



Department of Diné Education
Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance
P.O. Box 1870 • Window Rock, Arizona 86515
Ph: 928.871.7444 • Toll-Free: 1.800.243.2956 • Fax: 928.871.6742



Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr.
President

Ben Shelly
Vice-President

News Release

Contact: Rose Graham
(928) 871-7444

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Withdrawal of SIPI Accreditation Excludes SIPI Students From Navajo Scholarships & Financial Assistance Funding

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Scholarship Office learned that on July 3, the Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association, withdrew the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute’s accreditation status in a public disclosure notice.

Rose Graham, Director of the Navajo Scholarship Office, said the disclosure notice indicates that SIPI is no longer accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. As a matter of policy, pursuant to Article 6 §18, the Navajo Nation Scholarship Office does not fund schools that are not regionally accredited.

“The Navajo Scholarship Office is regrettably compelled to exclude all students planning to attend SIPI from funding until such time that SIPI regains its accreditation from a regional accrediting association,” Ms. Graham said.

Ms. Graham urged SIPI students to contact the SIPI Financial Aid Office to determine what funding alternatives are available. In Fall 2009, the Navajo Scholarship Office funded 78 students and in Spring 2010 funded 115 students.

More information about SIPI can be found at the school’s website: www.sipi.edu.