OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DINÉ COLLEGE

THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OF THE NAVAJO

OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION

Date: November 1, 2026

To: Diné College Students, Faculty, Staff, Board of Regents, and College Community

From: Dr. Deborah J. Dennison, President

Subject: Continuing Flood Response: Online Instruction, Employee Reporting, and Student Support

Yá'át'ééh, Diné College Community,

This communication follows my October 28, 2026, memorandum regarding the flooding emergency, Shiprock campus closure, instructional continuity, and community assistance. As flooding and its impacts continue to affect our communities, including the Chinle valley, Tsaile, Window Rock, Crownpoint, and Tuba City, we must continue supporting educational access while prioritizing the safety, health, and well-being of our students, employees, and families.

The following instructional and employee reporting expectations are effective immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

1. Continued Online Instruction and Academic Flexibility

All classes must continue to be offered online for students who cannot safely attend in person. Faculty are expected to communicate directly with students regarding access to instruction, assignments, deadlines, and any adjustments necessary to support continued learning.

We recognize that some students continue to experience displacement, unsafe roads, power outages, limited internet access, and family responsibilities related to the flooding. Faculty must provide reasonable flexibility and individualized instructional support, including alternative assignments, extended deadlines, and attendance adjustments when appropriate.

Students should communicate with their instructors as soon as they are safely able to do so. No student should feel compelled to travel through unsafe conditions to attend class.

2. Support Staff Reporting and Emergency Leave

Support staff are expected to report to their assigned workplaces, subject to campus access restrictions and specific reporting instructions from their supervisors. Employees must exercise caution, observe road closures, and assess conditions along their travel routes.

Employees who cannot safely reach their workplaces must promptly communicate with their supervisors to explain their circumstances and determine whether emergency leave is appropriate under College policy. Supervisors should coordinate with Human Resources regarding applicable leave provisions, documentation, and approval requirements.

Emergency leave must be reviewed and approved through established procedures. Supervisors are expected to exercise compassion, consistency, and sound judgment while maintaining essential College services.

Employees must not enter restricted campus areas or buildings that have not been cleared for access. These reporting expectations do not, by themselves, authorize the reopening of a closed campus or facility.

3. Continued Student Support

Provost Patrick Blackwater, Vice President of Student Affairs Glennita Haskey, and their respective teams will continue coordinating assistance for affected students.

Students experiencing barriers to instruction or needing support should contact their instructors, the Office of the Provost, or the Office of Student Affairs. Faculty and staff who become aware of students experiencing significant difficulties should refer them to these offices for timely assistance and follow-up.

Academic and student services personnel should continue working together to identify instructional barriers, connect students with available resources, and support continued enrollment and academic progress.

4. Campus Safety and Official Communications

Facilities, security, and designated emergency-response personnel will continue assessing campus conditions and coordinating cleanup and recovery activities.

All members of the College community are asked to:

- Avoid flooded roads, washes, and areas with unsafe access.
- Observe road closures and guidance from emergency authorities.

- Communicate conditions affecting attendance, work, or access to services.
- Monitor official Diné College communications for operational updates.

Institutional decisions regarding campus access, reopening, and changes to College operations must be coordinated through the Office of the President before being communicated to the College community.

5. Community Assistance and College Housing

The guidance in the October 28 memorandum regarding community assistance and College housing remains in effect. Individuals needing emergency assistance should contact their local Chapter House or the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management to confirm current resources and assistance procedures.

Existing College housing policies, eligibility requirements, and approval procedures remain in effect. Emergency circumstances do not automatically establish eligibility for College housing. College personnel may not independently promise, assign, or authorize occupancy outside their delegated authority.

6. Continuing Our Response with Care and Responsibility

Our guiding philosophy of Sa'ąh Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón calls us to think carefully, plan responsibly, act with care, and reflect on our response as we work to restore balance. During this emergency, compassion and accountability must continue to guide our decisions.

Thank you to our faculty and staff for maintaining instruction and essential services, and to those assisting with campus assessments, cleanup, and student support. I also appreciate our students' patience and persistence during these difficult circumstances.

Please remain safe, care for your families, and continue supporting one another. Further direction will be issued through the Office of the President as conditions are assessed.
Ahéhee',