



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Law and Order Committee supports legislation to increase annual funding for higher education and scholarships



Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez sponsored Legislation 0169-25 to increase annual funding for higher education and scholarships.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Law and Order Committee (LOC) voted three in favor, and none opposed to support legislation 0169-25, increasing annual appropriations provided to Diné College, Navajo Technical University, and the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance by amending the “Dine Higher Education Grant Fund”, sponsored by Delegate Dr. Andy Nez.

“Our Diné scholars and youth deserve to have secured funding that leads to an opportunity for higher education or vocational learning. One of the responsibilities of the Navajo Nation government is to ensure that our Diné students are supported and our institutions have adequate funding to provide high-quality education”, said Delegate Dr. Nez.

The legislation proposes an increase to \$30 million for the Diné Higher Education Grant Fund, to be equally distributed among Diné College, Navajo Technical University, and the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance, to support higher education opportunities for Diné students. The LOC fully supported this proposed increase and remains committed to our students.

“The Law and Order Committee understands the hardship that the people face, especially with families who are struggling to send their students to college to receive a higher education or for those who want to continue their education,” said Chair Euginia Charles-Newton.

The funding will be used to support financial aid, operate and maintain programs, facilities, and equipment, conduct activities and operations in all areas of higher education, and to leverage and/or match funding requirements for various projects to increase the quality of education in the schools.

Legislation 0168-25 also highlights that both colleges will set aside funding to support Diné language courses, Diné teaching programming, K-12 pipeline programs, and help increase their endowment. Altogether, with ONNSFA, there is a shared goal to preserve Diné Bizaad and provide an opportunity for the next generation to speak the Diné language.

This legislation, with the full support of LOC, now moves forward to the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) for consideration.

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