

Diné Education Quarterly

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The Department of Diné Education



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UDP: Using Data Process?



Teachers and Administrators revisit their data and charts to make adjustments to their action plans at the UDP Workshop Series/ 2011 Summer Institute.

The five step cycle begins with Building the Foundation. It begins with the development of a Data Team for a school and setting goals to improve student achievement in mathematics and science education by utilizing data. Data Coaches lay important groundwork with Data Teams to get them off to a good start.

Secondly, is to Identify Student Learning Problem that is extracted from different types of data presented at a school. The data helps identify student learning problems that need immediate attention and improvement.

Thirdly, verifying causes involves examining local data about practice and relevant research. This

helps verify the causes the team is preparing to act on and are supported by evidence.

Fourthly, Generating Solution applies logic-model thinking to generate strategies for improving results and develop a monitoring plan/action plan.

The final step is to take action, monitor and adjust the action plan, as needed.

As the academic year unfolds, refinement of goals, strategies and supports will continuously be updated for reaching achievement.

Window Rock, Arizona— Collaborative Inquiry, Aggregate Data, Assessment, Goals and Plan; how does this help close the academic achievement gap on the Navajo Nation?

The Office of Diné Science, Math and Technology hosted the Using Data Process Workshop Series/2011 Summer Institute on July 18-19, 2011 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. 82 Teachers and Administrators from 18 tribal Grant/Contract schools attended the Using Data Process (UDP) Workshop.

What is UDP?

On one side of a room is data. On the other side is the goal to improve student learning. So how do you bridge that gap?

UDP is that bridge between the data in the hand and the results desired.

The UDP Cycle

Components of the UDP Workshop Series/2011 Summer Institute focused around the continuous cycle of UDP. The cycle begins with Building the Foundation; Identify Student Learning Problem; Verifying Causes; Generating Solution; and Implementing, Monitoring and Achieving Results.

Action

Participants were required to bring the 2011 State Assessment (Criteria Reference Testing) results at the aggregate and strand level for two grade levels as well as the Benchmark Assessment results. For visual display and to get a better understanding, these scores were charted in graphs with expected goal to reach by due date.

Various workshops such as *Study Group*, *Demonstration Lesson* and *Examining Student Work and Thinking* were conducted throughout the two day training. These workshops help teachers and administrators strategize what methods they will use in their action plan to help improve student test scores.

(UDP, Continue on page 5)

Visit the Department of Diné Education's website at www.navajonationdode.org or call (928) 871-7475.

Navajo Head Start Graduation: Class of 2011



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From the Superintendents Desk



Yá'at'éeéh,

August and September brings about change in seasons and the beginning of a new school year. The Department of Diné Education is determined to help our children achieve their education goals and send

them forward into the world with our Diné teachings, culture, language and history.

I encourage the continuation of passing on our Diné teachings of Nitsahakees, Nahata, Iina and Siih Hasin which embody Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'eh Hózhóón.

Our Navajo Nation leadership calls for prosperity for our future and one that is rich in education. Our children today are on their educational journey and I encourage them to be successful and contribute to the building of our Navajo Nation.

As we continue our journey this school year, I convey gratitude to the students, parents, teachers and the Department of Diné Education staff for their dedication and hard work toward making Diné Education outstanding.

Ahe'hee,
Andrew M. Tah, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

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Office of Youth Development-Boys and Girls Club of Dine Nation awarded \$13.8 million from NAHASDA

Window Rock, Az-- The Office of Youth Development- Boys and Girls Club of Diné Nation (BGCDN) has been awarded \$13.8 million from Navajo Housing Authority. The award will further construction of youth facilities in three communities. The three projects planned have been determined to be in compliance with Section 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996.

Fort Defiance BGCDN will receive \$6.7 million to further construction. Yvonne Kee-Billion, Program Supervisor III, said "We will no longer be dependent on the local school for their facilities. This funding will allow us to provide services and recreation in one location." Fort Defiance BGCDN will add a gym, educational classrooms, an art room and a wellness center.

The new facility will be Phase 2 of the Fort Defiance BGCDN. Phase 1, baseball fields, skate park and new club building were completed in construction in December 2010.

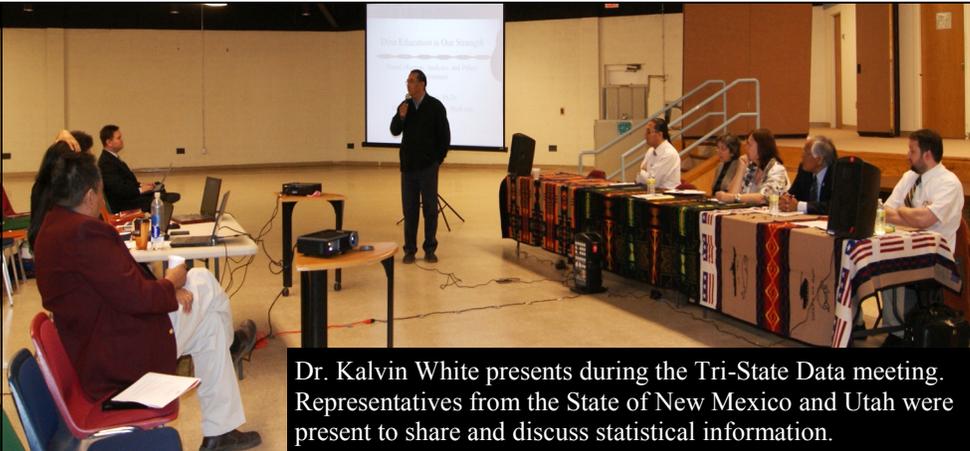
Shiprock, New Mexico has been awaiting the establishment of a youth facility for over 20 years, according to Waetona Becenti, Program Supervisor III. Shiprock BGCDN has been operating out of the Shiprock Community Center, which was built in 1966. With the establishment of a new youth facility the BGCDN looks to increase attendance since space will be available.

Shiprock BGCDN looks forward to their new gym, classrooms and administration offices. "The community of Shiprock looks forward to a place the youth can call their own", said Becenti. Shiprock will be receiving \$6.6 million for construction.

Crownpoint, New Mexico BGCDN will be receiving \$500,000. The intent for Crownpoint funding is for planning and engineering services.

(Continue on page 3)

TRI-STATE DATA CONFERENCE



Dr. Calvin White presents during the Tri-State Data meeting. Representatives from the State of New Mexico and Utah were present to share and discuss statistical information.

Window Rock, AZ-- The Navajo Nation’s Office of Educational Research and Statistics was host to the Tri-State Data Meeting at the Navajo Education Center Auditorium in Window Rock, Arizona on May 19, 2011.

The Tri-State Data Conference helped establish a relationship with the Navajo Nation and the three states (AZ, NM, and UT) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) on understanding the progress and challenges of educating our Navajo students living throughout the southwest region.

The purpose of the conference was to have each state entity present data and information on Navajo Students on issues related to AYP scores and trends, enrollment numbers, shifts in Navajo language speakers in schools and drop-out rates. A special interest is held in understanding how the Navajo Nation compares to other ethnic groups, specifically American Indian Students.

The information received will assist major Navajo Nation education stakeholders in their work with schools. States and federal agencies deal with the staggering diversity of educational issues that differ from tribe-to-tribe.

Another purpose of the meeting is to understand each state’s data challenges such as data management, federal and state data policies, and challenges working with the Navajo Nation. The conference provided to be an opportunity for all education stakeholders to learn more about the progress of our Navajo students throughout the four corner region.

(OYD– BGCND, Continued from page 2)

Jerome Clarke, Department Manager for OYD-BGCND, added, “This money to build new facilities has been a long time coming. We thank the communities for being patient with us and supporting the construction. We are working with Chinle and Tuba City to get several issues corrected in order to start constructing facilities there. We would like to thank the Navajo Housing Authority for accepting our requests. A few tribal officials OYD-BGCND would like to thank for their support are: Russell Begay, Harold Wauneka, Arbin Mitchell, Danny Simpson, Joshua Lavar Butler and the Office of the President, Ben Shelly, to name a few”

Construction looks to begin in early 2012 for Ft. Defiance and Shiprock.



Superintendent Tah Delivers Keynote Address

Red Valley, Arizona— Superintendent Andrew M. Tah was invited by the Red Valley Cove High School graduating Class of 2011 to deliver the keynote address at the May 20, 2011 graduation.

Superintendent Tah addressed the graduates on the elements which embody the value of Sa’ah Naagahai Bik’eh Hozhoon.; Nitsahakees, Nahata, Iina and Siih hasin.

In his closing remarks he gave this encouragement, “May you go forth from this place with a dream of accomplishment and come back as an educated achiever impacting the Navajo Nation for the better.”

Greyhills, Arizona— Superintendent Andrew M. Tah attended the Greyhills Academy High School Graduation on May 20, 2011.

Superintendent Tah was able to congratulate graduates whom he worked with before joining the Department of Dine Education in 2009. Many of the graduates were only sophomores when Superintendent Tah joined DODE to pursue State Education Agency status.

“We have been lobbying in Washington DC to give the Navajo Nation this opportunity as a Sovereign Nation to gain more jurisdiction of our education system on our land. For too long, we see our precious resources, our children, not being provided the education you deserve.”

Department of Diné Education meets with New Mexico Public Education Department Secretary Hanna Skandera

Albuquerque, New Mexico—

Fifteen minutes was given to the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education to meet with New Mexico Public Education Secretary Hanna Skandera on Wednesday, June 29, 2011. These 15 minutes proved to be a great start in putting DODE's foot in the door, which lead to a larger meeting set for July 28, 2011.

In a short presentation to Secretary Skandera, five priorities were outlined by Dr. Ferlin Clark, Executive Staff Assistant to the Vice President, Assistant Superintendent Tim Benally, Office of Dine Science, Math and Technology Education Administrator Dr. Kalvin White and New Mexico Representative Sandra Jeff (D– McKinley, San Juan) .

The five priorities presented to Secretary Skandera on behalf of the Navajo Nation for the State of New Mexico to support are:

1. Support Navajo Nation's push to revise FERPA laws to include Tribal Education Departments.
2. Support the finalization of the MOU/MOAs with Local School Districts.
3. Support the Indian Education Act and Support Funding for the New Mexico Indian Education Programs with No Earmarking.



In a June 29, 2011 meeting with Education Secretary Hanna Skandera (far left) Dr. Ferlin Clark (far right) from the Office of the Vice President, Assistant Superintendent Tim Benally and Dr. Kalvin White, Education Administrator for the Office of Science, Math and Technology discuss education priorities for the Navajo Nation. New Mexico Representative Sandra Jeff is also pictured above (center).

4. Uphold November 15 Data Sharing Stated in the New Mexico Indian Education Act and to Disaggregate Data to Tribal Affiliation.
5. Tri-State Superintendent Summit

The five priorities were outlined by DODE Program Managers in a separate prior meeting.

Hanna Skandera was nominated by Governor Susana Martinez to lead the New Mexico Department of Public Education in December 2010.

Work Session for Health, Education and Human Services Committee on the Progress of the State Education Agency Status

Flagstaff, AZ— The Department of Diné Education and Board of Education held a two day work session for the Health, Education and Human Services Committee to orientate them on the progress and process of becoming a State Education Agency.

The work session was held at Kinlani Boardertown Dormitory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Superintendent Andrew M. Tah, Assistant Superintendent Tim Benally and Consultant Dr. Tim Begaye

lead the discussion along with presentations by DODE Program managers Dr. Kalvin White and Dee McKerry. Treva Roanhorse, program manager for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services and Irving Nelson of the Navajo Nation Library were also present.

All Navajo Nation Board of Education members were present and their input was of great value as discussion and

clarification was made on the progress and process of the SEA.

Health, Education and Human Service committee members present were Joshua Lavar Butler (To'Nanees'Dizi), Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake), Charles Damon (Baahaali, Chilchiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) and Kenneth Maryboy (Mexican Water, Tolikan, Teenospos, Aneth, Red Mesa).

Borrego Pass Staff and Faculty Addressed by Superintendent Tah

Albuquerque, NM— Borrego Pass Grant School invited Superintendent Andrew M. Tah to address and encourage staff and faculty in Albuquerque on June 10, 2011.

In an encouragement speech Superintendent Tah addressed the difference teachers make on a daily base in the classroom. “As Diné educators we have a responsibility to our Diné People. We are taught about the four elements of life which help us produce success; Nitsahkees, Nahata, Iina and Siih hasin. These elements and teachings make the difference in our life. They should also make the difference in our children’s lives.”



Superintendent Tah shared the Diné Education Philosophy with the teachers as follows,

“We are the Holy People of the Earth. We are created and placed between our Mother Earth and Father Sky. Our home, the Four Sacred Mountains, with the entrance to the East, embodies our Way of Life. It provides strength and peace within us.

Spirituality, intellect, planning and life have been instilled within us; through these attributes we attain knowledge and wisdom. We shall combine the best learning and knowledge of other societies with that of our own for the benefit of our future.

With that, our children will walk with beauty before them, beauty behind them, beauty beneath them, beauty above them, beauty around them, and will always be respectful and live in harmony with natural law. Our children will go forth in life endowed with what is required to achieve their ultimate aspirations.”

With preparations being made for the new school year, Superintendent Tah encouraged teachers to continue to make a difference in their school and strive to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).



(UDP, Continued from page 1)

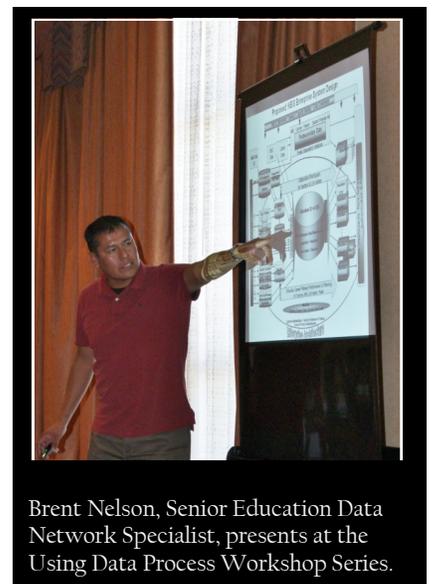
New School Year

As the new school year is on the horizon and excited teachers preparing for student arrival, ODSMT Field Staff is working with tribal Grant/Contract schools to finalize their professional development plan/action plan for the academic year 2011-2012.

An action plan holds the information of what strategies the data team and teachers will utilize to reach their set goals. It designates who will lead the Data Team and what type of material and budget is present to help carry out the strategy. Goals are defined in what the Data Team will achieve and plausible outcomes.

Johanson Phillips, Principal Education Specialist, said “These action plans need the support of all staff at the school including administrators (to be effective). Some schools have good action plans and carrying out the plan with inclusion from leadership is essential.” Phillips is assigned to several schools while Allan Blacksheep, Senior Education Specialist and Dorthea Litson, Principal Education Specialist, are assigned to other schools to help assist in preparation, identification, evaluation and execution of the action plans.

The Using Data Process is a proven method substantiated through the ability of schools meeting AYP and closing of the academic achievement gap.



Brent Nelson, Senior Education Data Network Specialist, presents at the Using Data Process Workshop Series.



Tribal Consultation on No Child Left Behind School Facilities and Construction

Window Rock, Arizona— The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) conducted a tribal consultation meeting with the Navajo Nation. BIA obtained oral and written comments regarding a draft report which will be provided to Congress and Secretary of the Interior regarding information about the conditions and funding needs of facilities at bureau-funded schools as required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The Secretary of Interior established the No Child Left Behind School Facilities and Construction Negotiated Rulemaking Committee pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

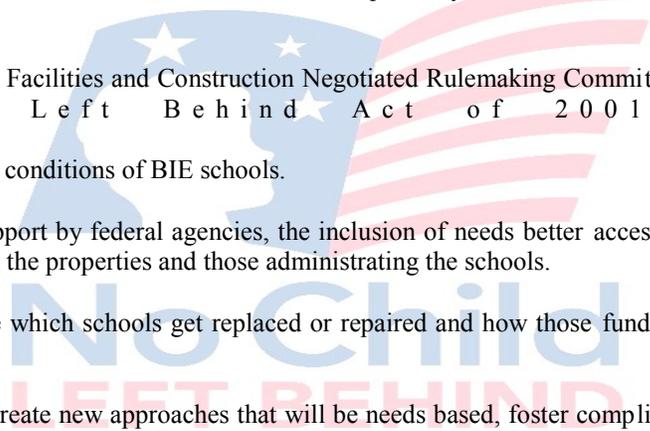
There were four recommendations developed by the BIE to address the conditions of BIE schools.

One would create a catalog for school facilities by including more support by federal agencies, the inclusion of needs better access through the Internet and better communication between those assessing the properties and those administrating the schools.

The others concentrated in the creation of formulas that will prioritize which schools get replaced or repaired and how those funds are distributed.

According to the BIE, the impacts from the proposed changes would create new approaches that will be needs based, foster compliance with health and safety standards, be uniformly applied, practical, not susceptible to manipulation, defensible legally and technically, and be clear, consistent and transparent.

The Department of Diné Education hosted the first of five tribal consultations on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at the Navajo Education Center Auditorium, Window Rock, Arizona.



Education Stakeholders Give Recommendations to DODE

Window Rock, Arizona— The Office of the Navajo Nation Vice President oversees the areas of Health and Education initiatives since the beginning of the Shelly-Jim Administration in January.

The Office of the Vice President has arranged two meetings with education stakeholders from across the Navajo Nation to present on the reorganization and direction the Department of Diné Education is moving toward as a State Education Agency (SEA).

In a June 20, 2011 letter addressed to Superintendent Andrew Tah from Dine Bi Olta School Board Association, 17 questions were posed to the DODE regarding the process the SEA is taking along with reorganization.

A July 18, 2011 meeting took place to answer to the 17 questions publicly and explain more of the initiative of achieving SEA status. A task force was established to obtain recommendations and discussion on the following objectives:

1. Enabling Legislation-Federal vs. Tribe (Trust Responsibility)
2. Title 10
3. Accountability Workbook*
4. Actual Education Plan
5. Cooperation and communication between the schools, board and DODE.
6. Additional Public Hearing- Transparency
7. Availability of hard copy documents and distribution
8. Timeline and Implementation

It was the request of education stakeholders the Accountability Workbook be available for viewing and download.



Navajo Nation Board of Education Member, Rebecca M. Benally address Education Stakeholders at the July 18 meeting.

*The Accountability Workbook can be downloaded at www.navajonationdode.org.

Robinson receives *'Distinguished Educator Award for Excellence in Diné Education'*

Window Rock, Arizona--North Central Association/AdvancED awarded Durrell Dwane Robinson, Executive Director/Principal at Hanaa'dli Community School/Dormitory, Inc. the *'Distinguished Educator Award for Excellence in Diné Education'* on Monday April 18th, 2011. Mr. Robinson has been working with the Navajo people for over 44 years and has been an educator for 49 years.

Dwane began his teaching career on the Navajo Nation in Crownpoint, New Mexico with the B.I.A. as a middle school teacher. He moved onto Dzilth na o dith hle Community school in 1971 as Principal and retired from Dzilth na o dith hle in May of 2001.

During his time at Dzilth na o dith hle, in 1987, he received the National Educational Excellence Award presented by the United States Department of Education. At that time there had not been a B.I.A. school ever to receive

such an honor.

In April 1996, Mr. Robinson received the Nation Principal of the Year Award from the Office of Indian Education Programs, B.I.A., Washington, DC. In 1999 Huerfano Dormitory, which Mr. Robinson was also principal at, was approved to go Grant under the provisions of PL 100-297. Huerfano Dormitory name was now changed to Hanaa'dli Community School/Dormitory, Inc.

In the past seven (7) years, Hanaa'dli Community School/Dormitory has made AYP (Adequate Year Progress). The one year they did not "we took the post test but not the pre test, which New Mexico changed and we were counted as not meeting the standards."



Staff from North Central Association/AdvancED present Mr. Robinson, with his award.

Delores McKerry, NCA/AdvancED Director and Program Manager, said "This award isn't given every year. But this year we wanted to show the reflection of excellence in education that Dwane has brought. He has a successful track record in education. The No Child Left Behind Act requires schools to be accredited and he is the one that led the way for Hanaa'dli Community School/Dormitory to be accredited."

KTNN Public Forum: Compulsory School Attendance Law

Window Rock, AZ— On May 25, 2011, Superintendent Andrew M. Tah, Navajo, Nation Board of Education Jimmie C. Begay, Senior Planner Kee Ike Yazzie and Public Information Officer Emerald Dahozy presented the 'Navajo Nation School Compulsory Attendance Law' on KTNN 660AM.

Navajo Nation prosecutors, social workers and education leaders share the concern of student attendance on the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Board of Education (BOE) and the Department of Diné Education (DODE) have been meeting since the fall of 2009 to draft laws that "would provide penalties for parents who fail to send their children to school," stated Senior Planner Kee Ike Yazzie.

A series of public hearing were held at various schools and communities but were poorly attended. The Department of Diné Education took advantage of a two hour radio program in which the law of section 118 in Navajo Nation Code 10 can be explained regarding attendance and receive LIVE feedback from the listening audience.

A question from a school administrator from the Fort Defiance community, stated "We do have laws in place. How can we enforce these laws?" In response the panel from the BOE and DODE said "We want to have one uniform policy across the Nation. This one policy will help schools and law enforcement understand that school attendance is needed. The Navajo Nation is in three states and each state has their own law on attendance and age of decision of attendance. Law enforcement will help with counseling or Peacemaking with a last resort in jail time for parents and caregivers not enforcing this law."

The Compulsory School Attendance Law could go before the Navajo Nation Council Fall session to be implemented in schools for the Spring 2012 semester.

For further information regarding the Compulsory School Attendance Law contact Kee Ike Yazzie at 928-871-7475.



Proclamation

In Honor of the Graduating Class of 2011

My grandchild, education is the ladder. Tell our people to take it.

~ Chief Manuelito, Hastiin Ch'ilhaajinii,

WHEREAS, During this time of year our Navajo families and friends gather to honor the academic achievement of our students and share in celebration of their graduation. Through this special time, the Navajo Nation recognizes their accomplishments and remembers our elders whose wisdom has strengthened our Nation today; and

WHEREAS, The new found knowledge of our graduates will reinforce our shared commitment for positive change and move our Nation forward; and

WHEREAS, It is our time and our responsibility to strengthen our sovereignty, uphold greater self-determination, and work toward individual independence as our Nation retakes its rightful place as a local, national and global leader; and

WHEREAS, Alongside our parents and grandparents, I encourage our students to seek every opportunity while preserving our sacred songs and ceremonies, learning our language and upholding our core values; and

WHEREAS, We gather together to honor our mentors and our educators, whose positive words have guided your journey to graduation. With your academic success, our people stand with you as you return to our homeland to help build a more prosperous Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEN SHELLY, President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby recognize the dedication and hard work of all our graduates in this year of 2011.

ORDERED THIS 4th DAY OF MAY 2011



Ben Shelly
 Ben Shelly, *President*
 THE NAVAJO NATION

Andrew M. Tah
 Andrew M. Tah, *Superintendent of Schools*
 DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION