



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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HEHSC advocates for Diné educational sovereignty at DBOSBA Spring Conference



PHOTO: HEHSC Chair Vince James said that HEHSC has been relentless in its quest to secure better funding and resources for Navajo schools.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – During the Diné Bi Olta School Board Association (DBOSBA) Spring Conference, members of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) discussed cultural enhancements to the Navajo Nation educational system. These initiatives are designed to improve the quality of education for Navajo students, with a strong emphasis on maintaining Diné language and culture.

HEHSC has been integral in assisting DBOSBA in fostering educational advocacy on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

“We’ve been relentless in our quest to secure better funding and resources for our schools, making sure our voice is heard at the national level,” said HEHSC Chairman Council Delegate Vince James.

The DBOSBA acts as a vital support for the Navajo Nation School Boards. According to James, “DBOSBA is more than an association; it’s the cornerstone of our educational system, ensuring that our students’ educational journey is enriched with Diné values and excellence.”

Delegate Dr. Andy Nez highlighted the importance of the Bureau of Indian Education’s (BIE) strategic direction, focusing on instilling values of Excellence, Focus, Integrity, Respect, and Service.

“The BIE’s transformation aligns perfectly with our mission to deliver an education system that is culturally relevant and academically superior,” Nez said.

The Navajo Nation Division of Education continues to advocate for Diné education sovereignty, emphasizing the integration of Diné language and culture into the curriculum. The collaborative efforts between the Navajo Nation and federal entities like the BIE are pivotal in ensuring a high-quality education that is both culturally and academically fulfilling.

The partnership with Infinite Campus to implement the Native American Student Information System (NASIS) is a step forward in modernizing educational administration and support. This system corresponds directly to school finances and stands as a testament to the commitment to using technology to enhance education.

Chair James highlighted recent federal budget allocations as a victory for Navajo education, pointing out significant increases in funds for mental health, addressing teacher shortages, and supporting children with disabilities. "These financial boosts are a clear indication of the progress we've made in advocating for the educational needs of our community," he stated.

The Navajo Nation's educational leaders are looking to the future with optimism and determination. Dr. Nez expressed a desire for deeper discussions and strategic planning, particularly in relation to Title 10 and other educational statutes, to further enhance the education system.

Chair James reiterated the importance of community involvement and leadership support in utilizing available resources. "It's imperative that our school boards and educators are aware of and pursue the funding opportunities that are now available to them," he emphasized.

The Navajo Nation, through the DBOSBA and HEHSC, continues to pave the way for an educational system that not only meets academic standards but also deeply respects and promotes Diné language and culture. This collaborative effort ensures that Navajo students are prepared for the future, equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world.

The Navajo Nation's educational initiatives, guided by DBOSBA and HEHSC, aim to provide a comprehensive and culturally enriched educational experience for Navajo students. These initiatives focus on advocacy, leadership, and the strategic use of technology and funding to improve educational outcomes.

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