



# DINÉ COLLEGE

THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OF THE NAVAJO

Board of Regents

DC-OCT-2549-21

## RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS DINÉ COLLEGE

Approving a resolution in support of Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's task force to investigate and right the history of the boarding school experience in the United States and support in the creation of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act.

### WHEREAS:

1. The Diné College Board of Regents is empowered to exercise authority and control over Diné College and is responsible for the accomplishment of the Diné College purposes, 10 NNC § 2003 (2005 ed.); and
2. The Diné College is a non-profit post secondary educational institution chartered by the Navajo Nation Council in 1968 for the purposes of providing educational opportunities to the Navajo people and others in areas important to the economic and social development of the Navajo Nation and other purposes, 10 NNC § 2002; and
3. The history of American Indian Boarding Schools is not relegated to the past to be forgotten but is as present today in every Native American as those that have attended a boarding school; and
4. The atrocities that have been executed upon our children in the name of the United States in order to "scrub the Indian white" have not been successful, will never be successful and have just resulted in greater resilience by Native Americans to survive and succeed; and
5. The stories of death, abuse and fear still resonates in our individual stories of family across the Navajo Nation and the Board of Regents seeks to help support the healing that is needed to maintain balance and harmony; and
6. The Diné College Board of Regents supports Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland in her efforts to review policies of boarding schools and begin to heal the trauma :
  - a. *"The Interior Department will address the inter-generational impact of Indian boarding schools to shed light on the unspoken traumas of the past, no matter*

*how hard it will be. I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won't undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we're all proud to embrace."*

- b. "The primary goal will be to identify boarding school facilities and sites; the location of known and possible student burial sites located at or near school facilities; and the identities and Tribal affiliations of children interred at such locations."*
7. Senator Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Sharice Davids are preparing to re-introduce the *Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act*; and
8. This bill would establish the first formal commission in United States history to investigate and document the Indian Boarding School Policies and impact on American Indian children and their families; and
9. As the first tribal college in this country, the Diné College Board of Regents is keenly aware of impacts of "forced education" and the need to exert tribal sovereignty in education to ensure the continuation of the Navajo Nation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Diné College Board of Regents hereby approves a resolution in support of Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's task force to investigate and right the history of the boarding school experience in the United States and in support of the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act.
2. The Diné College Board of Regents authorizes, directs, and empowers the Diné College President to perform all actions deemed necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Diné College Board of Regents at a duly called meeting held in Tsaile, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 6th day of October, 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland Secretary Letter on Boarding Schools



Greg H. Bigman, President  
Dine College Board of Regents

**MOTION: Regent Tso**

**SECOND: Regent Toadecheenie**