



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
nmb.communications@gmail.com

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee receives report regarding Navajo Technical University

WINDOW ROCK – At the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee’s first regular meeting of the year on Wednesday, committee members received an orientation report from Navajo Technical University president, Dr. Elmer Guy. The report included important updates regarding the university’s academic programs, enrollment, and future initiatives.

Dr. Guy said NTU’s overall enrollment consists of 45% Arizona residents, 53% New Mexico residents, and the remaining from other states.

“Non-Navajo’s are also enrolling, and more and more are coming every year. It is because our tuition rates are low and we offer the STEM program—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics,” added Dr. Guy.

Dr. Guy said the state of New Mexico recently approved a General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$2 million to NTU, which will go towards the expansion of the STEM Program science labs, construction of an auditorium, and to provide additional office space for administrative services.

HEHSC member Council Delegate Amber Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi’i’áhi/To’Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz’t’l’í) commended the positive growth of NTU, and congratulated Dr. Guy on receiving the grants to support the advancement of programs at the university, and recommended that traditional Navajo aspects be incorporated into the curriculum.

“We want to revitalize subsistence agricultural farming, and the culinary arts program plays a huge roll. I think it is important to implement traditional foods and guide your program to encourage this,” said Delegate Crotty.

Dr. Guy said the culinary program dedicates a portion of its curriculum to traditional cooking and is currently developing methods to cook healthier meals using commodity food items. He added that the final recipes would be distributed to Navajo communities to inspire healthier cooking.

The report outlines other accomplishments including the development of a Master of Arts degree in Diné Studies, the completion of a Comprehensive Wellness Center building, and an anticipated collaboration with the Navajo Head Start Program to aid in certifying teachers. Dr. Guy also said there is concern over student housing because dormitories are now at capacity.

Delegate Crotty suggested working with the Navajo Housing Authority to obtain grant money that could be used to build additional student housing on campus.

“They have money set aside for college housing. I think as a committee we can inquire with NHA, and ask where that money is going. I believe it is about \$9 million, and to my knowledge no new dormitories have been built with those funds yet,” said Delegate Crotty.

EHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) proposed a directive to issue a letter to NHA requesting their assistance in locating infrastructure funding for student housing at NTU.

EHSC members voted 4-0 to accept the report.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council