Endless Possibilities

Navajo Technical University, the Navajo Nation, the BIA, and Higher Education
Without BIA funding, NTU could not exist. The Navajo Nation needs to make higher education a top BIA priority.
The Key to Navajo Nation Economic Success is Educational Attainment

- At least 29.3% of the U.S. population over 25 has an earned bachelor’s degree based on U.S. Census data.

- On the Navajo Nation 7.2% of the population over 25 has an earned bachelor’s degree.

- All Navajo educational attainment levels trails that of the rest of American society.

- In order to close this gap Navajo Technical University (NTU) needs the resources to serve more than twice the number of students it now does.
The goal is to build on NTU’s success to close the Navajo population’s educational gap by achieving equity in BIA funding.

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<th>Appropriations Bill: INTERIOR</th>
<th>Agency: Bureau of Indian Education</th>
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<td><strong>Authority/TCU Program</strong></td>
<td><strong>FY 2015 Appropriated</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act [25 USC 1801 et seq.]</td>
<td>$69,793,000 (TA: $601,000)</td>
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<td>Title I, II, III and contracts (28 TCUs)</td>
<td>$69,793,000 (TA: $601,000)</td>
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<td>Title V (Tribal career and technical institutions)</td>
<td>$6,814,000</td>
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<td>American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act [20 USC 4411]</td>
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<td>Institute of American Indian Arts w/Center for Lifelong Education &amp; Museum (IAIA)</td>
<td>$9,469,000</td>
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<td>BIE Postsecondary Institutions - Snyder Act [25 USC 13]</td>
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<td>Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)</td>
<td>$19,767,000</td>
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NTU provides multiple services to the Navajo people and the Navajo Nation

- A number of certificate and degree programs designed to help students find jobs
- Economic development initiatives
- Programs to strengthen Dine Culture and Language
- An emphasis in Vocational and Science, Technical, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Medical careers
- Student-led research
- Service programs to the Navajo community, Navajo businesses, and Navajo ranchers and farmers
NTU has one campus and two instructional sites

- The main campus is located in Crownpoint, NM. The campus has:
  - Dorms
  - Classroom buildings
  - Major laboratory facilities
  - Gymnasium
  - Cafeteria and Culinary Arts teaching lab

- Largest instructional site is in Chinle, AZ
  - High enrollment
  - Will become a satellite campus once buildings are built

- A small instructional site is located at Teec Nos Pos, AZ in the Four Corners Region
Navajo Technical University (NTU) creates value in many ways. The university plays a key role in helping students increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. It provides students with the skills they need to impact their families and communities. Further, it supplies an environment for students to meet new people, increase their self-confidence, and promote their overall health and well-being.

NTU improves the lives of students and the regional economy. The university serves a range of industries in the Navajo Nation, including tribal government, supports local businesses, and benefits society throughout the Navajo Nation from an expanded economy and improved quality of life.

Economic Value to the Navajo Nation

- NTU is an important employer.
  - In 2013-14 NTU employed 567 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, 85% of whom lived in the Navajo Nation
  - Payroll was 11,000,000, much of which was spent in McKinley and Navajo Counties in New Mexico and Arizona

- NTU has a significant economic impact on the Navajo Nation and the Region
  - The university spent 15.5 million to cover expenses
  - NTU added 12.8 million in GRP to the region during the analysis year as a result of day to day operations and supplies.
  - The total economic impact was 21.4 million dollars.
NTU has an enrollment of over 2,000 students

- Ninety-eight percent of the students are Navajo.
- The vast majority are first-generation students.
- The university runs a number of dual credit programs in partnership with both Navajo Nation based and border town high schools.
- There are also programs offered in partnership with private industry.
BIE funding has not kept up with NTU’s enrollment growth. If NTU is to help the Navajo Nation achieve educational parity with other American communities, it should be serving 5,000 – 7,000 students, but lacks funding and facilities.
NTU and United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) Receive Less BIE Funding than Other TCUs

- Known as Title V Schools under the Tribally Controlled Colleges and University’s Act, they receive $1,566 per Indian student vs. $6,717 for other TCUs. Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institution (SIPI) receive more than any other TCU.

- NTU would like the Navajo Nation to support: 1) A Title V increase from $6.9 million dollars (FY 2016) to $11 million for 2017/18 for NTU and UTTC

- 2) Forward funding for five TCU’s: NTU, UTTC, SIPI, Haskell, and the Institute of American Indian Arts
NTU Offers Navajo and Off-Reservation Students a range of different certificates and degrees:

**Master of Arts degree:**
- Diné Culture, Language, and Leadership

**Bachelor of Arts degree:**
- Diné Culture, Language, and Leadership

**Bachelor of Applied Science degrees:**
- Information Technology - Computer Science
- Information Technology - Digital Manufacturing
- Information Technology - New Media

**Bachelor of Fine Arts degree:**
- Creative Writing and New Media

**Bachelor of Science degrees:**
- Electrical Engineering
- Early Childhood Multicultural Education
- Environmental Science and Natural Resources
- Industrial Engineering

**Associate of Arts:**
- Weekend College (General Education)

**Associate of Applied Science:**
- Accounting
- Administrative Office Specialist
- Automotive Technology
- Chemical Engineering Technology
- Commercial Baking
- Building Information Modeling
- Culinary Arts (ACF certified)
- Energy Systems
- Environmental Science and Natural Resources
- Geographic Information Technology
- IT Technician
- Law Advocate
- Public Administration
- Veterinary Technician

**Associate of Science:**
- Early Childhood Multicultural Education
- Mathematics

**Vocational/Technical Certificates:**
- Administrative Office Specialist
- Applied Computer Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Bookkeeping
- Carpentry
- Commercial Driver License
- Construction Technology
- Electrical Trades
- Environmental Science and Natural Resources
- Geographical Information Technology
- Industrial Maintenance and Operations
- Information Technology Assistant
- Legal Assistant
- Mathematics
- Pre Nursing
- Professional Baking
- Professional Cooking
- Textile Weaving
The curriculum is designed with four major goals:

- Prepare students for jobs they can find right after graduation
- Provide career ladders students can follow to either improve their current employment position or to keep moving up the degree ladder
- Help students succeed by giving them a grounding in their language and culture.
- Provide academically rigorous courses of study in professional fields that improve student career outlooks and serve Navajo Nation needs for human infrastructure.

A student practices residential wiring in NTU’s NCCER certified Electrical Trades certificate program.
NTU is a tribal university

- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) are chartered and supported by American Indian tribes.
- NTU is chartered by the Navajo Nation. BIA and tribal funding is essential to its survival as a university.
- TCUs serve student needs like other colleges and universities, but they also address tribal community needs for human infrastructure, emphasizing issues like economic development and careers that can address health crises based upon an effort to use the university as a tool to solve community challenges.
- TCUs also emphasize tribal culture and language, acting as a vehicle to help perpetuate tribal identity in future centuries.

The 2014-2015 Miss NTU speaks at the 2015 AIHEC conference in Albuquerque, NM.
Some Special Programs, a Sampling

- NTU’s Information Technology program has three different degrees students can earn:
  - Information Technology
  - New Media
  - Digital Manufacturing

- The Digital Manufacturing and Engineering Lab provides students with world-class machinery and the ability to learn how to innovate.
Some Special Programs

- NTU’s Culinary Arts School is one of the most respected Culinary Arts Schools in the U.S. and recently was reaccredited under the American Culinary Federation – the nation’s only accrediting agency.

- NTU’s Baking programs also received accreditation under the American Culinary Federation in January 2015 to sweeten the program.

Student Teri Ami participated in the Idyllwild Art Academy Cook-Off.

SkillsUSA national gold medal winner Dexter Dale.
Students can earn a baccalaureate degree in either Industrial Engineering or Electrical Engineering.

NTU recently was awarded a NSF grant that will help extend engineering courses to local high schools in order to increase pathways to STEM education.

An student works on a LED project during an Electrical Engineering class. The program stresses hands-on learning within the program’s curriculum.

Students speak with John Holdren, Chief Science Adviser to President Obama.

The students created a homemade 3D laser scanner at the National Maker Faire in DC.
The Veterinary Teaching Hospital serves the agricultural and ranching community of Eastern Navajo while, at the same time, preparing students for careers as Veterinary Technicians. Students pose for a photo outside of the Vet Hospital after conducting field work within the community providing sheep vaccinations and dewormers. In addition to providing field work within the community, the NTU Vet Tech program hosts workshops that deal with herd health and wool quality.
Community Programs Like the Navajo Tech Innovation Center Help All Navajo

The Navajo Tech Innovation Center’s mission is to support the launch, growth, stabilization and long-term success of business enterprises to improve the economic outlook of the Navajo People. Participants in the Innovation Center have access to management guidance, technical assistance, networking opportunities and consulting tailored to young growing businesses. Innovation Center Businesses also have access to appropriate rental space, shared basic business services, and equipment and technology support services.
Among the areas in which NTU excels are in its

- Graduation Rates
- Retention Rates
- Ability to expand student horizons so that they begin to see a future larger than the one they contemplated when coming to school
- Helping students with poor basic skills to succeed in a demanding academic climate with strong academic rigor emphasized in many areas of study

2013-2014 Student of the Year Melanie Begay conducts research on Radon within the Crownpoint community.
NTU has become one of the best performing universities in the United States

REQUEST – It’s Time for Equity: (A) Address Long-term TCU Inequalities in Federal Programs. We need a real commitment in the FY2017 Budget/Appropriations cycle to realistically address the longstanding funding inequities faced by TCUs in federal programs; and (B) Ensure equitable TCU participation in Federal programs for IHE. The Administration and Congress needs to ensure that whenever there is a program blockgranted or dedicated to states, that there is a set-aside for tribes and TCUs. Otherwise, history and current practice both tell us the American Indian tribes and Tribal Colleges will not participate equitably in such social support programs. Because TCUs are located primarily on federal trust land, unless the Administration and the Congress expressly establish a set-aside for Tribes/TCUs, or assert that the various states must include TCUs in federal programs that they administer, there is no guarantee that TCUs will be deemed as eligible to participate in these federally funded, state administered programs open to other institutions of higher education.

JUSTIFICATION: The Tribally Controlled Colleges & Universities Assistance Act of 1978 authorizes $8,000/Indian Student (ISC) for TCUs’ operating budgets. Yet, for AY 2015-16 TCUs received $6,717/Indian student. The President requests and Congress appropriates about $200 million annually to operate Howard University (HU), the only other Minority Serving Institution that receives federal operating funds. HU’s federal operating funding is nearly $30,000/student. Make no mistake, HU needs this funding — so do the TCUs.

Congress designated TCUs as land-grant institutions in 1994. Our USDA partnership is important because as American Indians, land is central to who we are. Yet, the TCU (1994) land-grant programs are unduly small compared to other land-grants. In FY2015:

- **Extension:** 1994s = $4.4M (competitive) 1862s (state) = $300M (formula) 1890s (17 HBCUs) = $43.9M
- **Research:** 1994s = $1.8M 1862s = $243.7M 1890s = $52.5M (min. $1M each)

The situation is similar throughout the federal government. According to a fall 2009 report, the National Science Foundation awarded $4.2 billion in science and engineering funding to institutions of higher education. TCUs received just one-quarter of one percent ($10.5 million) of this funding. This disproportionate distribution trend has yet to be addressed.
Navajo Technical University

Ready to help the Navajo Nation to higher educational and economic parity