



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2014

MEDIA CONTACTS
Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
Chrissy Largo | 928.637.5603
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee requests public comments regarding the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board

WINDOW ROCK – In accordance with a directive issued on Sept. 26 by the Naabik’iyátí’ Committee, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is requesting public comments from individuals regarding their experience with the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board.

“Our committee needs feedback from students and researchers to determine how we can improve the Human Research Review Board,” said HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels). “The feedback and recommendations that we receive will play a very instrumental role in improving the overall process and hopefully lead to increased research that will benefit our Nation.”

Established by the Navajo Nation Council in 1995, the HRRB is comprised of 15 members who are tasked with ensuring compliance with provisions outlined in Title 13 of the Navajo Nation Code, which are intended to protect against research that may be harmful to individuals and communities.

Applicants are required to follow a review and approval process and must obtain approval from the HRRB prior to conducting research within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation.

Delegate Hale also noted that students pursuing a masters or doctorate degree are often required to conduct research within a specified time period and in some cases, students have expressed concerns over delays in obtaining approval from the HRRB in a timely matter.

“We just need to concentrate on the student’s at hand in obtaining their research so that they can benefit the Navajo Nation. These students are on a budget. They have timelines and deadlines as well. Navajo Nation needs to consider a one-stop shop for these students to submit their requests and to get their research submitted, rather than the students jumping through hoops,” stated Delegate Hale.

The public comments will be compiled and made available for each council delegate to review and consider when addressing the overall structure of the HRRB.

For more information regarding the HRRB, please visit: <http://www.nnhrrb.navajo-nsn.gov/>.

The HEHSC requests that comments and recommendations be sent by e-mail to comments@navajo-nsn.gov or be mailed to the Office of Legislative Services at P.O. Box 3390 Window Rock, AZ 86515. Please submit comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2014.

###