



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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The Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force receives a report on the development of database to track missing relatives



Missing and Murdered Dine' Relative Task Force Chairwoman Amber Kanazbah Crotty receives updates about NTU database system.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force and Navajo Technical University (NTU) are moving forward with an effort to build a centralized, secure, and survivor-centered data system.

The database will support efforts to track cases of missing and murdered Diné individuals—especially Diné women, girls, and LGBTQ and Two-Spirit relatives—who are severely affected by violence and underrepresented in official statistics.

“The database isn’t just about compiling cases—it’s about restoring visibility to those our systems have historically ignored,” said Chairwoman Amber Kanazbah Crotty. “Our LGBTQ and Two-Spirit relatives must be counted. Their stories, identities, and safety matter just as much, and this system is being designed with that understanding at the core.”

NTU Vice President of Operations Dr. Jason Arviso and consultant Dr. Gil Gonzales briefed the Task Force on the initial methodology, scope, and user design of the system. The development strategy includes extensive stakeholder engagement, a transparent build process, and close alignment with the Task Force’s evaluation plan. The report was helping in determining the database’s technical structure, user interface, and key data fields, including categories for gender identity and sexual orientation to ensure inclusivity.

The cloud-based database will provide a secure administrative access and a public reporting portal. The application is being developed to comply with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other data privacy standards.

Dr. Gonzales emphasized that while the system is in its early design phase, it will support both quantitative and qualitative reporting. The platform is also expected to feature mobile accessibility and offline data collection options to ensure use in remote and underserved areas of the Navajo Nation.

To increase transparency, NTU and the Task Force plan to publish regular public reports explaining how data is collected, what information is included, and how that data will be used to support policy decisions, victim services, and prevention strategies. This will include updates in verbal and digital storytelling to help families and chapters understand the purpose and progress of the database.

The NTU team is currently outlining the list of data elements and technical infrastructure. Small-group collaboration will guide how the system handles sensitive variables and ensures protection for all users. LGBTQ and Two-Spirit communities will be engaged directly to help shape how their cases are represented and handled within the system.

This initiative is the culmination of advocacy from families and relatives, who have pushed for data-driven solutions to a crisis long overlooked by mainstream systems. The MMDR Task Force and NTU are committed to honoring that history and building a system grounded in accountability, visibility, and healing.

For more information about the MMDR initiative, visit the MMDR Task Force page on the 25th Navajo Nation Council's website.

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