



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government Services Committee confirms President Shirley's appointments to fill Diné College Board of Regents vacancies

"It should be the focus of the Diné College Board of Regents of making certain that the college becomes a four year degree-granting institution," – Amos Johnson

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Today, the Government Services Committee confirmed President Joe Shirley's appointment of Laurence Gishey and Louise Scott to serve on the Diné College Board of Regents for a four year term. Both Gishey and Scott were confirmed by the GSC on unanimous votes and were confirmed in an effort provide stability at Diné College.

Sponsor Katherine Benally informed the GSC that Mr. Gishey, a long term educator in post-secondary education, and Mrs. Scott, an educator well-versed in secondary education, are deserving candidates who will bring forth experience and knowledge to the Diné College Board of Regents.

Currently, the Board of Regents experiences difficulty reaching a full quorum to conduct any business with only six sitting members – three appointed and three ad hoc members. A minimum of five regents is necessary for a full quorum. With the appointments of Mr. Gishey and Mrs. Scott, the Board of Regents should have little difficulty achieving a full quorum to conduct official business.

Mr. Gishey, who will represent the Fort Defiance Agency on the Diné College Board of Regents, said he was honored to be considered for reappointment.

"I have been in higher education, since the establishment of Diné College," said Gishey. "I have knowledge of the history of Diné College and I am familiar with the mission and goals of the institution. I will work hard."

Mr. Gishey has a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of New Mexico and a master's degree in education from Arizona State University. He has worked at Arizona State University, Eastern Arizona College, Navajo Community College, Northern Arizona University and the University of New Mexico in various higher education capacities.

Mrs. Scott, who will represent the Western Agency on the Diné College Board of Regents, brings approximately 30 years of experience with many different teaching and supervisory experiences in public schools, grants schools and Bureau of Indian Education schools.

"I wanted to serve on the Board of Regents because education has been my life," Scott said, adding that her experience will contribute to the board. "I have always focused on educating the student. I have not waived from that. I did hear about what is going on at the college and my mission is to create stability at the college. All these years one of my goals was to improve student achievement and I do not see the college being any different."

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Mrs. Scott has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and two master's degrees in elementary education and bilingual/multicultural education all from Northern Arizona University. She previously held the position of principal at Leupp Elementary School and Middle School and Greyhills Academy High School, as well as various teaching capacities with the Tuba City Unified School District and Tuba City Boarding School.

Amos Johnson and Orlanda Smith-Hodge reminded the two new appointed officials of their roles as members of the Diné College Board of Regents, including the goal of Diné College becoming a four year degree-granting institution.

"It should be the focus of the Diné College Board of Regents of making certain that the college becomes a four year degree-granting institution," said Johnson. "Put Diné College back on the pedestal. At one time Diné College was a prestigious school. It is really up to the Board of Regents to do that."

"There also are some traditional ceremonies and paraphernalia associated with the school," added Johnson. "Those need to be kept in harmony with the school. The board needs to make sure those things are cared for. I wish you lots of luck and staying focused."

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