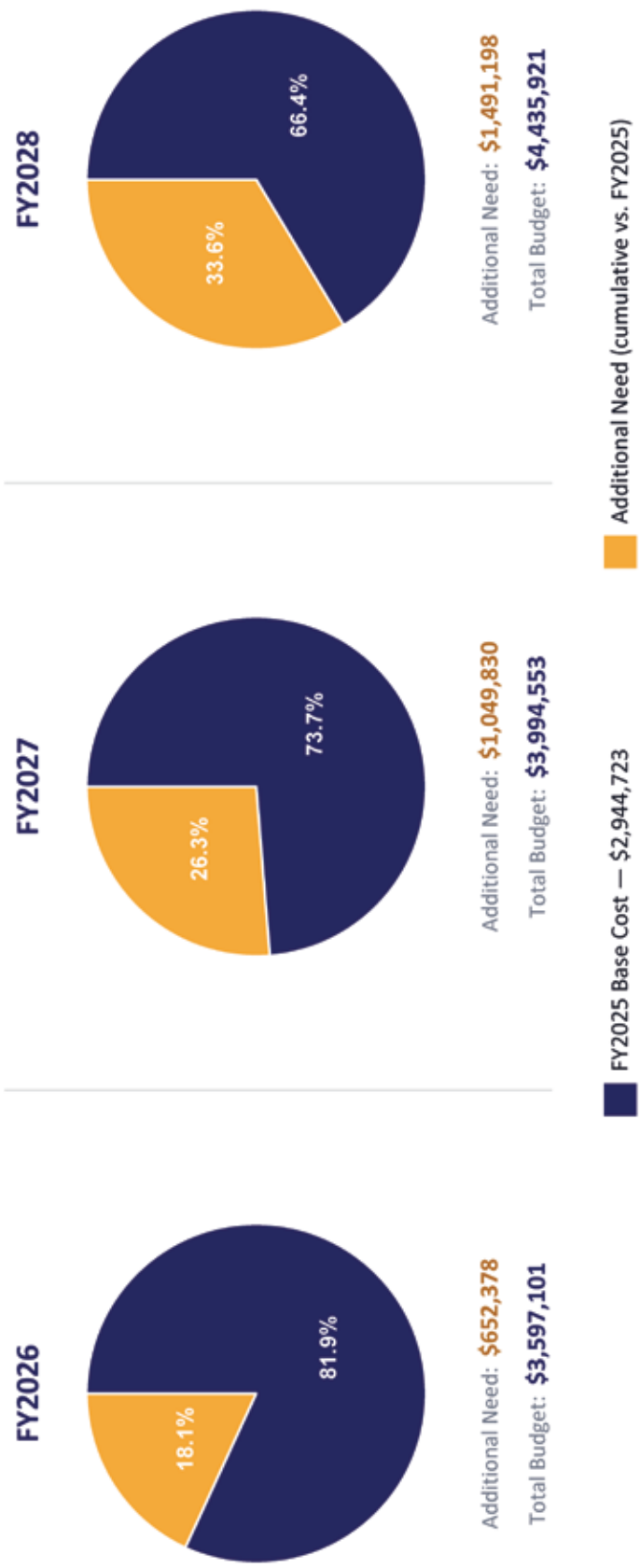
FY2025 Base Cost — \$2,944,723

Additional Need (cumulative vs. FY2025)

By FY2028, Information Technology needs \$4,435,921 — a 50.6% increase over the FY2025 base cost of \$2,944,723.

Information Technology: 3-Year Cost vs. Need

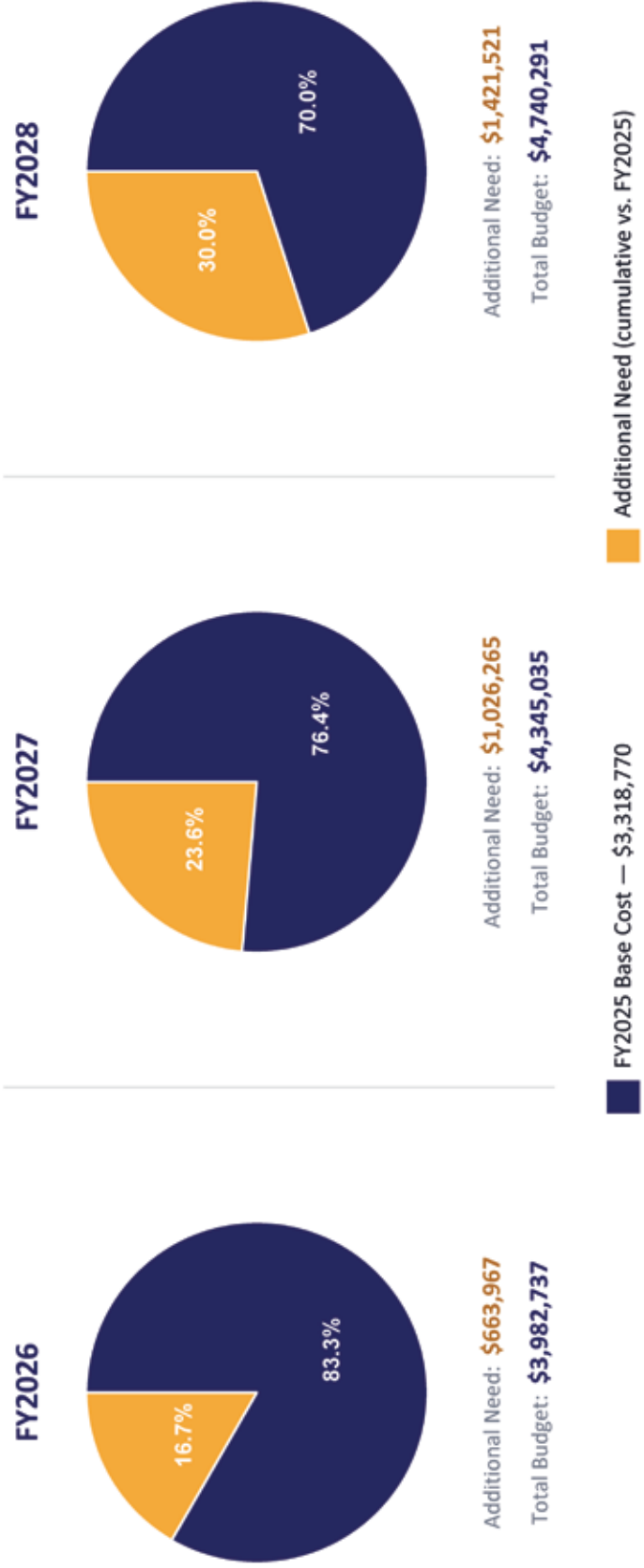
FY2025 base cost held constant; "Additional Need" is the cumulative funding gap vs. FY2025, per year



By FY2028, Information Technology needs \$4,435,921 — a 50.6% increase over the FY2025 base cost of \$2,944,723.

Operations & Maintenance: 3-Year Cost vs. Need

FY2025 base cost held constant; "Additional Need" is the cumulative funding gap vs. FY2025, per year



By FY2028, Operations & Maintenance needs \$4,740,291 — a 42.8% increase over the FY2025 base cost of \$3,318,770.

Diné College Operation, Maintenance, and Construction Backlog

Diné College is seeking a reauthorization of its ability to receive federal funds and resources to create a sustainable funding path to address the growing deficiency for operation, maintenance, and construction projects. Problems only get more expensive as proper operation and maintenance is delayed. Decades of underfunding are limiting the College's ability to properly serve its students and communities. The College needs a reliable funding source so that it can plan for the future and address operation and maintenance issues as they arise.

Background

In 1968, Diné College (the College), formerly known as Navajo Community College (NCC), became the first tribally controlled college. The purpose of the College is to provide educational opportunities to the Navajo people for the economic and social development of the Navajo Nation. The founding principle of the College was to instill education with Navajo history, culture, and language.

- In 1971, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Act (the NCC Act). The NCC Act authorized funding for "operation, maintenance and construction." However, no funding has been requested in the federal budget for operation, maintenance, and construction.
- In 1978, Congress enacted the NCC Construction Funding Act (NCCCFA) to correct this funding gap. The Act authorizes \$2 million annually for construction funding for the College. No funding has ever been appropriated under this authorization.
- In 1980, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study concluded Diné College's unique funding authorization for "operation, maintenance and construction" was not adequately reflected in the BIA funding formula for the College. The GAO study made recommendations to Congress and the administration to review the College's O&M and construction-funding disparity.
- As part of the NCCCFA, Congress required the Department of the Interior (DOI) to complete a facilities study by August 1978. This study was not done.
- In 2008, Congress enacted the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act and again directed the DOI to complete the 1978 facilities study by Oct. 31, 2010. The study was not done.
- In 2014, Congress directed Secretary Jewell to finally conduct the study.
- In 2018, the Inventory and Assessment Final Data Submittal (IAFD), for the study was completed.
- The BIE never transmitted the report to Congress or shared it with Diné College.
- In 2022, Diné College met with the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and BIE Director, and other representatives of BIA and BIE. The Assistant Secretary instructed BIE to work with Diné College to find a solution to the funding issues and develop a formula for long term stability. BIE admitted that the report is missing.
- In August 2023, more than a year after the last meeting, BIE admitted they cannot provide funds for Diné College because the authorizing legislation expired in 2014, and regardless they cannot move forward without the missing report.
- In January 2024, Diné College again met with the Assistant Secretary, BIE Director, and BIA/BIE staff. At this meeting the Assistant Secretary admitted the report was lost, apologized for the delay, and created a working group to develop either a new report or statement of recommendations using the initial data collection updated with recommendations from Diné College by the end of 2024.

- In February 2024, the working group met and proposed a funding level of \$6.4 million/year to address the deficiencies. Diné College agreed to this level and the group was going to finalize the recommendation.
- In April of 2024, a meeting with Congressman Crane's Office agreed to move past the study requirement.
- Diné College has continued to work with BIE and BIA to facilitate the funding for the College.
- After further discussion with BIE and BIA and in conjunction with Congressman Crane, the final funding level was agreed to be \$7.5 million/year for operation and maintenance.

The Diné College Act

Since 1978, Diné College has grown to five campuses and centers in Tsaile, Window Rock, and Tuba City, Arizona; Shiprock and Crownpoint, New Mexico, serving 1,836 students. To continue its mission, Diné College needs an estimated significant capital investment and improvements for the next 5 years.

The Diné College Act (the Act) ensures that the College can serve its Navajo students and Navajo communities. The Act reauthorizes the College to receive all Federal funds and resources to continue as a unique institution that teaches the Navajo language, culture, traditions, and history, and offers higher education and postsecondary vocational education to improve the economic and social conditions of the Navajo People.

The legislation:

- Reauthorizes Diné College to receive all Federal funding resources for its operation, improvement, and growth, and authorizes the appropriation of funds to pay for operation and maintenance.
- Authorizes Diné College to receive \$7.5 million per year for operation and maintenance for the 10 years.
- Requires that the Secretary fund the operation and maintenance for Diné College separately from funds available through the Tribal Colleges and Universities Assistance Act.
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide to Congress within 120 days of enactment a report on the capital projects, facility needs, and deferred maintenance needs of Diné College.

Conclusion

Diné College is an essential anchor institution for the Navajo Nation serving its people and communities. Beyond teaching and preserving Navajo language, culture and traditions, the College provides educational opportunities that enrich lives and serve as a foundation for economic development. To fulfill its mission, Diné College must receive proper funding to address the current facilities and construction problems, and a stable funding mechanism that provides certainty into the future for operation and maintenance. The Diné College Act ensures the College can continue to serve the Navajo Nation and its people.

Timeline of Diné College's Communication with BIA/BIE O&M

1971	Congress enacts the Navajo Community College Act, NCC Act (PL 92-189)
1978	NNC Act enacted and authorizes \$2 million annually for construction funding for the college.
1980	Government Accounting Office (GAO) study concluded Diné College's unique funding authorization for "operation, maintenance and construction" was not adequately reflected in the funding formula the BIA used to fund the college. - GAO study made recommendations to Congress and the administration to review the college's O&M and construction-funding disparity. - Congress required a facilities study to be completed by the Department of the Interior by August 1978.
2008	Congress enacted the Diné College Act (formerly NCC) and again directed that the Department of the Interior to complete the 1978 facilities study by Oct. 31, 2010. It was not completed by this deadline.
February 17, 2014	Congressional Directive to Secretary Jewell to conduct facility site assessment of Dine College campuses and centers.
December 2017	FINAL PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT for Diné College completed December 2017
2018	Meeting with Sharon Pinto, BIA Navajo Area Director, and Joe Tsosie.
April 22, 2021	Started communication with BIA, Judith Wilson, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management. Ms. Wilson and her team are getting their thoughts around the formula together. Want to schedule meeting with Diné College.
April 30, 2021	After two email reminders and one phone call, no response from BIA.
May 10, 2021	Phone Call with Judith Wilson, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management, BIA. Ms. Wilson stated BIA does not have a robust data driven methodology for O&M beyond student enrollment on Form 22. Ms. Wilson stated Diné College should propose "formulations" to discuss and advance this effort.
August 17, 2021	Diné College analyzed three formulations for O&M cost and shared them with BIA/BIE.
December 15, 2021	Virtual meeting with Judith Wilson. Director, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management, BIA. - BIA stated the report is missing. They are not able to locate it. - No feedback on formulas
January 4, 2022	Judith Wilson, Director, Office of Facilities and Program Management at BIA sent Diné College FINAL PHASE II ESA W/APPENDICES completed Dec. 2017. This report is the result of the directive from Congress to Secretary Jewell in Feb. 2014. Report with recommended formulas not provided.
April 20, 2022	Meeting with DOI, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Bryan Newland at the Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs Conference Room, Washington DC
August 21, 2023	Virtual Meeting with Tony Dearman, BIE. BIE stated there no funding for the authorized appropriation and that they still cannot locate the report to recommend formulations for funding.
August 23, 2024	Virtual Meeting with Tony Dearman, BIE. Tony confirmed \$8 million was included in the budget request but was not approved. Judith will follow up with Bill Kehoe for Dine College

Timeline of Diné College's Communication with BIA/BIE O&M

	capital expenditure data shared. Federal Advocates emphasized the need for a comprehensive report to satisfy Congress, including both historic O&M and capital expenditures. The team agreed to continue pushing for budget inclusion and to prepare a detailed report. BIE states there is no funding for the authorized appropriation and that they still cannot locate the report to recommend formulations for funding.
September 16, 2025	Virtual meeting with Tony Dearman, BIE. The College's backlog for operation and maintenance is estimated at \$86M (FY2023 estimation), with a proposed annual funding level of \$7.5M. The main challenge is finding \$7.5 M to offset the act. communication

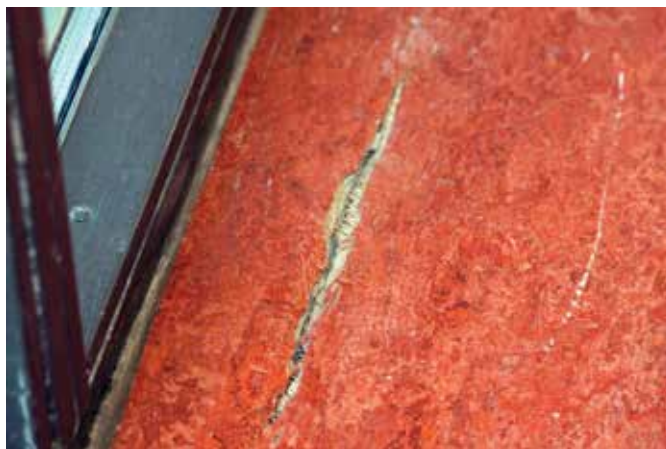
Tuba City, Arizona



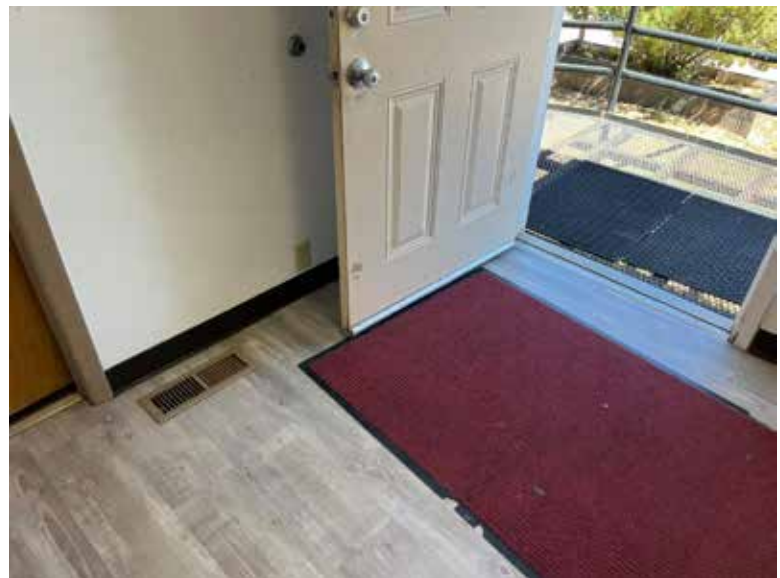
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Shiprock, New Mexico



Window Rock, Arizona



Tsaile, Arizona



Diné College Act of 2024

To fulfill the United States Government's trust responsibility to serve the higher education needs of the Navajo people and to clarify, unify, and modernize prior Diné College legislation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the “Diné College Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. Findings.

Congress finds as follows:

- (1) The Treaty of 1868 between the United States of America and the Navajo Tribe of Indians provides for the education of the citizens of the Navajo Nation.
- (2) The Navajo Nation created and chartered the Navajo Community College by Resolution CN–95–68 as a wholly owned educational entity of the Navajo Nation.
- (3) In 1971, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Act (Public Law 92–189; 25 U.S.C. 640a et seq.).
- (4) The Navajo Nation officially changed the name of the Navajo Community College to the Diné College by Resolution CAP–35–97.
- (5) The purpose of the Diné College is to provide educational opportunities to the Navajo people and others in areas important to the economic and social development of the Navajo Nation.
- (6) The educational philosophy of the Diné College is to apply principles of Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón (Diné Philosophy) to advance quality student learning through training of the mind and heart.
- (7) The United States has a trust and treaty responsibility to the Navajo Nation to provide for the educational opportunities for Navajo people.
- (8) Significant portions of the Diné College's infrastructure are dilapidated and pose a serious health and safety risk to students, employees, and the public.
- (9) This Act is consistent with Executive Order 13592 (76 Fed. Reg. 76603, relating to improving American Indian and Alaska Native educational opportunities and strengthening tribal colleges and universities) and fulfills the United States Government's trust responsibility to serve the educational needs of the Navajo people.

SEC. 3. Purpose.

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the Navajo Nation and Navajo people—

- (1) exercise their right to self-determination, particularly in matters relating to their internal and local affairs;
- (2) maintain and strengthen their distinct institutions of higher education through the teaching of the Navajo language, culture, traditions, and history; and
- (3) improve their economic and social conditions through higher education and postsecondary vocational training.

SEC. 4. Definitions.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Education and Labor, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **COLLEGE.**—The term “College” means the Diné College.

(3) **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.**—The term “operation and maintenance” means all costs and expenses associated with the customary daily operation of the Diné College and necessary maintenance costs.

(4) **INFRASTRUCTURE.**—The term “infrastructure” means the Diné College buildings, water and sewer facilities, roads, foundation, information technology, and telecommunications, including classrooms and external matters such as walkways.

(5) **RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS.**—The term “renovations and repairs” means modernization and improvements to the infrastructure.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5. Authorization of the Diné College.

Congress authorizes the Diné College to receive all Federal funding and resources under this Act and other laws for its operation, improvement, and growth, including—

- (1) to provide programs of higher education for citizens of the Navajo Nation and others;

- (2) to provide vocational and technical education for citizens of the Navajo Nation and others;
- (3) to preserve and protect the Navajo language, philosophy, and culture for citizens of the Navajo Nation and others;
- (4) to provide Navajo communities and people with employment and training opportunities;
- (5) to provide economic development and community outreach for Navajo communities and people; and
- (6) to provide a safe learning, working, and living environment for students, employees, and the public.

SEC. 6. Status of funds.

Funds provided under this Act to the Diné College may be treated as non-Federal, private funds of the College for purposes of any provision of Federal law which requires that non-Federal or private funds of the College be used in a project for a specific purpose.

SEC. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

(a) In General.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Diné College, for each fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to pay for the operation and maintenance of the College as identified by the report to Congress as required and identified in section 9 .

(b) Budget Placement.—The Secretary shall fund the operation and maintenance of the Diné College separately from tribal colleges and universities recognized and funded by the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

SEC. 9. Report; inventory; final formula; administrative expenses.

(a) Report.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, acting through the Regional Director of the Navajo Regional Office shall complete and provide to the Secretary a report, using data compiled in 2017-2018 for the missing facilities study as a baseline, with input and consultation with Diné College, of all capital projects, facility, and deferred maintenance needs of the Diné College as authorized under section 4 of the Navajo Community College Act (25 U.S.C. 640c), as amended by Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–471; 25 U.S.C. 640a note), and contracted for by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office; and

(2) the Secretary shall—provide to the appropriate committees of Congress the report described in paragraph (1) and an addendum to such report that includes recommendations by the Secretary, and any recommendations or views submitted by the College and the Navajo Nation regarding the capital projects and facility needs of the College; and

(A) Inventory.—An inventory prepared by the Diné College identifying repairs, alterations, and renovations to facilities required to meet health and safety standards and other factors shall be submitted to the Secretary. The inventory shall address the facility needs and outstanding capital projects, including any backlog of such needs and projects, from 1978 through the date of such inventory. The Secretary shall use the inventory as baseline data to inform the report required under subsection (a).

(B) Final formula.—A final formula for ongoing operations and maintenance of the Diné College shall be—

(i) determined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, utilizing input from and consultation with the Navajo Nation and the College, the report and addendum provided under subsection (a), and the inventory required under subsection (b); and

(ii) provided to the appropriate committees of Congress, the College, and the Navajo Nation.

(iii) Administrative expenses.—Funds to carry out this section may be drawn from general administrative appropriations to the Secretary.

SEC. 10. Supersession of Navajo Community College Act.

This Act supersedes—

(1) the Navajo Community College Act (Public Law 92–189; 25 U.S.C. 640a et seq.);

(2) the Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–471, 92 Stat. 1325, 1329); and

(3) the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2010 (Public Law 110–315, 122 Stat. 3468).

SEC. 11. Continuing eligibility for other Federal funds.

Except as explicitly provided for in other Federal law, nothing in this Act shall preclude the eligibility of the Diné College to receive Federal funding and resources under any program authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act (title V, part C, of Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note), or any other applicable program for the benefit of institutions of higher education, community colleges, or postsecondary educational institutions.

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Navajo Community College Act to fulfill the Federal Government's trust responsibility to serve the higher education needs of the Navajo people, to clarify, unify, and modernize prior legislation relating to the Diné College, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CRANE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend the Navajo Community College Act to fulfill the Federal Government's trust responsibility to serve the higher education needs of the Navajo people, to clarify, unify, and modernize prior legislation relating to the Diné College, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Diné College Act of
5 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Treaty of 1868 between the United
4 States of America and the Navajo Tribe of Indians
5 provides for the education of the citizens of the Nav-
6 ajo Nation.

7 (2) The Navajo Nation created and chartered
8 the Navajo Community College by Resolution CN-
9 95-68 as a wholly owned educational entity of the
10 Navajo Nation.

11 (3) In 1971, Congress enacted the Navajo Com-
12 munity College Act (Public Law 92-189; 25 U.S.C.
13 640a et seq.).

14 (4) The Navajo Nation officially changed the
15 name of the Navajo Community College to the Diné
16 College by Resolution CAP-35-97.

17 (5) The purpose of the Diné College is to pro-
18 vide educational opportunities to the Navajo people
19 and others in areas important to the economic and
20 social development of the Navajo Nation.

21 (6) The educational philosophy of the Diné Col-
22 lege is to apply principles of Sa'ah Naaghái Bik'eh
23 Hózhóón (Diné Philosophy) to advance quality stu-
24 dent learning through training of the mind and
25 heart.

1 (7) The United States has a trust and treaty
2 responsibility to the Navajo Nation to provide for
3 the educational opportunities for Navajo people.

4 (8) Significant portions of the Diné College's
5 infrastructure are dilapidated and pose a serious
6 health and safety risk to students, employees, and
7 the public.

8 (9) This Act is consistent with Executive Order
9 13592 (76 Fed. Reg. 76603, relating to improving
10 American Indian and Alaska Native educational op-
11 portunities and strengthening tribal colleges and
12 universities) and fulfills the Federal Government's
13 trust responsibility to serve the educational needs of
14 the Navajo people.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that the Federal Govern-
17 ment should continue to support the ability of the Navajo
18 Nation and Navajo people—

19 (1) to exercise their right to self-determination,
20 particularly in matters relating to their internal and
21 local affairs;

22 (2) to maintain and strengthen their distinct in-
23 stitutions of higher education through the teaching
24 of the Navajo language, culture, traditions, and his-
25 tory; and

1 (3) to improve their economic and social condi-
2 tions through higher education and postsecondary
3 vocational training.

4 **SEC. 4. REVISIONS, UPDATES, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS**
5 **TO THE NAVAJO COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACT.**

6 The Navajo Community College Act (Public Law 92–
7 189; 85 Stat. 646) is amended by striking sections 2
8 through 7 and inserting the following:

9 **“SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

10 “The purposes of this Act are—

11 “(1) to assist the Navajo Nation in providing
12 education to the members of the tribe and other
13 qualified applicants through a four-year institution,
14 established by that tribe, known as Diné College;
15 and

16 “(2) to support the efforts of the Diné Col-
17 lege—

18 “(A) to provide programs of higher edu-
19 cation for citizens of the Navajo Nation and
20 others;

21 “(B) to provide vocational and technical
22 education for citizens of the Navajo Nation and
23 others;

1 “(C) to preserve and protect the Navajo
2 language, philosophy, and culture for citizens of
3 the Navajo Nation and others;

4 “(D) to provide Navajo communities and
5 people with employment and training opportuni-
6 ties;

7 “(E) to provide economic development and
8 community outreach for Navajo communities
9 and people; and

10 “(F) to provide a safe learning, working,
11 and living environment for students, employees,
12 and the public.

13 **“SEC. 3. GENERAL AUTHORIZATIONS.**

14 “From amounts made available for each fiscal year
15 under sections 4 and 5, the Diné College may carry out
16 the following activities:

17 “(1) Renovations and repairs to the infrastruc-
18 ture of the College.

19 “(2) Construction activities, including the con-
20 struction of buildings, water and sewer facilities,
21 roads, information technology and telecommuni-
22 cations infrastructure.

23 “(3) Payment of costs associated with—

24 “(A) the maintenance and operation of the
25 College, including—

1 “(i) basic, special, developmental, vo-
2 cational, technical, and special handi-
3 capped education costs;

4 “(ii) annual capital expenditures, in-
5 cluding equipment needs, minor capital im-
6 provements and remodeling projects, phys-
7 ical plant maintenance and operation costs,
8 and exceptions and supplemental need ac-
9 count; and

10 “(iii) summer and special interest pro-
11 grams;

12 “(B) major capital improvements, includ-
13 ing internal capital outlay funds and capital im-
14 provement projects;

15 “(C) mandatory payments, including pay-
16 ments due on bonds, loans, notes, or lease pur-
17 chases;

18 “(D) supplemental student services, includ-
19 ing student housing, food service, and the provi-
20 sion of access to books and services; and

21 “(E) improving and expanding the College,
22 including by providing, for the Navajo people
23 and others in the community of the College—

24 “(i) higher education programs;

25 “(ii) career and technical education;

1 “(iii) activities relating to the preser-
2 vation and protection of the Navajo lan-
3 guage, philosophy, and culture;

4 “(iv) employment and training oppor-
5 tunities; and

6 “(v) economic development and com-
7 munity outreach.

8 **“SEC. 4. DINÉ COLLEGE TRUST ACCOUNT.**

9 “(a) DINÉ COLLEGE TRUST ACCOUNT.—There is es-
10 tablished in the Treasury an account, to be known as the
11 ‘Diné College Trust Account’ (referred to in this sub-
12 section as the ‘Account’), for purposes of carrying out the
13 activities described in section 3.

14 “(b) TRANSFER OF DIRECT SPENDING SAVINGS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The following amounts
16 shall be transferred to the Account from the general
17 fund of the Treasury:

18 “(A) For fiscal year 2025, \$7,500,000.

19 “(B) For fiscal year 2026, \$7,500,000.

20 “(C) For fiscal year 2027, \$7,500,000.

21 “(D) For fiscal year 2028, \$7,500,000.

22 “(E) For fiscal year 2029, \$7,500,000.

23 “(F) For fiscal year 2030, \$7,500,000.

24 “(G) For fiscal year 2031, \$7,500,000.

25 “(H) For fiscal year 2032, \$7,500,000.

1 “(I) For fiscal year 2033, \$7,500,000.

2 “(J) For fiscal year 2034, \$7,500,000.

3 “(2) AMOUNTS DEPOSITED.—Any amounts
4 transferred under paragraph (1) shall remain un-
5 available in the Account until such amounts are ap-
6 propriated pursuant to subsection (c).

7 “(c) APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
9 For each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2034,
10 there is authorized to be appropriated from the Ac-
11 count to the Diné College, for the purpose of car-
12 rying out the activities described in section 3, an
13 amount not to exceed the total amount transferred
14 to the Account under subsection (b)(1), to remain
15 available until expended.

16 “(2) OFFSETTING FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 For any of fiscal years 2025 through 2034, for any
18 discretionary appropriation for the Diné College pro-
19 vided to the College pursuant to the authorization of
20 appropriations under paragraph (1) for the purposes
21 of carrying out the activities described in section 3,
22 the total amount of such appropriations for the ap-
23 plicable fiscal year (not to exceed the total amount
24 remaining in the Account) shall be subtracted from
25 the estimate of discretionary budget authority and

1 the resulting outlays for any estimate under the
2 Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control
3 Act of 1974 or the Balanced Budget and Emergency
4 Deficit Control Act of 1985, and the amount trans-
5 ferred to the Account shall be reduced by the same
6 amount.

7 “(d) BUDGET PLACEMENT.—The Secretary of the
8 Interior shall fund the operation and maintenance of the
9 Diné College separately from tribal colleges and univer-
10 sities recognized and funded by the Tribally Controlled
11 Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of 1978 (25
12 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

13 “(e) DISBURSEMENT.—Funds appropriated to the
14 Account shall be disbursed to the Diné College not later
15 than 30 days after the date of the appropriation.

16 **“SEC. 5. GRANT AUTHORITY.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts made
18 available for the Diné College under section 4, the Sec-
19 retary of the Interior is authorized to make grants to the
20 Diné College, a chartered entity of the Navajo Nation, to
21 assist the College in the construction, maintenance, and
22 operation of the College and carrying out the activities de-
23 scribed in section 3. Such College shall be designed to en-
24 sure that the Navajo people and other qualified applicants

1 have educational opportunities which are suited to their
2 unique needs and interests.

3 “(b) RULES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of
4 the Interior is authorized and directed to establish by rule
5 procedures to ensure that all funds appropriated under
6 this section are properly identified for grants to Dine’ Col-
7 lege and that such funds are not commingled with appro-
8 priations historically expended by the Bureau of Indian
9 Affairs for programs and projects normally provided on
10 the Navajo Reservation for Navajo beneficiaries.

11 **“SEC. 6. REPORT ON CAPITAL PROJECTS, FACILITY NEEDS,**
12 **AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS.**

13 “(a) REPORT.—The Secretary of the Interior, in con-
14 sultation with the head of the Diné College, shall complete
15 a report on the capital projects, facility needs, and de-
16 ferred maintenance needs of the College.

17 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a)—

18 “(1) shall include—

19 “(A) the results of an inventory, prepared
20 by the head of the Diné College, identifying—

21 “(i) any repairs, alterations, and ren-
22 ovations to the facilities of the College re-
23 quired to meet health and safety stand-
24 ards; and

1 “(ii) any other facility needs, mainte-
2 nance needs, and outstanding capital
3 projects of the College, including any back-
4 log of such needs and projects from 1978
5 through the date of such inventory; and

6 “(B) recommendations for addressing the
7 needs and projects identified under paragraph
8 (1), which shall be developed jointly by the Sec-
9 retary and the head of the College; and

10 “(2) may include data and other information
11 previously compiled pursuant to this Act regarding
12 the capital projects, facility needs, and maintenance
13 needs of the College.

14 “(c) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120
15 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the
16 Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate
17 committees of Congress the report required under sub-
18 section (a).

19 “(d) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Funds to carry
20 out this section may be drawn from general administrative
21 appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior.

22 “(e) SPECIAL RULE.—The preparation and submittal
23 of the report under this section shall not be treated as
24 a precondition for the disbursement of funds to the Diné
25 College under section 4 for any fiscal year.

1 **“SEC. 7. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as explicitly provided for
3 in other Federal law, nothing in this Act shall preclude
4 the eligibility of the Diné College to receive Federal fund-
5 ing and resources under any program authorized under
6 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et
7 seq.), the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act
8 (title V, part C, of Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301
9 note), or any other applicable program for the benefit of
10 institutions of higher education, community colleges, or
11 postsecondary educational institutions.

12 “(b) TREATMENT AS NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—Not-
13 withstanding any other provision of law, funds provided
14 under this Act to Diné College may be treated as non-
15 Federal, private funds of the College for purposes of any
16 provision of Federal law which requires that non-Federal
17 or private funds of the College be used in a project or
18 for a specific purpose.

19 **“SEC. 8. INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

21 “(1) TREATMENT OF ACCRUED INTEREST AND
22 INVESTMENT INCOME.—Notwithstanding any provi-
23 sion of law other than paragraph (2) any interest or
24 investment income that accrues on any funds pro-
25 vided under this Act after such funds are paid to
26 Dine’ College and before such funds are expended

1 for the purpose for which such funds were provided
2 under this Act shall be the property of Dine’ College
3 and shall not be taken into account by any officer
4 or employee of the Federal Government in deter-
5 mining whether to provide assistance, or the amount
6 of assistance, to Dine’ College under any provision
7 of Federal law.

8 “(2) DEADLINE FOR EXPENDITURE.—All inter-
9 est or investment income described in paragraph (1)
10 shall be expended by Dine’ College by no later than
11 the close of the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year
12 in which such interest or investment income accrues.

13 “(b) LIMITATION ON INVESTMENTS.—Funds pro-
14 vided under this Act may only be invested by Dine’ College
15 in obligations of the United States or in obligations or se-
16 curities that are guaranteed or insured by the United
17 States.

18 **“SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

19 “In this Act:

20 “(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
21 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
22 gress’ means—

23 “(A) the Committee on Indian Affairs and
24 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
25 and

1 “(B) the Committee on Natural Resources,
2 the Committee on Education and the Work-
3 force, and the Committee on Appropriations of
4 the House of Representatives.

5 “(2) COLLEGE.—The term ‘College’ means the
6 Diné College.

7 “(3) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—The
8 term ‘operation and maintenance’ means all costs
9 and expenses associated with the customary daily
10 operation of the Diné College and necessary mainte-
11 nance costs.

12 “(4) INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘infrastruc-
13 ture’ means the Diné College buildings, water and
14 sewer facilities, roads, foundation, information tech-
15 nology, and telecommunications, including class-
16 rooms and external matters such as walkways.

17 “(5) RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS.—The term
18 ‘renovations and repairs’ means modernization and
19 improvements to infrastructure.”.

20 **SEC. 5. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

21 Section 302 of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and
22 Universities Assistance Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 1832) is
23 amended by striking “section 3 of the Navajo Community
24 College Act” and inserting “the Navajo Community Col-
25 lege Act”.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

RECEIVED

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February 17, 2014 2014 MAR -5 AM 11:10

OFFICE OF THE

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: 1978 CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED FACILITY STUDY FOR DINÉ
COLLEGE**

Secretary Jewell:

I am writing to request your assistance in ensuring that a 35-year-old congressionally mandated Facility Study for Diné College ("Facility Study") is completed as quickly as possible.

In 1971, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Act (Public Law 92-189; hereinafter "NCC Act"). The NCC Act authorized funding for "operation, maintenance and construction." It appears that from 1971 forward, no funding was requested in the federal budget for construction. In 1978, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Assistance Act (P.L. Pub. L. 95-471; hereinafter "NCC Construction Funding Act") to correct this funding gap. The NCC Construction Funding Act authorizes \$2 million annually for construction funding for the college. Further, a 1980 Government Accounting Office (GAO) study concluded Diné College's unique funding authorization for "operation, maintenance and construction" was not adequately reflected in the funding formula the BIA used to fund the college. The GAO study made recommendations to Congress and the administration to review the college's O&M and construction-funding disparity.

As part of the NCC Construction Funding Act, Congress provided for a facilities study to be completed by the Department of the Interior by August 1978. The 1978 facilities study was never completed. Subsequently, funding for college facilities was never budgeted nor appropriated. In 2008, Congress enacted the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act and again directed that the Department of the Interior complete the 1978 facilities study by Oct. 31, 2010. To date, the facilities study has not been completed.

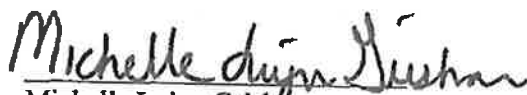
Diné College first brought this issue to our attention in February 2011. Since then, the college has personally briefed Assistant Secretary Washburn, members of his staff, the Bureau of Indian Education staff, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs facility and construction staff. In particular, as follow up to its May 2011 meeting with the college, the BIA Facility and Construction Office requested that the college submit its facility and related data. Since these initial meetings in 2011, the college has undergone several important changes, including closing two campus sites due to sequestration and drafting an academic master plan to better meet the needs of our

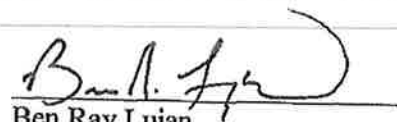
students and the Navajo Nation. On Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, the college submitted the requested facility and related data to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

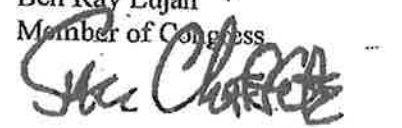
We respectfully request that you follow up on this important issue. The facilities study is 35 years overdue and warrants immediate attention. We request a status report to us on the issue no later than May 30, 2014. Please include in your report an action plan, benchmarks and date of completion of the study. Thank you for personally following up on this issue.

Respectfully,


Ana Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

25 USC 640c - Study of facilities needs

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Sec. 640c. Study of facilities needs

(a)

Contents; report to Congress

The Secretary shall conduct a detailed survey and study of the academic facilities needs of Dine [1] College, and shall report to the Congress not later than October 31, 2010, the results of such survey and study. Such report shall include any recommendations or views submitted by the governing body of such College and by the governing body of the Navajo Nation, and shall include detailed recommendations by the Secretary as to the number, type, and cost of academic facilities which are required, ranking each such required facility by relative need.

(b)

Funding

Funds to carry out the purposes of this section may be drawn from general administrative appropriations to the Secretary made after October 1, 2007.

(c)

Inventory

No later than March 1991, an inventory prepared by Dine College identifying repairs, alterations, and renovations to facilities required to meet health and safety standards shall be submitted to the Secretary and appropriate committees of Congress. Within 60 days following the receipt of such inventory, the Secretary shall review the inventory, evaluating the needs identified, and transmit the written comments of the Department of the Interior to the appropriate committees of Congress, together with the Department's evaluation prepared by the health and safety division of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

[1] So in original. Probably should be "Dine".

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The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** **PRESIDENT**
Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA** **VICE PRESIDENT**

November 14, 2023

Secretary Haaland
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

RE: Diné College Facility Report

Dear Secretary Haaland:

I write today to share a pressing issue concerning Diné College. It has come to my attention that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) has yet to provide the 1978 Congressionally mandated facility report on Diné College to Congress or to Diné College. Diné College is awaiting the report's recommendations, as they are integral to the institution's ability to maintain and improve its educational offerings and infrastructure for its students.

In 2018, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) conducted a comprehensive facilities assessment for Diné College. The report was intended to provide recommendations for the appropriate amount of funding needed to maintain and enhance the college's facilities. Unfortunately, despite completing the assessment, the BIA has yet to provide the full report to the College or Congress.

Diné College has made several requests to obtain a copy of the report since its completion but has been denied each time. BIE has now informed Diné College that it is unable to locate the report. This facilities assessment and its recommendations are crucial for the continued growth and success of Diné College.

I request your help and intervention to have both BIE and BIA supply the long-overdue facilities assessment full report to the Diné College. Having the report will assist Diné College in obtaining the funding it needs to ensure its continued ability to provide quality education to our community.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Buu Nygren, President
THE NAVAJO NATION



The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*
Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

November 14, 2023

Representative Eli Crane
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Diné College Facility Report

Dear Congressman Crane:

I write today to share a pressing issue concerning Diné College. It has come to my attention that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) has yet to provide the 1978 Congressionally Mandated facility report on Diné College to Congress or to Diné College. Diné College is awaiting the report's recommendations, as they are integral to the institution's ability to maintain and improve its educational offerings and infrastructure for its students.

As you may know, the report was not conducted until Congress expressly directed the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to carry out the study in a letter to then Secretary of the Interior Jewel in 2014. The report was intended to provide a comprehensive facilities assessment and recommendations for the appropriate amount of funding needed to maintain and enhance the college's facilities. BIA finally completed the report in 2018. However, despite numerous requests, Diné College has never received a copy or been granted access to the report or its findings. Perhaps more concerning is that Congress has been denied access to the report as well. BIE now claims they are unable to locate the report. The facilities assessment and its recommendations are crucial for the continued growth and success of Diné College.

I respectfully request your help to urge both BIE and BIA to supply the long-overdue Diné College facilities assessment full report to Congress and to Diné College. I appreciate your attention to this matter and your collaboration in achieving a favorable outcome for Diné College and the community it serves.

Sincerely,

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*

THE NAVAJO NATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0302

December 19, 2023

The Honorable Tony Dearman
Director
Bureau of Indian Education
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Director Dearman,

I write to bring to your attention the major failing of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) in its oversight of school safety and construction. Your Department exists to provide tribal communities with educational opportunities as a part of the federal government's treaty responsibilities. Unfortunately, too many Native American children are not receiving access to basic, critical educational infrastructure.

In fact, your Department has long been plagued by problems and has been on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) high-risk status list since 2017. GAO identified BIE as one of several government programs and offices at risk of exhibiting a high degree of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement or the need for transformation to address economy, efficiency, or effectiveness challenges. The schools funded by BIE frequently fail to provide students with an environment that keeps them safe and healthy.

BIE has especially struggled to build and maintain adequate facilities for its BIE-funded schools. A November 2014 GAO report found that, as of the end of the 2012-2013 school year, about one-third of BIE schools were in poor condition; conversely, an estimated 3 percent of public-school buildings nationwide were in poor condition after the same school year. Further, over 25 percent of BIE buildings were over 40 years old with antiquated construction, poor or nonworking heating and ventilation systems, and other safety concerns.

Specifically, your Department has yet to provide the 1978 Congressionally Mandated facility report on Diné College, which is integral to the institution's ability to maintain and improve basic educational offerings and infrastructure for students. Despite numerous requests from the college itself, both Congress and Diné College has yet to receive the report.

In order to assist me in ensuring tribal schools in my district can meet basic human needs, please provide this report to me as soon as possible, no later than January 2, 2024.

Thank you for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eli Crane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eli Crane
Member of Congress



KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 28, 2025

Senator Mark Kelly
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for the Diné College Act

Dear Senator Kelly,

I'm writing to express my support for the Diné College Act, which seeks to secure critical funding to maintain and improve facility and campus improvement projects for Diné College.

Diné College is a cornerstone of the Navajo Nation's efforts to build self-reliance, preserve cultural heritage, and expand economic opportunities for future generations. Despite these significant contributions, Diné College operates under funding constraints that hinder its ability to fully meet the needs of its students, faculty, and communities. I respectfully urge Congress to prioritize the introduction and swift passage of this legislation.

The Diné College Act authorizes an annual appropriation of \$7.5 million specifically for facility and capital improvement projects that would enable Diné College to address pressing needs such as health, safety, and modernization while planning for future growth. Passing the Act ensures the federal government continues to honor its trust responsibility to the Navajo Nation by providing stable funding for Diné College.

Sincerely,

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona



KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 28, 2025

Senator Ruben Gallego
188 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for the Diné College Act

Dear Senator Gallego,

I'm writing to express my support for the Diné College Act, which seeks to secure critical funding to maintain and improve facility and campus improvement projects for Diné College.

Diné College is a cornerstone of the Navajo Nation's efforts to build self-reliance, preserve cultural heritage, and expand economic opportunities for future generations. Despite these significant contributions, Diné College operates under funding constraints that hinder its ability to fully meet the needs of its students, faculty, and communities. I respectfully urge Congress to prioritize the introduction and swift passage of this legislation.

The Diné College Act authorizes an annual appropriation of \$7.5 million specifically for facility and capital improvement projects that would enable Diné College to address pressing needs such as health, safety, and modernization while planning for future growth. Passing the Act ensures the federal government continues to honor its trust responsibility to the Navajo Nation by providing stable funding for Diné College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KH", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona

MYRON TSOSIE
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE H
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 926-3157
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404
mtsosie@azleg.gov

DISTRICT 6



COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC SAFETY & LAW
ENFORCEMENT
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building Suite 516
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kelly,

Subject: Support for the Diné College Act

I write to express my strong support for the Diné College Act, which seeks to secure critical funding for Diné College to address long-standing needs to maintain and improve the College's facilities. For years, insufficient federal funding has left the College with a significant backlog of deferred maintenance and infrastructure challenges.

As a legislator representing District 6, I have seen the transformative impact Diné College has had on the Navajo Nation and surrounding communities. Diné College is not just an educational institution; it is a cornerstone of the Navajo Nation's efforts to build self-reliance, preserve cultural heritage, and expand economic opportunities for future generations. Despite these significant contributions, Diné College operates under funding constraints that hinder its ability to fully meet the needs of its students, faculty, and communities. I respectfully urge Congress to prioritize the introduction and swift passage of this legislation. The Diné College Act authorizes an annual appropriation of \$7.5 million specifically for facilities and capital improvement projects, enabling Diné College to address pressing needs such as health, safety, and modernization while planning for future growth. Passing the Act ensures the federal government honors its trust responsibility to the Navajo Nation by providing stable funding for Diné College.

Diné College is an educational institution and a driver of opportunity, resilience, and growth within the Navajo Nation. The Diné College Act is a vital step toward ensuring the institution's continued success and the prosperity of the communities it serves within the Navajo Nation and beyond. I stand ready to support this effort and work collaborative to advocate for its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myron Tsosie', with a stylized, cursive script.

Myron Tsosie
Arizona State Representative
Legislative District 6

