



DINÉ COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



CREATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY: OUR UNIVERSITY'S MISSION

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VISION

Nihí'ólta'gi, Diné Bidziilgo ólta'gi na'nitin a'łaqá ádaat'éii ólta'í bee nanitinígíí dóó t'áa ha'át'íí shíí bee bíká'aná'álwo'ígíí bidziilgo dóó bohónéedzq́ ągo ádiilníít niidzin. Díí binahjǫ́ Diné bí'ólta'gi óhoo'aah ts'ídá bohónéedzánii bee bił haz'ą́ iljǫ́ dooleef .

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

MISSION

Diné bina'nitin t'áa íyisíí á siláago binahjǫ́, ólta'í na'nitin náasjǫ́ yee ínáchwiidooł'át'ígíí yéego bidziilgo ádiilníít, áko Diné nilínígíí t'áa ałtso yá'át'éehgo bee bił nahaz'áa dooleef niidzin.

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

PHILOSOPHY

- Nitsáhákees (Thinking), Nahat'á (Planning), liná (Living) and Sihasin (Assuring)
- Studying Diné language, history, and culture
- Preparing for further studies and employment in a multi-cultural and technological world
- Fostering social responsibility, community service and scholarly research that contribute to the social, economic and cultural well being of the Navajo Nation.



ABOUT DINÉ COLLEGE

Diné College was founded in 1968 and is the first tribal college (TCU) in the country. Diné College is a member of the Higher Learning Commission. Located on the Navajo Nation, Diné College predominately serves Navajo students (92%). The college offers General Education courses that provide students with a high-quality experience while they are earning various certificates or associate, bachelor's or master's degrees. 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 serve New Mexico residents. Our two microsities are in Newcomb, NM and Aneth, Utah. The main campus in Tsaile has student dorms and a cafeteria. The school participates in athletic competitions in rodeo, archery and cross-country. The college is governed by an eight-member Board of Regents.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Diné College is celebrating another outstanding year. With record enrollment, record research funding and unprecedented improvement to our facilities, the Nation's College is poised to achieve even greater advancements for our students, communities and Navajo Nation.

Our Fall enrollment is nearly 18% higher than last year at 1,836 students. Diné College is seeing increases across our campus. With 22 majors we are offering more opportunities for students to choose from and we are not stopping there. We are in the process of creating new master's degrees and new majors. Our philosophy is simple: we must meet the needs of the Navajo people and the Navajo Nation.



Every degree we develop has to be needed and contribute to the continual building of our Nation. One example comes from being a land grant institution, our focus is on sustainable food sources but also how we enhance our ranchers' and farmers' income by using the latest technology.

While we are humbled by our success, Diné College also realizes there is much work to do. Within these pages you will read about some of that work that has started and some that is finished. A degree from Diné College arms students to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. It also bonds all of us together as a Navajo Nation. Diné College is unique because our mission is to integrate our Navajo philosophy of education within every degree.

Thank you for taking the time to review our accomplishments. We look forward to an even greater future.

Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel
Diné College President

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Yá'át'ééh! My name is Ms. Sharon Toadecheenie. My maternal clans are Red house people/Modoc Tribe and paternal clans are Salt people/Bilagaana-Irish. As the 2022-2023 academic year ends, it provides us with a natural opportunity to always reflect on historic and tragic events that reshape the ways we live, work, and learn. Our nation, alone, lost more than 30,000 lives to COVID-19, a harrowing statistic that possibly exceeds the number of Americans killed in the Iraq war, alone. The social and economic disruption caused by COVID-19 is similarly staggering. Many have wondered if this health pandemic would forever deny us a return to normalcy.

It is only through the miracles brought about by science, technology, and innovation that we can reclaim many of life's most treasured gifts. COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of scientific discoveries and the value of translating them into "real world" practical applications. In dramatic fashion, the world has been introduced to how science and its breakthroughs have the potential to solve many of society's seemingly intractable problems.

This has been exactly the right time for Diné College to increase its investment in translational research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Diné College has retooled antiquated IT systems, old policies, DC Charter, and natural gravitation to preserve the status quo. Diné College further committed to not just being one of the Tribal College's cradles of academic, language, and culture programs, discovery, and investment, but also being the best at translating big vision ideas into the solutions the Navajo Nation in all four directions of our communities desperately seeks and needs.

From scientific research for curing or preventing disease to growing our own in more cost-efficient ways to business entrepreneurship, Diné College continues to be a powerful engine for research, innovation, change, and community societal good. Please continue to flip pages for more inquiry of Diné College's 2022-23 annual accomplishments and big goals.

Ahéhéé!
Regent Sharon Toadecheenie
Board Chairperson

BOARD OF REGENTS



Greg Bigman
Vice-Chairperson
Appointed Member



Anderson Hoskie
Treasurer
Appointed member



Theresa Hatathlie
Appointed Member



Jalen Smallcanyon
Ex-Officio Member
ASDC Student Representative



Barsine Onyenedo
Designated Member
Faculty Association President



Amberia Tolino
Designated Member
Staff Association President



BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment

Fall Spring Summer

1549

1604

723

Single Students (AY22-23) - 79%

Largest Age Group (AY22-23) - 25-34 (1100 Students)

Diné College has 98% Native American students for the academic year 2022-2023

Top Enrollment by Agency (AY22-23)

Chinle Western Fort Defiance Shiprock Eastern

1163

698

493

357

53

Off the Reservation 1112

Gateway Success Rate (AY2223)

Math (110, 114) - 74%

English (101) - 58%



Top 5 Feeder High Schools (AY22-23)

Chinle

602

Tuba City

379

Many Farms

281

Pinõn

227

Window Rock

223

In the academic year 2022-2023, 16% of our students are from Chinle High School

Graduates (Fall & Spring)

Degree Conferred

164

Bachelor's Degree Conferred

44

Largest Age Group (25-34)

Top Program (Bachelor) - Bachelor of Science in Public Health (16)

Associate's Degree Conferred (102)

Top Program (Associate) - Associate of Arts in Business Administration (20)

Associate of Science in Health Occupation (20)

Certificate Awarded (18)

Top Program (Certificate) - Medical Assistant (7), Public Health (7)

Degree over 4 years (639)



BY THE
NUMBERS




FUNDRAISING

Diné College is committed to finding alternative sources of funding to create and grow new programs. To this end, our Warrior Campaign continues to grow with participation and gifts. The Diné College fundraising initiative assists the college in creating and securing new programs that reflect the needs of the Navajo Nation and our students.

Diné College is grateful to our friends, alumni and donors who have invested in our vision and mission. In such a fast and changing climate of higher education, the Nation's College is committed to providing new and expanded opportunities. Through your generosity we continue fulfilling our mission to helping to build a greater Navajo Nation.

\$1,595,695
FUNDS RAISED
SO FAR



87
DONORS



3,876
TUITION GRANTS



2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

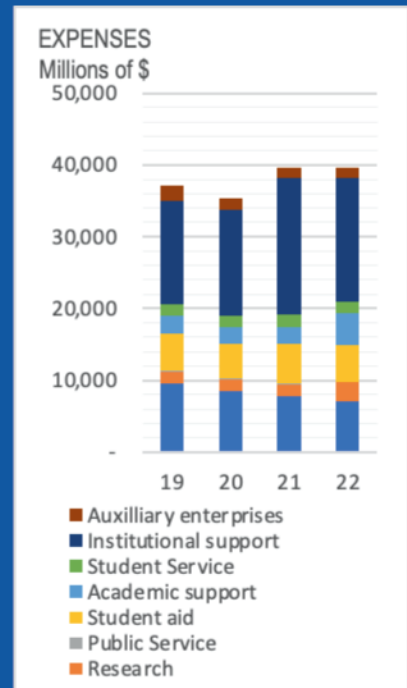
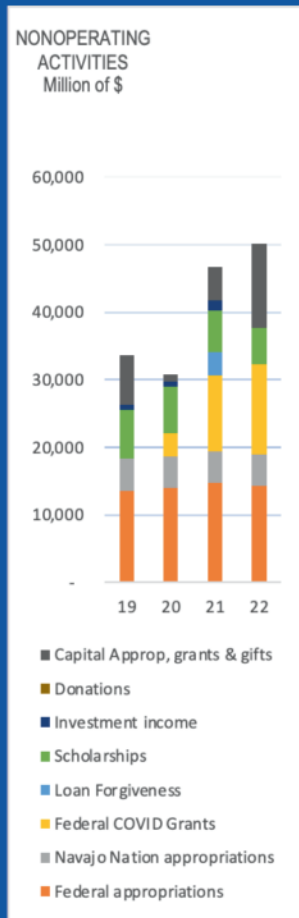
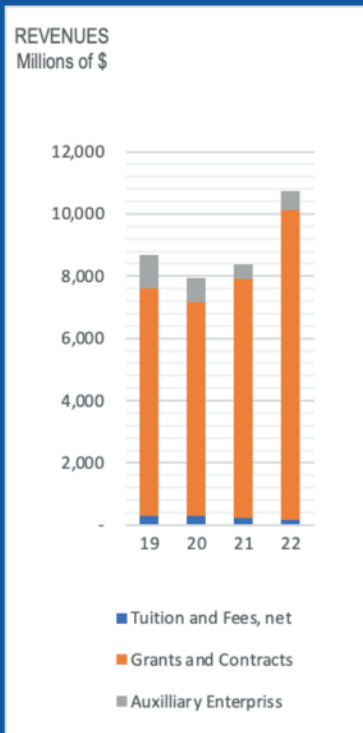


Net operating results were negative \$30.5 million in 2021. Operating revenue fluctuates year to year due to enrollment, which affects tuition, federal student aid, and auxiliary enterprises. Operating expenses increased by 3% resulting from mainly essential mission costs of Research, Academic Support, Student Services and Auxiliary, but other areas such as Instruction, Student Aid, and Institutional Support had a slight decrease. Nonoperating activities resulted in a positive change in net asset of \$19.1 Million. The income increased due to funding from Federal COVID funding and donations, and a \$7.5M increase in Capital Appropriations, Grants & Gifts, despite a \$2.6 Million loss in investment income during COVID period.



REVENUES	2019	2020	2021	2022
Tuition and Fees, net	298	285	232	176
Grants and Contracts	7,299	6,895	7,672	9,971
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,079	769	474	574
Total Revenue	8,676	7,949	8,378	10,721
EXPENSES	2019	2020	2021	2022
Instruction	9,564	8,543	7,757	7,068
Research	1,553	1,643	1,720	2,620
Public Service	2	-	-	-
Student aid	5,128	4,783	5,606	5,238
Academic support	2,518	2,358	2,370	4,399
Student Service	1,649	1,303	2,193	3,132
Institutional support	14,390	14,686	19,037	17,252
Auxiliary enterprises	2,037	1,721	1,375	1,476
Net Operating Results	36,841	35,037	40,058	41,185

NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2019	2020	2021	2022
Federal appropriations	13,581	13,967	14,724	14,287
Navajo Nation appropriations	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Federal COVID Grants	-	3,483	11,304	13,336
Loan Forgiveness	-	-	3,381	-
Scholarships	7,343	6,844	6,187	5,438
Investment income	604	731	1,454	-2,645
Donations				2,097
Net Non-operating Activities	26,228	29,725	41,750	37,213
Capital Approp, grants & gifts	7,416	1,106	4,914	12,388
TOTAL RESULTS	5,479	3,743	14,984	19,137



AUDITED FINANCIALS

2022-2023



The FY 22-23 budget of \$25.5M was approved by the Board of Regents in September of 2023. This is \$1.5M increase from last year.

Diné College received \$65M in federal, state, tribal grants, bringing our overall budget to \$90.5M for FY 22-23.

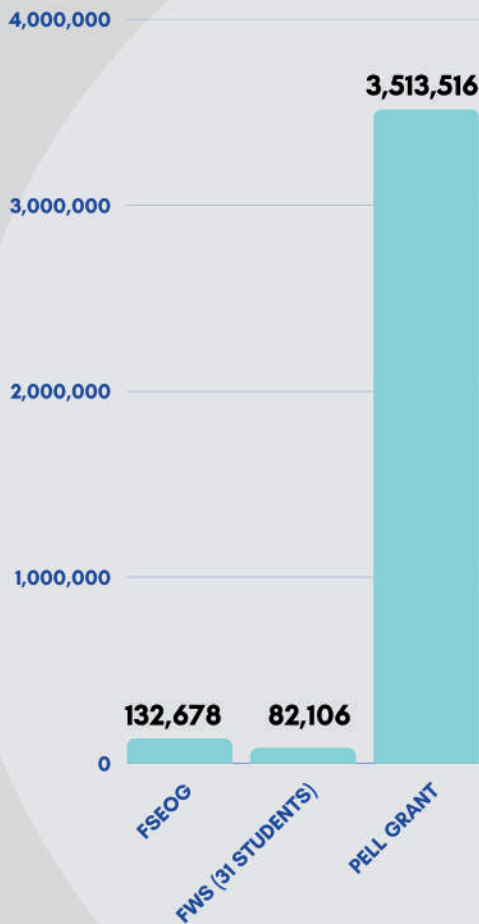
The financial audit was a "Clean Audit" for FY 21-22, with no findings. The single audit had 2 findings. This is a decrease from 6 findings in the previous year.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

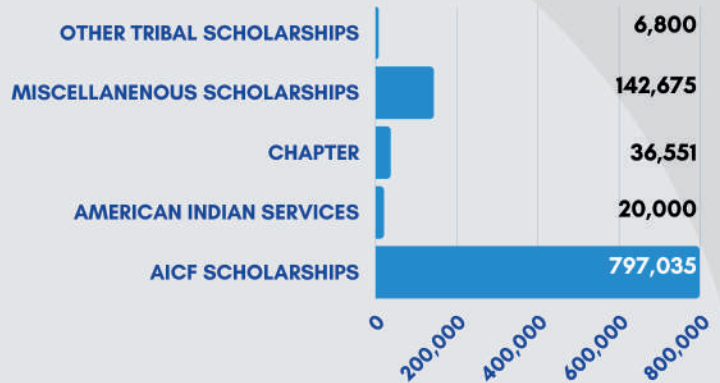


- The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships offers financial assistance to students enrolled in a degree program. Diné College participates in the Title IV programs (Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, and Federal Work Study).
- The chart provides a breakdown of scholarships and grant awards disbursed during the 2022-2023 academic year. It is evident that there are both external and internal sources of funding, with varying scholarship amounts and numbers of recipients. The ONNSFA Full-Time scholarships stand out as the largest in terms of total disbursed funds, while the American Indian Service scholarships have a relatively high average scholarship amount. The chart reflects a commitment to supporting students through a wide range of financial aid opportunities.

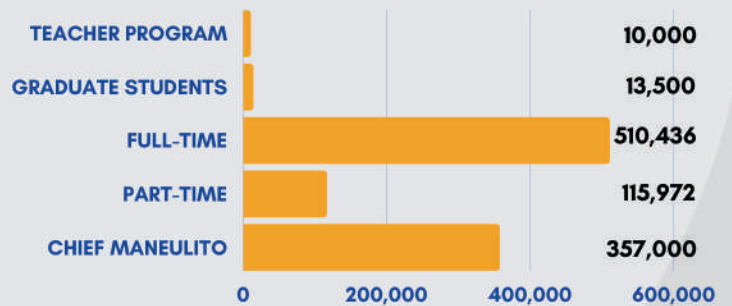
FEDERAL FUNDING



EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS DISBURSED



NAVAJO NATION SCHOLARSHIPS DISBURSED



2022-2023 MILESTONES



September 2022

- Diné College professor Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim is among the GDSCN team behind “*Diversifying the genomic data science research community*” a recently published article in “*Genome Research*” by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CHS) press.
- Diné College’s BFA in Creative Writing Program launched the 2022-2023 academic year with a virtual reading for a newly released anthology, *Nonwhite and Woman: 131 Micro-Essays on Being in the World*.

October 2022

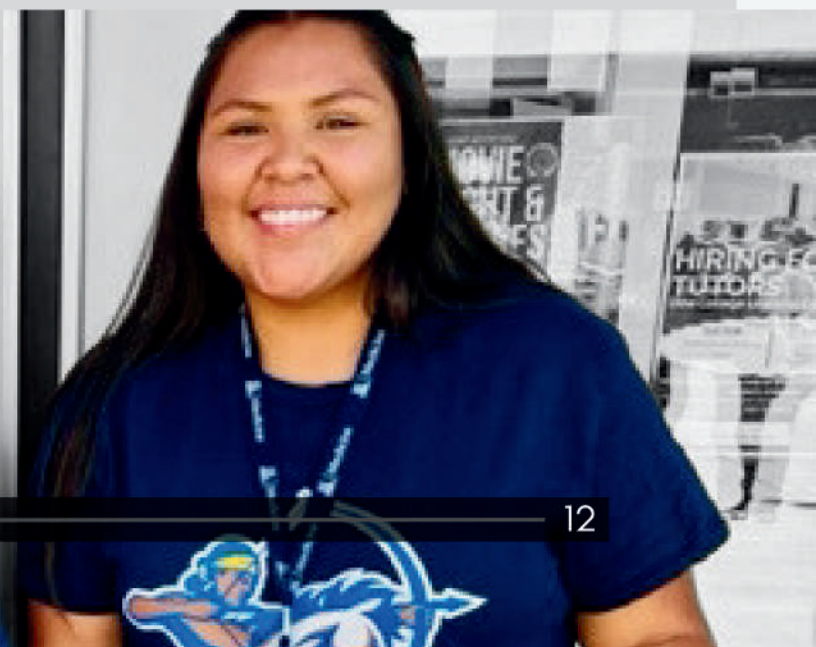
- In Fall 2021, the Office of Institutional Planning and Reporting conducted a campus-wide survey among 1,216 students on financial wellness that identified alarming information about our student population’s struggles on food and housing insecurity. During the 55th Legislature, the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) secured \$1 million to address food security initiatives for college students.

November 2022

- Representative O’Halloran stopped by the Diné College Tuba City Center and met with staff and students discussing the state of their higher education, local issues, and what they want to see from their government representative moving forward.

December 2022

- Fannie Lowe Atcitty, former Diné College Board of Regent who served from 2007 to 2015 and tirelessly advocated for education and issues impacting the Navajo Nation, passed away on Tuesday, November 29, 2022.



February 2023

- After the third week of classes for the spring 2023 semester, Diné College had a record-breaking number of 1,605 students registered. That is 466 more students than last year, an increase of 5%.
- L.A. Williams, Diné College's program manager at KXWR (92.1) radio station was recently inducted into the North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame (NAIAHF).
- Diné College received congressional direct spending from Sen. Mark Kelly's office in the amount of \$1,075,000 for a Transfer Tech Center. The appropriations will allow the College to create a hub of invention and knowledge creation, supporting commercialization, small business, and other economic activity.



2022-2023
MILESTONES



- Dr. Charles Monty Roessel was elected to the board of directors for the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Roessel, president of Diné College, is the only tribal college representative on this international organization that is dedicated to advancing the democratic purposes of higher education by promoting equity, innovation, and excellence in liberal education.

- Colin Denny, a Diné College alumnus, performed “America the Beautiful” in a mix of American Sign Language and North American Indian Sign Language during Super Bowl 57 on Sunday, February 12, 2023. Colin attended Diné College in 2014 to 2016 where he studied fine arts with an emphasis in photography.

March 2023

- One of the pivotal persons in the history of Diné College passed away on March 5, 2023. Jack Chee Jackson Sr., helped to ensure that Navajo history, language and culture were as commonplace in a college classroom

- Diné College students shine at the 2023 American Indian Higher Education Consortium conference with multiple wins. A total of 22 students competed this year from Diné College, 18 of whom attended the AIHEC Student Conference at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Diné College students made a strong impression on the judges and audience, winning several awards in various categories.





April 2023

- The 2023 American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) was held in Albuquerque, NM and in celebration of our Diné College students' achievements, a banquet was held in their honor. The banquet was held on April 5th at the Ned Hatathli Center 4th floor Museum and was attended by over 75 people.
- Diné College hosted its annual golf tournament fundraiser to support scholarships for students, at the Piñon Hills Golf Course, in Farmington, NM. The Diné College 'Golfers for Scholars' Golf Tournament is a fundraiser designed to replenish the Diné College Scholarship Fund, with a percentage of the proceeds going to support the Athletics Department.
- Diné College was mentioned in an Aspen Institute report for the work it is doing to boost the local economy in an area without many industry partners or employment opportunities for graduates. Diné College has been able to use grant opportunities to invest in economic development and sustainable business practices.



**2022-2023
MILESTONES**





May 2023

· Diné College proudly celebrated its 2023 commencement ceremony on Friday, May 12th, to recognize and honor the achievements of its graduating students. The commencement ceremony's keynote speaker was Honorable Governor Katie Hobbs. A total of 119 students received their degrees and certificates, including 76 associate degrees, 41 baccalaureate degrees, 13 certificates, and 2 minors.

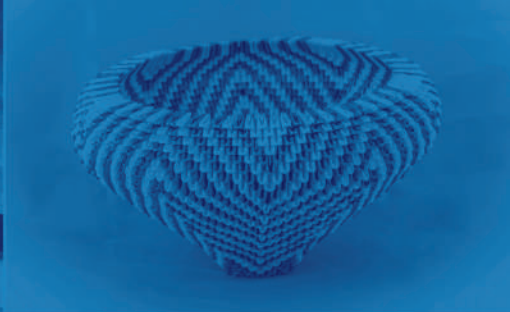
· The Library Journal announced that Rhiannon Sorrell, Assistant Professor and Instruction & Digital Services Librarian from Diné College, was named a winner of the 2023 Movers & Shakers award.

· Diné College held a remarkable Employee Appreciation event. The celebration took place on Thursday, May 18th. The event served as a platform to express gratitude and recognition to the dedicated faculty and staff members who contribute to the college's success.

· Diné College announced the recipients of its first Summer Seed Funding Awards, providing \$5,000 each to advance research projects across the institution. The awards come as part of Diné College's ongoing efforts to build research capacity and support research activity among faculty. The recipients of the Summer Seed Funding Awards are Dr. Shazia Hakim, School of STEM, Dr. Miranda Haskie, School of Business and Social Science (SBSS), Shaina Nez, School of Arts and Humanities, and Dr. Suzanne Russ, SBSS.



2022-2023 MILESTONES



June 2023

• Diné College held a “Native American Art Market” featuring approximately 43 pre-selected artists and musicians from the Navajo Nation and the wider Four Corners region.

July 2023

• Diné College collaborated with the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) to release a limited-edition series of commemorative license plates. This groundbreaking partnership aims to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Navajo people while promoting education and supporting the college’s mission. The license plates will not only raise awareness about the college but also provide financial support for scholarships and academic programs at Diné College.

August 2023

• Diné College hosted its Onsite Registration Event for the Fall 2023 Semester. This event aims to streamline the registration process and offer students a convenient opportunity to enroll in courses, seek academic advising, and resolve any queries regarding financial aid and other student services.



2022-2023 MILESTONES

ACADEMICS

DINÉ COLLEGE CELEBRATES IMPRESSIVE INCREASE IN FALL 2023 SEMESTER ENROLLMENT



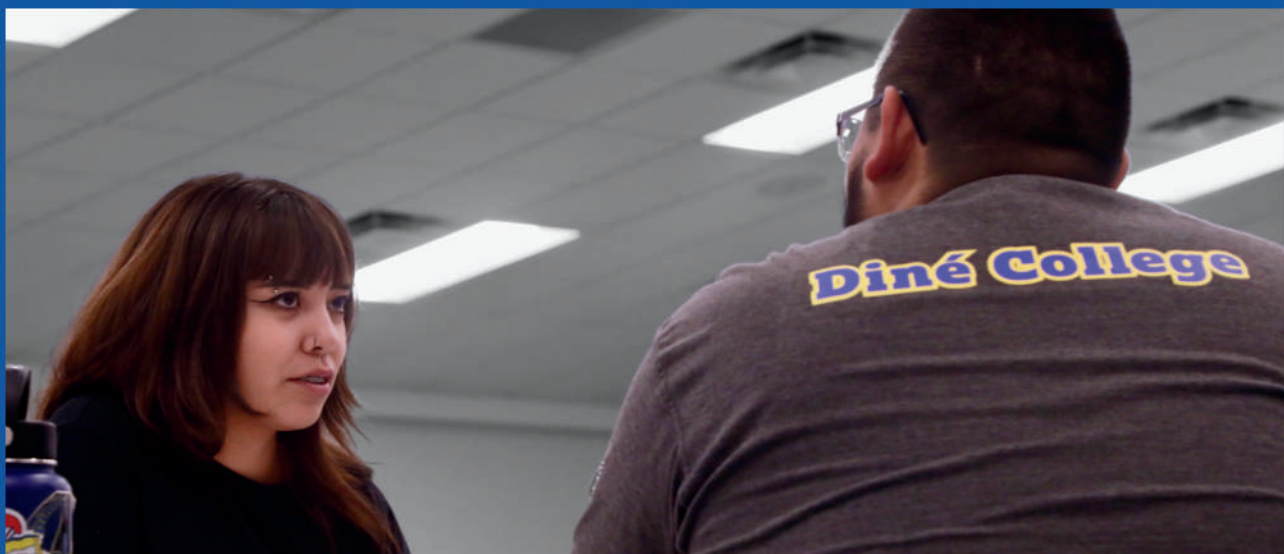
Diné College has already reached one of its annual goals and it is just the start of the semester. The Nation's college is excited to announce a significant increase in enrollment for the upcoming Fall 2023 semester.

With an 18% increase over last fall, Diné College is experiencing a remarkable influx of students eager to engage in its diverse educational programs and cultural experiences. This surge in enrollment speaks to the college's reputation for academic excellence and its commitment to creating an inclusive learning environment that celebrates cultural heritage.

"We are delighted to witness such a remarkable increase in enrollment for the Fall 2023 semester," said Dr. Charles M. Roessel, President of Diné College. "This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our faculty and staff, the relevance of our programs, and the welcoming atmosphere our campus." Diné College's wide range of academic programs, combined with its unique integration of Native American perspectives,

has attracted a diverse cohort of students from across the nation. The college's holistic approach to education equips students with both the knowledge and the cultural understanding needed to navigate today's interconnected world successfully. "This is an exciting time to be a student at Diné College," said Alysa Landry, interim provost. "With the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, we are gearing up for faculty and students to return to in-person courses on our campuses, along with expanding certificate and degree programs that promise to prepare students for meaningful careers."

As Diné College continues to grow, it remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering academic success, personal growth, and community engagement. The upcoming Fall semester is poised to be an exciting chapter in the college's journey, with an increased enrollment that reflects the trust students and their families place in the institution.



SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES



DEAN'S MESSAGE

This year has been a time of transition and planning—transition from the effects of the pandemic, and planning in its aftermath for a renewed vision of the School of Arts and Humanities. I believe that for the School, this transitional moment could be as significant as the founding of Diné College 55 years ago. Following the pandemic, we are seeking a renewed purpose and a re-founding and re-visioning of our academic offerings.

At the School of Arts and Humanities, we try to foster a spirit of curiosity and imagination. Through the courses we offer, we open our students to a process of learning and personal growth grounded in living in the world with an expanded understanding of its variety and richness, while remaining grounded in the uniqueness of a Diné culture and place—a pedagogy unique to Diné College.

Karla Britton, PhD
Dean, School of Arts & Humanities
Professor of Art History



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

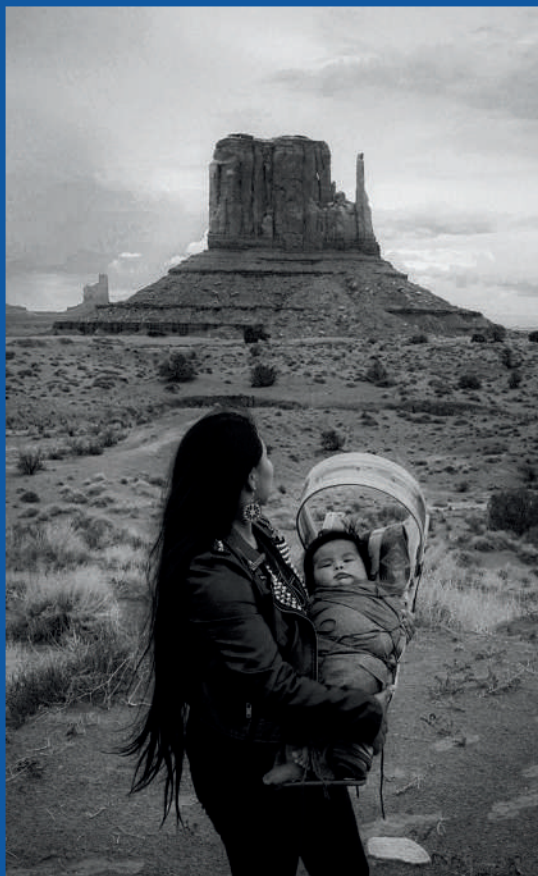
The opening of the exhibition *Dii Noohokah Din'é' Na'ach'aa' Our Diné Art*, ran from September 2022 through January 27, 2023, in the Ned Hatathli Museum in Tsaile, AZ. Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, "Our Diné Art" included over 21 contributing artists representing a broad range of talents and backgrounds. Poised at various stages in their artistic careers, some contributors are already prominent figures of historic importance in the on-going development of Native American art. Others are Diné College students still early in their creative formation. And still others are mid-career artists forging new directions while continuing to merge their work with traditional art forms. Given this diversity of artistic experience, the exhibition examined the breadth and depth of Diné creative output in the current moment. The goal was not only to cultivate an awareness of trends in Diné art within Native circles, but also to raise awareness in the international consciousness of the critical explorations on issues of identity and place made by Diné artists today.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

The American Indian College Fund's Honoring Those Who Hold Us: An Elder Story Series featured the work of 10 Diné College Creative Writing students.

Diné College at SWAIA art market (August 18-21). Students Carlon Ami; Myron Denetclaw; and Bryan Roessel had booths at this major market with over 100,000 people in attendance. Carlon won second place in Best of Show for jewelry.

Tribal College Journal showcases art from our Diné College students: the latest fall 2023 issue has a two-page spread of the painting by Dawn Smith. This follows on the cover for the summer 2023 issue with cover photo by Candace Harrison.



Troy Tso (Diné College, BFA graphic arts 2020) won the Many Nations for the American Indian College Fund and Pendelton Woolen Mills new blanket award for 2024. This is the second year in a row that a student from Diné College has been chosen for this high-profile award from over 100 entries nationwide. Last year, Diné College student Dustin Lopez's design was chosen. Dustin is a student at Diné College pursuing a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in graphic design.

INAUGURAL DINÉ COLLEGE NATIVE AMERICAN ART MARKET



From June 9-11, 2023, Diné College held a “Native American Art Market” featuring approximately 43 pre-selected artists and musicians from the Navajo Nation and the wider Four Corners region. The market was held in the center of the Diné College campus in Tsaile, Arizona, and included Native artists from a wide variety of genres, including silverwork, basketry, textiles, moccasin-making, painting, pottery, woodwork, and sculpture. The market underscored Diné College’s commitment to Native art and the College as a focal point for generations of Navajo artists in the region. The market is intended to become an annual event at the College and is open to artists from all tribes.

Many of the pre-selected artists frequently participate in the annual Southwest Association for Indian Arts Market in Santa Fe and the Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market in Phoenix. In contrast to these large markets, the Diné College event offered visitors and artists of all ages the opportunity to return “home;” and to sell and purchase art in a serene educational setting. Diné College with its dramatic landscape, focused vision, and committed people represents an inspirational center for many Native artists.

Prior to the two-day market, a juried competition of the art was held at the Ned Hatathli Museum at Diné College. The jurors represented local artists, college professors, and collectors. Hand-made sash ribbons with silver Diné College pendants were distributed to the winners at a public reception on Friday evening June 9. Aaron Begay and Delia Wanueka, alumni from the Navajo Cultural Arts Program at the College, made the one-of-a-kind award ribbons. The market and monetary awards were made possible through the Navajo Cultural Arts Program at Diné College; the College President’s Office; and an anonymous donor. The Diné College Native American Art Market was organized by Crystal Littleben, Program Manager of the Navajo Cultural Arts Program, and Nonabah Sam, adjunct faculty at the School of Arts & Humanities and museum curator at Diné College.

Best of Show: Tim Washburn Sculpture "Holding onto Tradition Looking Forward"

Best of Show winner Tim Washburn (Diné), from Kirtland, New Mexico, is a sculptor known for his life-like depictions in stone and bronze of traditional Navajo warriors, mothers, children, and grandparents. Washburn was awarded the prize for his sculpture titled "Looking Forward and Holding to Our Traditions" depicting a Navajo grandmother in traditional dress and her young granddaughter who carries a rag doll in one hand and a cell phone in the other. As Washburn summarized his experience of the Diné College Native American Art Market: "The first time for this market has been a huge success ... We have the most talented artists in this area. This is Navajo country. The show can only move forward."

Other first prize winners were Jennifer Curtis (Jewelry and Lapidary); Myron Denetclaw (2-Dimensional Art); Penny Singer (Weaving and Textiles); Darius M. Charley (Diverse Art Forms); Leander Goldtooth (Basketry). Honorable mentions went to the following artists: Cheyenne Grabiec (Jewelry and Lapidary); Bob Lansing (Pottery); Antoinette A. Thompson (2-Dimensional Art); Duwayne Chee, Sr. (Sculpture); Deborah Teller-Tsosie (Weaving and Textiles); Rain Scott (Diverse Art Forms); and Leander Goldtooth (basketry).



**INAUGURAL DINÉ COLLEGE
NATIVE AMERICAN ART
MARKET**



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCE

As interim dean of the School of Business and Social Science (SBSS), I am very honored to work at an institution with a rich tradition and history of providing practical, experience-based education to our students since its origin. Our undergraduate and future graduate business program will prepare our students to become thinkers and leaders within an ever-developing Navajo Nation.

The SBSS plays a fundamental role in Diné College's continuing path to quality growth and teaching excellence. The SBSS offers students the opportunity to discovery and gain knowledge in Psychology, Business, Social Work, Native American Studies and the Social Sciences. Our faculty are dedicated to their professions and to teaching our students

to be engaged learners. As faculty begin to expand their research boundaries of knowledge and exploration, these teachings prepare our students for lifelong learning and for their chosen professions. The SBSS faculty and DC staff are aware that students are returning to campus and that bring new growth. We are in a time to welcoming new students/employees, reconnecting with our continuing students/employees and to welcoming new learning environments in the pursuit of knowledge.

Thank you for being a part of the Diné College family and for helping contribute to the unique legacy we will be building in the next 50 years. Here's to our future and a pledge to excellence for our students and the Navajo Nation.

Patrick Blackwater, Interim Dean



Dr. Miranda Haskie, Professor in the School of Business and Social Science, was an inaugural recipient of the Diné College Summer SEED Grant funding award in the summer of 2023. She researched Diné College's educational philosophy, Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón. (SNBH) Her research proposal supported the 2022-2027 Diné College Strategic Design Goals and Initiatives, "Road Map for the Future." In her research, she sought to meet the strategic goals of Quality Growth for Navajo People in language, culture and research pursuing the Holistic Integration through a Community of Practice and a Mentoring Network, while integrating K'é.



Her research about SNBH resulted in a greater discussion placing SNBH in connection to the sacred mountains of the Diné, the story of Diné College's development of the educational philosophy and pedagogical applications by Diné College faculty. Dr. Haskie presented her research to faculty, students, and staff at the fall 2023 convocation. Her research is under review awaiting publication.



Dr. Suzanne Russ was awarded one of several SEED grants in Summer 2023. The SEED grant provided her with a dual opportunity to re-ignite her own research into the state of surrender as a predictor of response to treatment for alcohol abuse, and to launch a Substance Abuse licensure program at Diné College. This work holds promise for benefitting substance abuse treatment processes by making help available when a person is most receptive to change, and potentially allowing a provider to facilitate optimal states of readiness before or during the treatment process. Currently, the manuscript is under review by its coauthor.

The second part of the grant meets the interests of our students and needs of our community that both align with an interest in training and licensure for substance abuse. The psychology program has been working toward completing the necessary paperwork to establish credentials as an Arizona licensing program. The grant funding offers the potential to make it a sustainable program by funding a dedicated faculty lead position by virtue of support for terminal degree position while launching the program.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

SCHOOL OF DINÉ STUDIES & EDUCATION



As we reflect on the past academic year, it is with great pride that I share some of the remarkable accomplishments within the School of Diné Studies and Education (SDSE). This year has been marked by significant achievements and meaningful collaborations that further our mission to preserve and promote Diné culture, language, and education. In our dedication to academic excellence, we welcomed two new full-time faculty members to the SDSE family. Their expertise and passion for Diné Studies will undoubtedly enrich our programs and the learning experiences of our students. It brings me great joy to announce the rekindling of our ceremonial traditions within our schools. SDSE has successfully conducted two significant smoking and prayer ceremonies. These ceremonies remind us of the spiritual connection that underpins our educational mission.

Rex Lee Jim, Dean



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The SDSE Program has been committed to forward-thinking initiatives that aimed at enhancing educational opportunities and preserving Navajo culture. One noteworthy endeavor was the successful Native American Language Institute for Teachers of Language 2023. The Two-day institute saw 289 participants from across the Navajo Nation.



One of the school's outstanding accomplishments was the resounding success of the Navajo Language Immersion Camp. Building on this achievement, SDSE is excited to announce that plans are under way for the expansion of the camp summer of 2024. This will allow the school to reach more eager learners. Additionally, the school's collaboration with Goshen College brought 16 students to our community for home stays, language and culture classes, and community projects. This cultural exchange program has strengthened ties between our institutions and broadened cultural horizons.



Another remarkable initiative is the revival of Diné'ehjí Nahaghá Bínáhoó'aah, a collaborative effort with the School of Transformation. This initiative aims to contribute to the preservation and revitalization of the Navajo language, aligning with the creation of a Navajo Language Commission to be housed at Diné College. The Commission's mission is to enrich the Navajo language by incorporating new terminology and developing a comprehensive language policy and program for the Navajo Nation. To achieve these goals, the School is actively reviewing and realigning Navajo language courses, offering resources like the Navajo Language Tutoring Program and an Online Navajo Language program, and seeking to appoint a Navajo Language Director.



**SCHOOL OF DINÉ
STUDIES & EDUCATION**

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATHEMATICS



One of the key highlights of this year was our commitment to fostering diversity of using TEK and inclusivity within the S.T.E.M. fields. We made significant strides in creating a more equitable environment, launching initiatives to support underrepresented groups in S.T.E.M., and promoting a culture of collaboration and respect. These efforts have not only enriched our academic community but have also positioned us as leaders in promoting diversity in science and technology. As we move forward, I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to propel us toward even greater heights of excellence, innovation, and impact. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work, and I look forward to another year of transformative achievements in S.T.E.M. education and research.



James M. Tutt, Dean

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Two Diné College students have left their mark on the scientific community this summer by participating in both the Summer Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Wildfire Camp and the Summer 2023 LANL Workshop. Not only did they gain invaluable experience, but they also each earned \$1000 for their outstanding contributions. Their journey began at the LANL Wildfire Camp, where they delved into the complex world of wildfire simulations. The camp, organized by LANL, provided them with a platform to explore cutting-edge techniques in wildfire modeling and management. Both students not only grasped the intricacies of the subject but also excelled in their presentations, earning them well-deserved recognition. Their remarkable abilities were further highlighted at the Summer 2023 LANL Workshop, where they shared their insights and research findings with peers and experts in the field.

DINÉ COLLEGE MAKES ACADEMIC HISTORY WITH ITS FIRST MASTER'S DEGREE IN BIOLOGY



In the heart of the Navajo Nation, Diné College has embarked on an educational journey that is nothing short of historic. The institution renowned for its commitment to Indigenous education is reaching new heights by offering its first-ever master's degree program, a Master of Science in Biology. Diné College is poised to make history once again as it prepares to graduate its inaugural cohort of students from its groundbreaking master's degree program in Biology in December 2024. The journey to this milestone has been an extraordinary one, marked by resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to Indigenous education.

Over the decades, Diné College has continually expanded its academic offerings, and in a significant stride towards furthering educational opportunities, the college announced its master's degree program in Biology in 2022. The master's program at Diné College was conceived as a response to the growing need for advanced training in the biological sciences and research within Indigenous communities. As stewards of their ancestral lands, the Navajo Nation recognized the importance of equipping their own with the tools and knowledge necessary to address complex environmental and health challenges.

The program's visionary faculty and staff designed a curriculum that combines rigorous academic training with a deep respect for Indigenous perspectives on biological sciences. This unique approach empowers students to bridge the gap between traditional wisdom and cutting-edge scientific research.



The first cohort of students who embarked on this journey in 2021 faced unique challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. However, their resilience and determination have been nothing short of inspirational. These pioneering scholars have embraced their role as torchbearers of Indigenous excellence in the field of biology

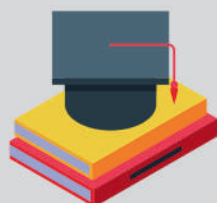


As one of the students, Maya L. Begay, reflects, "This program has allowed me to pursue my academic excellence. It's a rewarding opportunity for me as it is the steppingstone towards my educational and career goals. It's an honor to be part of this historic moment for Diné College and I'm excited to be able to utilize my knowledge in the future."

The impact of Diné College's Master's Degree program in Biology extends far beyond its walls. Graduates of this program are equipped to address critical issues such as water scarcity, climate change, biodiversity conservation, antimicrobial resistance, emerging infections and healthcare disparities in Indigenous communities. They are poised to become leaders in research, education, and advocacy, not just within the Navajo Nation but also on a global scale.

Dean of STEM, James M. Tutt, expresses his pride in the program's success, saying, "Diné College has always been a place of hope and transformation. Our master's degree program in Biology is a testament to the incredible potential within Indigenous communities. We are excited to see the impact our graduates' students will make in the world."

Diné College's journey to offer a master's degree program in Biology reveals the resilience, vision, and commitment of the Navajo Nation to empower its own people through education. As the first cohort progressing to graduate next year, they are not only celebrating their individual accomplishments but also the bright future they represent for Indigenous education, Indigenous communities, and the field of biology as a whole. This historic moment is a reminder that when education and culture intersect, the possibilities are limitless.



FIRST MASTER'S DEGREE IN BIOLOGY

SCHOOL OF TRANSFORMATION

SOLAR TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION COURSE

This education program was developed with Purpose Focused Alternative Learning Corporation. Purpose Focused instructors are certified by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP). Purpose Focused technicians are licensed by Solar Energy International (SEI) to teach the Photovoltaic courses. With this collaboration between Diné College and PFAL, CEO JoAnn Armenta, the new School of Transformation was able to present the first course offering, the Solar Technician Certification at the Tuba City Campus. With this pilot project, the School of Transformation (SoT) hopes to begin expanding to other Diné College campuses.



GRANT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

In collaboration with the Diné College President Dr. Roessel, and at the request of the Navajo Nation President Nygren; the SoT and the college Research Program's Dr. Christelle, a training outline was developed. The SoT is happy to report that its first cohort of tribal employees has enrolled and is currently going through the training modules. Completion date is scheduled for October 19, 2023.

As the Dean of the School of Transformation, it is my hope that the continuing development of SoT will address a portion of the needs of the overall development of the workforce on the Navajo Nation.



Timothy Nelson, MBA
Dean

DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM



The Dual Credit Program started a new partnership with Window Rock High School, where the students are taking College Algebra, Intro to Business, and English Composition I. We look forward to being part of their educational journey by providing Dual Credit opportunities and college courses to the students.

GRANT OPPORUNITIES

The Dual Credit Program is part of the American Indian College Fund (AICF) grant, “Cultivating Native Student Success, Supporting the Native Student Journey.” The goal is to provide opportunity to examine their current approaches and design long term strategies that include holistic, place-based, and collaborative student supports to promote transformative and systemic change that impacts Native student success. This grant will help the Dual Credit Program by supporting the department goals, increasing enrollment, establishing MOUs with high schools, provide student support and develop pathways for high school students.

The Dual Credit Program is working with Dr. Shazia Tabassum Hakim from the School of Stem in a new grant called “Convoy: A Cultural approach of Navajo Youth to Bio-medical Sciences”. The goal is to motivate and prepare the Navajo high school students to study and pursue careers in Biomedical Sciences and related fields. The program will engage 12 high school students (mentees), 8 junior high school students (mentees), and 4 Diné College students (Mentor Avatars) for 10 weeks full-time in the summer and 10-weeks in the following fall every year starting 2024 without disturbing their routine classes.





INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH & INNOVATION INITIATIVES

Na'al Kaah Bee Honi'ti' - Research, Innovation, and Practice, is proactively elevating its presence on the national front, advocating for broader engagement of Tribal Colleges within the U.S. research ecosystem. Vice Provost for Research, Andrea Christelle, serves as co-chair for a pivotal study under the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. This study is charting a course to increase Department of Defense funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and other Minority Serving Institutions. Several federal agencies are likely to take up recommendations from this committee, which will visit Diné College's Tsaile and Shiprock campuses in late October of 2023.



Additionally, the National Science Foundation (NSF) invited Christelle to an Accelerating Research Translation (ART) workshop focused on providing pathways from scientific innovations into tangible business and economic prospects. Diné College is also an active participant in an NSF GRANTED initiative aimed at leveraging research analytics for Emerging Research Institutions (ERIs). Christelle also presented at the National Council of University Research Administrations (NCURA) national and regional conferences, drawing attention to research at tribal colleges and making a case for more favorable award terms and conditions that are responsive to the unique needs and priorities on Navajo Nation.

These are just a few examples of how Na'al Kaah Bee Honi'ti' is strategically aligning with federal agencies, professional bodies, and non-profit organizations to increase research administration capacity, secure extramural funding that benefits faculty and student research, enhance our college's infrastructure, and drive economic growth across the Navajo Nation.



- Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management: \$6 Million over 5 years to support Shiprock Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment and other projects. PI Leon Jackson, Capital Projects
- Biomedical Techniques Training: \$1,346,970 over 5 years. Supports 4 Diné College students, 12 high school students, and 8 junior high students. PIs: Shazia Hakim (STEM), with collaborators Babtunde Ojo (STEM), Benita Litson (Land Grant Office), and Francetta Begaye (Dual Credit)
- Economic Development Administration: Wool Mill feasibility study: \$384,000. Technology Transfer Center feasibility study: \$350,000. PIs: Leon Jackson and Benita Litson

- University Transportation Centers Partnership: \$200,000. Diné College is part of two University Transportation Centers. Research topics include AI analysis of EV charging and accident prevention. PIs: Dr. Andrea Christelle (Na'al Kaah Bee Honit'i'), Dr. Christopher Dickerson (STEM).
- Tribal Colleges Extension Delivery Program: \$246,000. PI: Benita Litson
- Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grant: \$157,152. PI: Benita Litson
- Aspen Institute: \$75,000 from Black and Native Family Futures Fund. PI: Glennita Haskey (Student Affairs)

- Senator Mark Kelly's Office Earmark: \$1,000,075 for Technology Transfer. Includes a \$750,000 renovation in the library for a maker space. PIs Leon Jackson and Rajneesh Verma (STEM)
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture: \$950,000 grant. PI: Benita Litson
- American Indian College Fund: \$315,000 for a student success initiative. PI: Nolan Begaye (Student Affairs)

- Luce Foundation: \$25,000 in support of the Diné College Press. PI: Dr. Michael Lerma (Diné Policy Institute)
- The Mellon Foundation: \$750,000 over 3 years for the Nidahwiil'aah Fellows program. PI: Karla Britton (Arts and Humanities)
- National Endowment for the Humanities: \$150,000 to explore Sacred Dinétah. PI: Dean Karla Britton
- National Endowment for the Arts Promoting Contemporary Navajo Art & Artists \$98,900 for three years).



RESEARCH

FACILITIES



The State Of New Mexico Capital Outlay Department, through legislative efforts, issued an appropriation agreement with Diné College on August 1, 2019. The grant from the State of New Mexico was for the construction of the new Math and Science building in Shiprock. Referred to as the STEM building, construction began after July 1, 2021. The building has state-of-the-art components to accommodate Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math and testing facilities - four classrooms, four labs, and one testing room. The building also includes numerous offices and meeting rooms for faculty and student use. Initially funded by the State of New Mexico, for the amount of \$5 million, the grant was approved by the Capital Outlay Committee.

Since the inception of the award and the construction of the new facility, skyrocketing building and inflationary costs increased the cost of new construction to over eight million dollars (\$8,765,538.00). Both the State of New Mexico Capital Outlay Committee and Diné College contributed to cover the additional cost of construction. On May 16, 2023, a substantial completion certificate was issued to Arviso construction for the new Math and Science building. The building was completed but it has not been utilized since the cost for construction did not include Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E). A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been advertised in search of a vendor/company that will provide the necessary expertise and cost with the FF&E. The estimated cost is more than \$500,000. The college has secured a grant that will cover the costs associated with the FF&E.



Marketing and Communications: Jazzmine Martinez (Interim Marketing & Communications Officer), Aanor Louis (Graphic Designer & Photographer), Dillon Nopah (Videographer). Thank you to all the departments and programs that provided information and edits. Cover: Virgie L. Scott (Student).

Accreditation: Higher Learning Commission

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