



**Written Testimony of New Mexico Tribal College Consortium
Regarding
Fiscal Year 2016 State of New Mexico Legislative Priorities**

**Before the
New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

December 9, 2014

INTRODUCTION

Good Afternoon Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and Members of the Legislative Finance Committee. Thank you for providing the New Mexico Tribal College Consortium an opportunity to present before you. In 2013, the four tribal colleges located in New Mexico established to the New Mexico Tribal College Consortium (“Consortium”) to serve as a unifying voice to address common legislative, policy and funding concerns. Each of the tribal college is uniquely chartered with differing missions. Diné College is the first tribally chartered and operated college and operates as a liberal arts college. The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) is Congressionally-chartered with a focus on the creative arts. The Navajo Technical University (NTU) is a higher education institution focused on STEM degree and vocational education programs. The Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) is national community college operated by the Bureau of Indian Education and concentrates on vocational, STEM and liberal arts degrees.

Over the last five years, each of the tribal colleges have received considerable support from the State of New Mexico for capital projects and dual credit programs. In the coming year, each of the tribal colleges is slated to receive funding from the voter-approved General Obligation Bond (GO Bond). Herein we provide the Consortium's common priorities as well the tribal college's individual capital improvement and funding requests.

NEW MEXICO TRIBAL COLLEGE CONSORTIUM PRIORITIES

1. High School Dual Credit Reimbursement Funding

The Consortium requests \$500,000 in recurring funding for the high school student dual credit program. The four tribal colleges received \$100,000 in dual credit reimbursement funding in FY 14 and will receive \$200,000 in FY 15, of which both amounts are insufficient to address the increasing high school dual credit enrollments at each of the tribal colleges. For example, since 2009, IAIA has enrolled approximately 1100 high students in our dual credit courses and 188 students are enrolled for the 2014 fall semester. Likewise, Diné College and Navajo Technical University have developed dual credit programs that continue to expand. SIPI will begin offering dual credit offerings in Fall 2015. It is important to note nationally 90% of American Indian students attend public schools, including here in New Mexico, and tribal college dual credit programs are an opportunity to provide new and successful pathways for American Indian students. This will in turn improve New Mexico's overall statewide student College completion rate.

Research findings indicate that dual-credit programs benefit communities across the state, particularly those that are struggling economically. Students who are part of dual-credit programs are more likely to get college degrees, which provides them more

earning power, thereby increasing tax revenues for the state and boosting the overall state economy. Moreover, students in dual-credit programs are more likely to finish high school and succeed in college; that's important because the high school dropout rate for American Indian students is higher than it is for non-Indian students.

2. *New Mexico Research and Public Service Project Funding*

The Consortium has submitted a proposal for State of New Mexico Research and Public Service Project funding. The Consortium is requesting \$500,000 to fund a project to increase the number of Native American students from New Mexico who enroll and graduate from an institution of higher education. The three-part project will be carried out by the four tribal colleges, including the following:

1. Raising awareness in all of the New Mexico Tribal Communities regarding the available college degree programs and dual credit courses at the four tribal colleges;
2. Expanding the College Readiness programs (also known as Summer Bridge Programs) at each of the Tribal Colleges in the consortium so that they will provide additional academic support, and further prepare high school students for college; and
3. Convening a College Readiness Conference that is aimed at New Mexico Tribal Educators, Tribal Leaders, and parents to help them prepare Native American youth for college.

DINÉ COLLEGE

Capital Project Funding Request

Diné College requests \$725,000 to complete campus fire and safety upgrades for its Shiprock South Campus. The project will be done in two phases: Phase I (A&E) in amount \$255,000 and Phase II (Construction) in amount of \$500,000. Specifically, Diné College seeks to plan, design, and construct a vehicle access lane within its campus that will provide accessibility to fire truck as well as vehicles belonging to College personnel. Fire hydrants will be included in the project scope, and a pedestrian sidewalk will run adjacent to the access lane. The project is important to the life safety of students, administrators, and visitors that use the South Shiprock Branch Campus on a daily basis. The access lane will be designed and constructed so that fire hydrants are located within 250 feet of educational facilities. Establishing this emergency response capability is a critical need for the Shiprock Campus and was identified in a “2013 Facilities Assessment” completed by Dyrón Murphy Architects for Diné College. Further, Diné College is migrating all its operations from its Shiprock North Campus to the Shiprock South campus. It hopes to complete the transition by 2020.

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS

Capital Projects Funding Requests

1. The IAIA requests \$940,000 to replace the roof and evaporative cooling units in our 15-year –old Academic Building. The 35,000 square foot Academic Building roof has developed numerous leaks and the evaporative cooler’s mechanical problems are beyond repair. Many of the leaks in academic building roof are over office spaces, which house documents, student files and computer equipment. Other leaks have occurred over instructional space. The existing roof would be replaced with a
-

thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) membrane roofing system that would offer much more durability than the current roof as well as complete water tightness. TPO roofs are the general standard used for LEED designed buildings. The Academic building is expansive, at over 35,000 square feet. Because of its size, locating and fixing individual leaks has become very difficult and expensive. It is estimated the TPO membrane system could be installed for \$500,000.

The current evaporative cooling system serving the academic building is plagued by operational and inefficiency issues. The college frequently has to engage a mechanical engineering company to troubleshoot, rebalance, and replace parts on the system, at great cost. This project would call for replacing the 25 existing evaporative cooling units with air conditioning units. While providing much better climate control for the building, the new air conditioning units would also be more efficient and would help the campus further conserve on its water usage. The estimated cost for completing this project is \$440,000.

2. The IAIA requests \$250,000 to renovate the second floor of our Museum to increase exhibition and education space. In the course of building out its campus on the South side of Santa Fe, IAIA was able to relocate its permanent art collection from the upstairs area of the Museum of Contemporary Native Art to a state of the art, climate controlled facility on campus. Because the art had previously been stored in the museum, once it was removed it left a large, empty space on the 2nd floor. Currently, this space is not suitable for displaying art, as it is configured for storage and lacks the necessary lighting, flooring, and proper wall space for exhibiting fine art. This project would facilitate the renovation of the 2nd floor of the Museum of Contemporary
-

Native Art so that it could be used as exhibition space. Because the museum is located in the heart of downtown Santa Fe and is visited by thousands of people annually, this renovation would not only be a huge boost to IAIA and its museum's capacity to display art, but would also serve to bolster the offerings that Santa Fe and the State of New Mexico have to share with visitors, both local and from out of state. It is estimated that this project would cost \$250,000 to complete.

SOUTHWEST POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Capital Projects Funding Requests

1. SIPI is requesting \$560,000 to improve campus fire alarm systems. The SIPI campus is over 40 years old. Most of the original buildings remain as they were originally constructed. Johnson, Smitthipong and Rosamond Associates, Inc (JSRa) was commissioned to propose resolutions to the campus challenges, including inadequate infrastructure. JSRA identified the need to update the campus fire alarm system due to several main deficiencies:
 - A. Not all buildings initiate a call to the local fire department.
 - B. No capability for mass notification by fire alarm in the event of a building fire.
 - C. Some buildings have stand-alone systems that cannot connect to the campus-wide system

The intent of this request is to augment funding to replace the existing fire alarm systems with a fully-integrated, code compliant, modern fire alarm, capable of mass notification. Funding for this project can be phased as follows 1) Planning, Design, Acquisition (\$56,000) and 2) Construction (\$504,000).

2. SIPI is requesting up to: \$1,400,000 to fund technology improvements, as identified in the SIPI Master Plan, Johnson, Smithipong and Rosamond Associates, Inc (JSRa) identified, the need to update the campus information technology (IT) systems due to the following main deficiencies:
 - A. Insufficient wire management.
 - B. No ground bus in IT rooms.
 - C. Mix of Cat 5 horizontal cables.
 - D. Horizontal cabling not installed in basket tray or j-hooks.
 - E. With install of voice over IP phones (VoIP), the 200 pair copper cable not required.
 - F. No dedicated cooling in IT rooms.
 - G. No access control on IT room door.
 - H. Existing UPS systems installed in racks are insufficient to support all equipment.
 - I. Not all strands of fiber have been terminated on the FDU. (Operational Deficiency)

The intent of this request is to correct these IT deficiencies located in many of the buildings throughout campus. The SIPI Facility Master Plan describes, in detail, the deficiencies discovered for each building. Each phase can be implemented incrementally, based on funds availability.

NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Capital Projects Funding Requests

1. Navajo Technical University (NTU) requests \$250,000 to upgrade campus facilities to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates regarding public
-

accommodations and commercial facilities include removing physical barriers that limit major life activities while providing “readily achievable” equal access to facilities. This includes facilities at NTU that have not been modified or altered in any way after the ADA was passed. The NTU campus is not wheelchair accessible and the classroom mods have no running water or ramps. NTU seeks to provide equal access to the public. Funds are being requested to support the following priorities:

- Wheelchair ramps that are of strength to meet bldg. codes.
 - Door entryways in all mods that accommodate wheelchair access.
 - Door thresholds to accommodate wheelchair access (concrete ramps are not adequate)
 - Proper height water fountains for those in wheelchairs.
 - Bathrooms for wheelchair access.
 - Handrails installed in restrooms.
 - All door entryways need automatic door opening systems.
2. NTU is requesting \$250,000 to install a camera security system that will replace the current end-of-life analog system with a centralized Internet Protocol (IP) web-based system. The IP video surveillance system will include the following: centralized video management system, web-based user interface, IP cameras with remote management access, HD cameras, hybrid network video recording servers, high availability, and high-capacity storage. The centralized system will support multi-level user access controls and multi-user viewing capabilities. The current camera system consists of fixed analog and PTZ cameras connected to six Phantom Hawk CDSS recording servers in the College Operations building. Recording servers have limited

storage and require constant maintenance. The recording servers are no longer covered by warranty because the manufacturer is no longer in business. The system is not centralized and is difficult to maintain. The entire system is connected via multimode fiber optic cabling.

3. NTU is requesting 250,000 for the installation of 20 solar street light poles on the east side of the campus and 10 solar sidewalk lights in the interior part of campus. The lighting on this side of the campus is very poor. The light poles will be installed along the roadway from the science and technology building to the south side of the men's dormitory. The interior sidewalk lights will also be placed in areas around campus where lighting is very poor. The solar street and sidewalk lights will illuminate the area creating a safer and secure environment without consuming generated electricity from the public utility company.

4. NTU is requesting \$2,000,000 to construct phase 3 of the NTU Multi-purpose Wellness and Education Center. Phase 3 builds the STEM classrooms and labs. Primarily, Phase 3 of this project will provide funding for a wet lab and other STEM classrooms to be located in a third story added on top of the two story Multi-purpose Wellness and Education Center. This space will allow NTU to work with the University of New Mexico and other state colleges and universities to expand the number of American Indian students working toward both new STEM offerings (NTU is currently preparing a Biology baccalaureate degree) as well as current offerings in technology, digital manufacturing, industrial engineering, electronic and computer engineering, and math. The goal is to have New Mexico graduate a higher

percentage of American Indian students than any other state with baccalaureate degrees in STEM within the next five years. The State of New Mexico has previously support the projects in years 2006 (\$775,000), 2012 (\$500,000), and 2014 (\$2,000,000).

New Mexico Research and Public Service Project Funding

NTU is submitting a separate RPSP funding requesting in the amount of \$404,500. The funding will be used for three objectives: 1) Conduct research and collect data that includes information about the type of well pumping technology being used, the depth of wells selected, the measure of water in the wells, the quality of water in the wells, and how the water is being used in selected remote and rural areas of the Navajo Nation, Pueblo nations, and Apache nations; 2) To publish a report that describes new green technologies best suited to installation on remote and rural Indian lands to serve herding and agricultural needs; 3) To laser scan and test the feasibility of using state-of-the-art CNC and laser technology to provide inexpensive custom parts for tribal ranchers and farmers to repair existing windmills.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for allowing to present our FY 2016 priorities before you. In closing, the Consortium would like to note that several of the tribal colleges also receive funding for their respective ABE/GED programs and have been quite successful in graduating students. As well, a small percentage of our students receive funding from the New Mexico College Affordability, Work Study, Student Incentives and Legislative Endowment funds and programs. Last, Diné College received funding from the New Mexico Higher Education Department to support college readiness and transition to college programs.

These funds were very important in supplementing the Diné College's Summer Institute. In addition to funding, the tribal colleges have entered into data sharing agreements so that the success and challenges of American Indian students seeking higher education opportunities is tracked more closely and the data analysis, metrics, and integrity is more reliable. Each tribal college extends a standing invitation to you to visit our campuses. Representatives from the tribal colleges are available to answer any of your questions.