



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS (FEBRUARY 2025)

Diné College, the first Tribally controlled institution established in 1968, provides rigorous post-secondary education and research opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and other residents of rural communities. Diné College acknowledges that our students face insecurities due to pandemic recovery, including food, economic, and housing challenges, which all affect their college success.



Diné College: At A Glance

- **Enrollment Trends** : Fall 2024 1,710 (6% increase from SP 24)
- **Affordable Tuition**: \$1,410.00/ year
- **Student to Faculty Ratio**: 20:1
- **Part-time/Full-time**: 1,053 PT/ 657 FT
- **Highest Completion Rate**: 68% (7% increase from SP 2023)
- **Highest Level of Degree Available**: Master of Biology (MS)
- **Trio Program**: No
- **Fun Fact**: 114 Graduates, were awarded 118 Degrees Spring 2024;
128 Graduates, awarded 138 Degrees for Fall 2024

The services provided by the Student Mental Health Wellness Program encompass mental health education, stress management workshops, mindfulness sessions, peer support groups, outreach initiatives, and various educational and supportive programs designed to promote overall mental wellness among students. The Diné College Learning Center offers free academic tutoring and a variety of learning support services. Peer and professional tutors at the Diné College Learning Center help students develop positive academic independence and act as an academic support system for those encountering challenges. The Student Success Center is committed to supplying essential resources to help students thrive throughout the academic year, offering access to computers, peer mentors, and study spaces.



STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE

TCUs prepare professionals in high-demand fields such as agriculture and natural resources management, health, information technology, and building trades. By teaching the job skills most sought after in our communities, TCUs are laying a solid foundation for Tribal and regional economic growth.

Diné College's School of Transformation is a non-degree-seeking certificate program that offers professional development, continuing education units (CEUs), training programs, and self-interest courses. The School provides over 300 online certifications

The School has a unique partnership with Purpose Focused for its solar technician certification program. Instructors are certified by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP), ensuring high-quality education and training in solar technology.



Purpose Focused Trained Technicians are in demand in the emerging clean energy economy. The solar technician certification, including the NABCEP exam, is a 16-week program offered at the Window Rock and Tuba City campuses in Arizona.

The School is also collaborating with ProTrain, a leader in continuing education, to provide quality training for students that aligns with national, regional, and local requirements, paving the way for careers in high-demand fields. Online programs are offered in accounting, business, healthcare, leadership, and technology. Ten students are currently enrolled in the first cohort for the Pharmacy Technician instructor-led certification.

DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2015, AIHEC conducted an economic impact study to analyze the importance of TCUs in the regional and national economy. TCUs act as a catalyst for economic growth locally and regionally by enhancing educational opportunities, research, and leadership skills for Tribal and other rural students.

The Wool Mill initiative, supported by two Economic Development Administration awards, reached a significant milestone with its inaugural wool purchase in the Summer 2024. This program empowers Diné wool producers through collective bargaining, allowing them to secure better market prices for their products. Additionally, producers receive valuable education on market-driven product development strategies, helping them create wool products more aligned with buyer preferences and demands.

In parallel, Diné College has enhanced its innovation infrastructure through two strategic awards for technology transfer. These resources facilitate both faculty research commercialization and community innovation. The core of this initiative is a new makerspace facility supported by extensive legal and technical assistance for community members looking to safeguard and advance their intellectual property. This holistic approach fosters a robust ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship within the Diné community.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Shiprock Agriculture Multipurpose Center (AMC) took place in July 2024. The Shiprock AMC is dedicated to supporting the education of students as well as Navajo farmers and ranchers. This facility will offer services to local communities, including educational programs for both students and agricultural producers. The new Agricultural Building in Shiprock results from a partnership between Diné College, the Navajo Nation, and the state of New Mexico. It promotes economic growth, sustainable agriculture, and job creation while honoring and aligning with Diné College's cultural and educational heritage.

TOTAL ALUMNI IMPACT	
\$2.3 BILLION	ADDED INCOME
28,778	JOBS
Job equivalents indicate jobs created by TCUs, both full- and part-time. They are based on industry-specific jobs to sales ratios. The \$2.3 billion alumni impact supports 28,778 jobs nationwide. (EMSI & AIHEC, 2015)	

BUILDING OUR FUTURES

TCUs are resilient, resourceful, and proud to lead the nation in various fields, including the preparation of an American Indian and Alaska Native workforce of engineers, nurses, land managers, technicians, and teachers. Always looking ahead, TCUs focus on building new partnerships, advancing educational excellence, and creating economic opportunities for Tribal and regional communities.

Bachelor of Arts in Navajo Nation Law

Diné College introduced the Bachelor of Arts in Navajo Nation Law, a groundbreaking program aimed at fostering the next generation of legal professionals dedicated to upholding the values and traditions of the Navajo Nation. This new degree program combines traditional Navajo teachings with modern legal principles, preparing students to address challenges in Native communities while preserving cultural identity and sovereignty. Focusing on “Building Futures, Upholding Values,” this initiative emphasizes the importance of education in creating a brighter future for the Navajo Nation.



First Cohort of Mentor Avatars and Mentees under the CONVOY

Diné College has launched its first Mentor Avatars and Mentees cohort under the CONVOY project, a program that integrates Diné Traditional Medicine with Western Medicine. Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) for 2023-2028, this initiative aims to motivate youth toward careers in biomedical sciences through hands-on experiments in life chemistry, infectious diseases, biomedical engineering, and traditional medicine more.



Diné College hosted two significant events supporting the CONVOY project. On July 11, 2024, the CONVOY team and staff from Diné College Tuba City Center organized a Health Café in partnership with local hospitals, healthcare facilities, colleges, and universities. Participants had the chance to shadow health teams in mobile health units and booths, giving community members insights into healthcare facilities and career opportunities in biomedical sciences.



Later in July, CONVOY participants experimentally launched a solar balloon under the guidance of facilitators and scientists from Sandia National Laboratories to examine the effects of radiation on DNA in seeds, fruits, and vegetables, aiding participants in understanding mutations and their role in tumor development.

Partnerships include scientists from Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, the University of New Mexico, the University of Utah, Sandia National Laboratories, and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to enhance students' interest in biomedical and health careers.