

# Special News Bulletin

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## Board of Education Selects Dr. Lewis as First NN Superintendent

*Window Rock, Arizona*

– Dr. Tommy H. Lewis, Jr. is the Navajo Nation's first Superintendent of Schools, announced the Board of Education. The Navajo Nation Council will confirm his appointment.

Dr. Lewis took the Department of Diné Education helm in July beginning his tenure as the head education executive. This comes about one year after the Navajo Nation Council approved sweeping amendments to its education law including the establishment of a state-like Department of Education, a Board of Education and a Superintendent.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be appointed as the Navajo Nation's first superintendent," said Lewis. "I look forward to working with the fine professionals of this Department and the Board of Education to accomplish the goals and objectives of Title 10."

With an education career spanning 30 years, Lewis is a well-known professional with much experience in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education. He has served as Superintendent of the



ON JULY 14, 2006, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SELECTED DR. TOMMY H. LEWIS, JR. AS NAVAJO NATION SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

Coconino County Accommodation School District. He has also served as President of two colleges: the Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, Washington; and Diné College. Nation-

ally, Lewis has served on the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and the American Indian College Fund where he was Board President.

"I'm excited to be here," Lewis said of his selection. "There's a lot of work to be done. The Board of Education, the Education

Committee, the Council, the President, the states, the BIA, and private schools—we must all work together to improve student achievement."

The establishment of a Department is the Navajo Nation's move to help close the student academic "achievement gap."

"The Navajo Nation is serious about working with all education providers on student achievement," added Lewis. "We need to

address curriculum, teaching and a host of other issues to see progress in this area."

Before a gathering of Department management and staff, Lewis added,

"I want to see competent and confident Navajo students graduating from our schools. They

must leave our school system ready to enter any level of post-secondary education they wish: vocational training, college, or the armed forces. Ultimately, I want our students to be proud of the fact that they graduated from a school on the Navajo Nation."

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