

Diné Education

Vol. 3 NO.1 October-December 2006

Published by Department of Diné Education



Quarterly

Special points of interest:

- * Elected Navajo Nation Board of Education Members
- * National JOM Conference
- * 2006/2007
Calendar of Events
Office of Diné Math & Science

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Phillip Bluehouse
Rebecca Benally
Vee F. Browne-Webster
Marjorie T. Dodge
Juanita K. Benally
Newly Elected Members
To be sworn in January 2007
Jimmy C. Begay
Katherine D. Arviso
Dolly Manson
Virgil Kirk, Jr.
Dolly C. Begay

DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION

Dr. Tommy Lewis
Superintendent
Dr. Frances Becenti
Office of Early Childhood
Darrell Watchman
Office of Johnson O'Malley
Evelina Woody
Educational Research and Statistics
Eddie Tso
Diné Language and Culture
Dr. Kalvin White
Diné Science, Math, and Technology
Marilyn King-Johnson
Office of Youth
Irving Nelson
Navajo Nation Library
Delores McKerry
North Central Association
Lorena Z. Bahe
Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Assistance
Rose Graham
Scholarship and Financial Assistance
Treva Roanhorse
Special Education Rehabilitation Services



The Navajo Nation

Department of Diné Education Presents at 37th National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention.

Window Rock, Arizona

Navajo Nation Board of Education members and Department of Diné Education officials presented at the 37TH National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention October 20, 2006 held at Anchorage, Alaska. The Department presented information on "A New Direction Establishing the Department of Diné Education." The yearly convention promotes Native American Indian Education and Native American Indian Education issues, such as the language and culture revitalization. The presentation emphasized four major goals of the Department including: 1. Provide leadership by initiating and advancing improvements to Diné Educa-

tion. 2. Offer support to schools and other providers for exemplary performance. 3. Ensure maximum academic and financial accountability in Diné Education. 4. Deliver high quality customer service.

Other highlight of the presentation included demographics of Navajo children served by schools on Navajo Nation and off Navajo Nation; Phase one implementation of the Navajo Sovereignty in Education Act (2005), which include, the seating of 6 Board Members to the Navajo Nation Board of Education – appointed by Navajo Nation President; the consolidating of local school boards, and establishing Diné Bi Olta' School Board Asso-

ciation; and seating of Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools. The Navajo Nation Council enacted the Navajo Sovereignty in Education Act July of 2005. Future plans of implementation in phases of other amendments of the former education code, Title 10 include seating of (5) elected board members to be elected this election year to Navajo Nation Board of Education, making 11 Board membership; authorizing the Board of Education to negotiate joint-powers agreements and other agreements with state and federal education agencies to implement Navajo Nation education laws and policies; and developing Navajo Nation Education Information (Continued on page 2)

Office of Diné Language, Culture, & Community Services Presentation

Window Rock, Arizona

Office of Diné Language, Culture, and Community Services also presented at the 37th National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention. The office presented recent publications of Diné Culture Based Curricu-

lum; Diné Language & Culture Standards; School Leadership for Education Resource Book; Grandparents' Stories, and Parent Leadership for Education Resource Book.

The presentation focused on designing, and

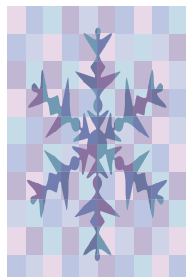
implementing all developed culture resource material mentioned into local schools.

Ms. Sylvia Jackson expresses Diné Nation is definitely the forerunner in creating Tribal Education Department with Native specifics

Department Presents
Continuation from page 1

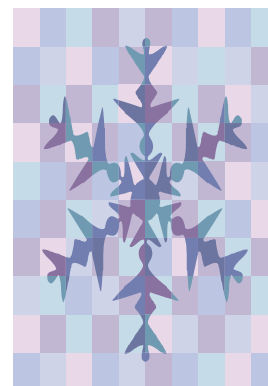
System (NEIS) to name a few.

Rebecca Benally, Vice-President of the Navajo Nation Board of Education commented on the presentation at NIEA as well received with much respect, excitement, and very much interest.



Office of Diné Language & Culture Presents
Continuation from page 1

that include input from grass-rooted people and students. She further states “I returned prouder of Department of Diné Education for what its people is doing in formulating and designing Diné Education. It feels good”



NCA Fall Conference

Window Rock, Arizona

The 2006 North Central Association Fall Conference was held in Flagstaff, Arizona on the campus of Northern Arizona University, October 10-12, 2006. This year’s conference theme “**Advancing Student Learning – Náásgoo Áłchíní I’hool’aaah**” was accompanied by opening sessions, and three day workshop reflecting the theme. Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tommy Lewis delivered the welcome address, and lead

a panel discussion session entitled “A New Beginning for Diné Education” consisting of Arizona Department of Education Representative; Navajo Nation Board of Education President, Phillip Bluehouse; Navajo Nation Education Committee Chair, Leonard Chee; and Mr. Thomas Dowd, Director of Bureau of Education. The panel discussion focused on future partnering to address the educational needs of Navajo children served by three state public schools and B.I.E

schools covering Navajo Nation.

The sessions offered topics and information to conference attendees on leadership, teaching and learning in advancing student learning . Other excellent sessions included: Board Responsibility; NCA-New Standards and Unification Plan; NCA-External Peer Review: A Critical Aspect of School Improvement; Navajo Nation AYP Formula Development; NCA: Breakthrough School Improvement Process.
(Continued on page 3)

“I returned prouder of Department of Diné Education for what its people is doing in formulating and designing Diné Education. It feels good”

National Johnson-O-Malley Association 2006 Conference

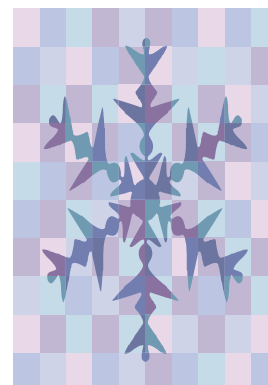
Window Rock, Arizona -

Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools Dr Tommy Lewis delivered the keynote address, November 6, 2006 to participants attending the National Johnson O’Malley Association Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. Dr. Lewis keynote address focused on “Leadership Capac-

ity” for schools, school personnel, and education stakeholders. Defining what leadership is, identifying resistance to school leadership change, stakeholder involvement in decision making in schools, and teacher leadership were key points highlighted to defining and determining effective school lead-

ership in schools.

Also, along with Department of Diné Education staff, Mary Helen Creamer, and Reuben McCabe, Dr. Lewis in a workshop session presented to conference audience “A New Direction Establishing the Department of Diné Education.” In this session four major goals for the Depart-



Elected Members of The Navajo Nation Board of Education

Window Rock, Arizona

The additional five board members to the Navajo Nation Board of Education, making an eleven board membership board governing the Department of Diné Education was elected November 7, 2006.

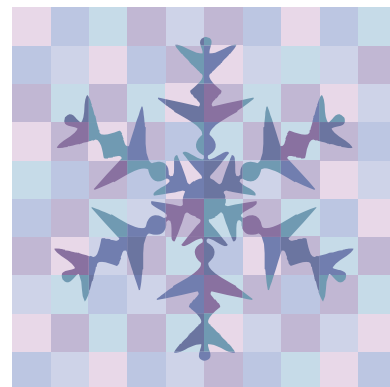
Elected Board members are Jimmy C. Begay, Chinle Agency; Katherine D. Arviso, Ft. Defiance Agency;

Dolly Manson, Western Agency; Dolly C. Begay, Eastern Agency; and Virgil Kirk, Jr, Shiprock Agency.

The five presidential appointees include Phillip Bluehouse, President, Rebecca Benally, Vice-President, Vee Brown-Webster, Secretary, Marjorie Dodge, member, and Juanita Benally, member.

Code of the Navajo Nation—Navajo Sovereignty in Education Act (2005) enacted by the Navajo Nation Council, July 2005 established the eleven member Navajo Nation Board of Education.

A joint meeting representative of all members of the Navajo Nation Board of Education is slated for January 2007.



NCA continuation from page 2

Annually the NCA Conference recognizes and awards outstanding individuals for their leadership, teaching, student learning, community support and commitment. This year it also recognized, honored and awarded all Navajo Nation schools making AYP.

The work of the Conference Committee is to be commended for their excellent and exceptional participation in making this conference a success.

NCA History and Function

NCA founded in 1895 as a non governmental, voluntary organization accredits 8,500 public and private schools in 9 states, the Navajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools worldwide. NCA accredits schools from early childhood education to post-secondary education assuring excellence in education meeting high quality standards and implementing a

school improvement plan on increasing student performance.

In April 2006, the the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), and National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE), came together to form one strong and unified organization dedicated to advancing excellence in education through accreditation, research, and professional Services.

NCA founded in 1895 as a non governmental, voluntary organization accredits 8,500 public and private schools in 9 states, the Navajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools worldwide.

JOM Conference (continued)

ment, the demographics on children served on and off Navajo Nation schools were identified, as well as setting the tone for future working relationships for all education stakeholders, including parents having interest in Navajo education.

The Johnson O'Malley Program provides supplemental funding, pursuing to 25 CFR Part 273-Johnson O'Malley Program, for eligi-

ble Native American students in public school, tribal organization, Indian corporation and previously private schools for unique and specialized educational supports and opportunities. For example during the four day conference attendees had the choices of more than thirty sessions centered around the topics of at risk counseling, bilingual teacher assistants, tutoring program, home school liaison, summer

schools, curriculum development, Navajo language, culture, history and government classes and activities, JOM 101, and parental involvement.

NJOMA board members include Dr. Clayton Long, Vice President and bilingual education director at San Juan School District, Utah; Eleanor Thomas, Region I Representative and Navajo Nation JOM Senior

Education Specialist; and Darrell Watchman, Southwest At-Large Representative, and Navajo Nation JOM Program Director.

After conducting successful conference the National Johnson O'Malley Association will bring the next conference to Seneca Nation, N.Y. in October 2007.



Department of Diné Education
P.O. Box 670
Window Rock, Az 86515

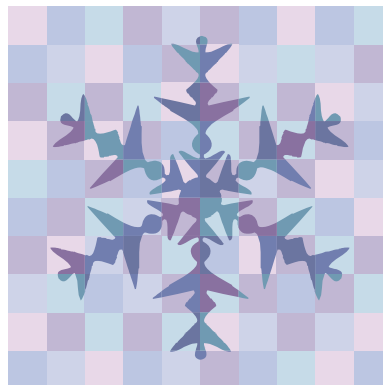
Phone: 928-871-7475
Fax: 928-871-7474

Diné Education is our strength.

NCA HISTORY AND FUNCTION

Continued from page 3

Known as AdvancED, the unified organization creates the world's largest education community, representing 23,000 public and private schools and districts in 30 states and 65 countries and serving close to 15 million students. The inclusion of NSSE, the research and development arm of the regional accrediting associations, brings to schools and districts greater access to NSSE's products, services, and strong research base on the factors that impact student learning.



Office of Diné Science Math & Technology 2006/2007 Calendar of Events

December 2006

12/01/06—Leadership-Navajo Education Today.

Window Rock, Arizona

12/02/06—Air Quality

Window Rock, Arizona

12/05/06—Navajo AYP Study

Window Rock, Arizona

12/08/06—Moccasin Game Contest

Window Rock, Az

January 2007

01/19/07—Astronomy Workshop

Window Rock, Arizona

01/11/07—Data Collection & Analysis Workshop

Window Rock, Arizona

February 2007

01/02/07—String Game

Window Rock, Arizona

March 2007

03/10/07—Technology Conference

Window Rock, Arizona

April 2007

04/25/07—"Framework for Understanding Poverty" by

Dr. Ruby Payne

For Registration call:

Carline Murphy

(505) 488-6419

Paulina Watchman

(928) 871-7451/7452

Allan Blacksheep

(928) 871-7790/7452