

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- First Year, 2019

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE,
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION
OF CRYSTAL CREE, A GRADUATE STUDENT, TO THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO
GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITIES

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 400(A). Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 972(A)(7), the committee has the authority to nominate a graduate student to the Navajo Government Development Commission.
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council 2 N.N.C. § 700(A). Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(9), a proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council must be assigned to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee before it is considered by the Navajo Nation Council.
- C. The Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §972(A), confirms appointments to the Commission on Navajo Government Development.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Commission on Navajo Government Development consists of 12 Navajo members. Regarding appointments to this commission, Navajo Nation law mandates - "Commission members shall be chosen from among individuals who have demonstrated scholarship, a strong sense of public interest, knowledge of Navajo history and cultural heritage, spiritual leadership,

leadership in the Navajo government and abilities likely to contribute to the fulfillment of the duties of the Commission." 2 N.N.C. § 972(D).

- B. Once appointed, members of the Commission on Navajo Government Development are confirmed by and serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 972(A).
- C. Concerning nomination and qualifications for the Commission on Navajo Government Development, Navajo Nation law provides - "One member shall be nominated by the [Health, Education and Human Services] Committee of the Navajo Nation Council; the nominee shall be a graduate student from any accredited college or university, such member shall serve so long as said nominee is a full-time graduate student, but no longer than two years from the date of confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council." 2 N.N.C. § 972(A)(7).
- D. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council nominates Crystal Cree to serve on and fill the graduate student position on the Commission on Navajo Government Development as provided at 2 N.N.C. § 972(A)(7). The nominee meets all the necessary qualifications to serve on the Commission. See attached **Exhibit A**, documents supporting appointment.

SECTION THREE. CONFIRMATION

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 972(A)(7), graduate student requirements, the Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms the nomination of Crystal Cree to the Commission of Navajo Government Development. The term shall be served consistent with Navajo Nation law.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 18 in Favor, and 01 Opposed, on this 23rd day of October 2019.


Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council

11-01-19

DATE

Motion: Honorable Paul Begay
Second: Honorable Vince R. James

Speaker Seth Damon not voting

September 23, 2019



Health, Education, and Health Services Committee
Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

**RE: LETTER OF INTEREST FOR VACANCY WITH THE OFFICE OF NAVAJO GOVERNMENT
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Dear Honorable Delegates,

I am sending this correspondence in regards to the recent invitation to be re-nominated as the graduate student representative for the Commission on Navajo Government Development Commission. My name is Crystal Cree, and I am Tsé deeshgizhnii (Rockgap), born for Bììh bitóodnii (Deer Spring). My maternal grandfather is Tl'ízílání (Manygoats) and my paternal grandfather is Tá neeszáhnii (Tangle People). I am from Tuba City, Arizona.

I previously served as the graduate student representative on the commission. My first appointment ended in April 2019. I did not seek re-nomination at the time to give another graduate student the privilege of serving as the graduate student commissioner. Over past few weeks, I've been approached by various stakeholders to resubmit my candidacy to the commission. After some serious consideration on my part, I've decided to seek re-nomination.

Last year, I graduated with a graduate certificate in Indigenous and Tribal Nation-Building, Leadership, Management, and Administration, and a Masters in Public Administration degree from Northern Arizona University. My education has trained me in all arenas of government and policy relations. Presently, I am a full-time doctorate student at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. I am seeking a Doctor of Public Administration with a concentration in Public Policy and Administration. The rigorous coursework honed my expertise in tribal policies, politics, and government administration. My study of indigenous environmental and human health sciences, policy, and management complements my knowledge of community economic development.

I currently work full-time as the Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy at Diné College. I oversee and direct legislative affairs and policy at the college. I also provide analysis and recommendation to the President and other leadership. I also oversee our development and alumni relations office. As an educated, experienced and trained member of the indigenous community. An essential component of this position is to have a comprehensive, overall working knowledge of the trust relationship, interaction, and policy goals of federal and tribal governments.

With that, I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to be re-nominated. I appreciate your time in considering my letter of interest for this position once again. I look forward to your support and favorable response. If you have any questions, you can reach me at () or by email at . Thank you.

Sincerely,

Crystal Jane Cree
Crystal J. Cree

CRYSTAL JANE CREE

P.O. Box | Tsaile, AZ 86556 | (928)

EDUCATION

Doctor of Public Administration West Chester of Pennsylvania University – West Chester, Pennsylvania	In-Progress
Masters of Public Administration Northern Arizona University – Flagstaff, Arizona	2018
Indigenous and Tribal Nation-Building Leadership, Management, and Administration Program Northern Arizona University – Flagstaff, Arizona	2018
Bachelor of Arts in Applied Indigenous Studies with an Emphasis in Policy Administration Northern Arizona University – Flagstaff, Arizona	2010
Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts Diné College – Tsaile, Arizona	2007

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

<i>Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy</i> Diné College – Tsaile, AZ Direct and coordinate with other legislative personnel within the Navajo Nation government, State Legislature (AZ and NM), and Federal government offices to coordinates with other legislative personnel and lobbying efforts. Monitor developments and alert President of possible impacts and, if needed soliciting and compiling information regarding possible actions to address legislation. Provide analysis of potential legislation and its impact on the College. Monitor and report on findings from academic and other research organizations that relates to Diné College' policy agenda. Provide recommendations, supported research, and policy analysis on higher education and related areas and write reports, publish findings, and give presentations. Develop and maintain knowledge of current and emerging trends, issues, and perspectives in higher education within federal, state, institutional, nonprofit, and foundation sectors. Develop and maintain knowledge of current and emerging trends, issues, and perspectives in higher education within federal, state, institutional, nonprofit, and foundation sectors. Maintains and develops various databases and materials for internal and external use that provide information about state legislators, members of Congress, council delegates, and Diné College's presence in legislative districts. Summarize and interpret relevant legislative, judicial, and executive actions. Draft articles and other member communication materials, including grassroots initiatives and policy summaries. Develop and distribute a variety of information materials, including public policy positions, testimony, speeches, and other presentations. Assist in organizing annual Local and National Legislative Summits. Work with other College officials to identify and track tribal, federal and state legislation that may affect higher education and a wide range of Diné College programs or constituents, including academic programs, land grant, public health, and other areas of interest to Diné College administrators and faculty.	Mar. 2019 – Present
<i>Policy Analyst</i> Diné College – Tsaile, AZ Contribute to Diné College's advocacy and research agenda through policy analysis and research that will advance the College's higher education agenda policy for Dine College at the local, state, and federal level. Additional responsibility to support day-to-day efforts in liaising with Navajo Nation Council, and other agencies, as well as collaborating with the entire staff in fulfillment of the College's mission and goals. Essential duties include supporting research and policy analysis on higher education and related areas and write reports, publish findings, and give presentations, develop and maintain knowledge of current and emerging trends, issues, and perspectives in higher education within federal, state, institutional, nonprofit, and foundation sectors, summarize and interpret relevant legislative, judicial, and executive actions. Additionally, other duties include drafting articles and other member communication materials, including grassroots initiatives and policy summaries, developing and distributing a variety of information materials, and including public policy positions, testimony, speeches, and other presentations. Assist in organizing annual Local and National Legislative Summits, monitor and report on findings from academic and other research organizations that relates to Diné College' policy agenda, and perform other duties as assigned.	Feb. 2018 – Feb. 2019

Tribal Affairs Specialist

Feb. 2015 – Feb. 2018

Federal Emergency Management Agency – Winchester, Virginia

Serve as specialist and liaison to FEMA in providing subject matter expertise in tribal affairs. Conduct tribal research, complete cultural competency research as directed and brief to appropriate actors. Review tribe's profile and incident specifics, make initial contact to obtain invitation from tribal officials, create and maintain detailed tribal activity contact log. Conduct meetings with tribal officials as appropriate. Prepare and deliver presentations to tribal entities such as tribal councils, committees, subcommittees, and emergency management teams.

Coordinator

Nov. 2014 – Feb. 2018

Northern Arizona University Center for American Indian Economic Development – Flagstaff, Arizona

As program manager under the direction of the Center's director, the NAU Foundation, and program sponsors, responsible for overall implementation, operation and coordination of the Seven Generation Money Management (7GMM) game—a financial literacy project for Native American youth. Coordinate other programs and projects as needed. Oversee program budget—solicit and procure sponsors to fund the program. Coordinate training seminars for 7GMM expansion. Collect, compile and report data for program evaluations regarding goals and objectives. Provided written reports, basic marketing, graphic design, directly supervise interns and student volunteers, provide technical assistance to tribes in presenting the 7GMM game.

Tribal Affairs Specialist

Feb. 2015 – Feb. 2018

Federal Emergency Management Agency – Winchester, Virginia

Serve as specialist and liaison to FEMA in providing subject matter expertise in tribal affairs. Conduct tribal research, complete cultural competency research as directed and brief to appropriate actors. Review tribe's profile and incident specifics, make initial contact to obtain invitation from tribal officials, create and maintain detailed tribal activity contact log. Conduct meetings with tribal officials as appropriate. Prepare and deliver presentations to tribal entities such as tribal councils, committees, subcommittees, and emergency management teams.

Native American Program Associate

Jan. – May 2015

Grand Canyon Trust – Flagstaff, Arizona

Along with associates, served as project coordinator to successfully create a low-profit limited liability company (L3C), *DinéHózhó*, to address economic development issues on the Navajo Nation. Revised articles of incorporation and bylaws of *DinéHózhó* corporation and coordinated with local and tribal officials to develop tribal legislation to codify L3C designation in tribal business regulations. Researched business industry regulations, best practices, management structures, funding, marketing and sales strategies. Created business plan and financial projections based on research for the L3C corporation. Developed project vision and goals. Presented project to tribal agencies and prospective investors.

Legislative District Assistant

Feb. – Sept. 2014

The 22nd Navajo Nation Council – Window Rock, Navajo Nation

Performed a wide range of professional legislative work of considerable difficulty in providing support to Navajo Nation Council Delegates. Conducted research; prepared resolutions, drafted legislation and provided policy reviews; addressed constituent inquiries, requests, and concerns. Wrote correspondences, coordinated schedules, meetings, public appearances, interviews, drafted written statements, advised delegate in various policy matters, arranged travel, managed travel finances. Attended meetings on behalf of delegate.

Program Services Evaluator

Sept. 2012 – Feb. 2014

Department of Economic Security – Flagstaff, Arizona

Performed duties in application of program rules, policies and procedures to make initial and continuing determinations of eligibility appropriate to AHCCCS Health Insurance, ALTCS, KidsCare, Freedom to Work, and Medicare Cost Sharing Programs. Also provided supervisory and technical assistance in interpreting policies, rules and regulations for staff and customers. Assisted in training staff.

Commissioner

Apr. 2017 – Present

Commission on Navajo Government Development – The Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona

As Commissioner, provide direction and guidance to the Office of Navajo Government Development to fulfill commission goals to use Diné Fundamental Law in providing expertise, advisement, and policy recommendations to the Navajo Nation government as it relates to government reform in structure, ethics, accountability, and transparency.

Co-Chair

Sept. 2016 – Feb. 2017

NAU Commission for Native Americans – Flagstaff, Arizona

As co-chair of the commission, preside over meetings, direct commission actions to fulfill University mandates, objectives and goals. The Commission considers, evaluates and analyzes all matters pertaining to Native Americans at Northern Arizona University. Establishes goals and priorities for these matters, engages Native American faculty, administrative staff, and students on these matters. Provide reports and recommendations to university president.

SKILLS SUMMARY

- Grant writing
- Project management
- Professional writing
- Administrative and Legislative support
- Familiarity with Navajo Nation government processes
- Legislative processes—tribal, state, federal
- Tribal, State and Federal government relations
- Policy review and recommendations
- Policy and legislative analysis
- Program management
- Public speaking
- Event Planning

LANGUAGES

English – Speak fluently, read, and write with high proficiency.

Navajo – Basic conversational speaking skills. Read and write with functional proficiency.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Charles Roessel, *President*
Diné College
1 Circle Drive
PO Box: C08
Tsaile, AZ 86011
(928) 724-6669

N. Levi Esquerra, *Director*
Center for American Indian
Economic Development
Northern Arizona University
P.O. Box 15066
Flagstaff, AZ 86011
(602) 826-4969

Edward Dee, *Executive Director*
Office of Navajo Government
Development
Navajo Nation
PO BOX 220
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-6378

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
NAVAJO NATION**



HONORABLE SETH DAMON
Speaker 24th Navajo Nation Council

September 24, 2019

Daniel E. Tso, Chair
Charlaine Tso, Vice-Chair
Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC)
The 24th Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: Legislation No. 0259-19

Dear Honorable Delegate Tso and the HEHS Committee,

This letter is to provide an update regarding the latest HEHSC representative nominees to the Commission on Navajo Government Development. As you are aware a request for proposal was issued in a Public Notice on May 9, 2019 by the HEHSC. Two qualified applicants expressed an interest and thus submitted their application packet to the HEHSC, they are:

1. Ms. Richelle Lynn Thomas B.S., M.S., Diné Doctoral Student, PhD Environmental Science, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (originally from Tuba City, AZ).
2. Mr. Damien Augustine, English Language in the Masters Program, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ (originally from Counselor, NM).

As of September 19, 2019, both graduate student nominee withdrew their application, with their respective explanations, and thus declined to be considered as representative of HEHSC to the Commission on Navajo Government Development.

Therefore, the Office of Navajo Government Development with concurrence by the Chairperson of the Commission reached out to Ms. Crystal Jane Cree, MPA, Doctoral Student in Public Administration, West Chester of Pennsylvania University, West Chester, PA (originally from Tuba City, AZ), to be considered for re-nomination as a HEHSC representative to the Commission. Ms. Cree acknowledged and agreed and accordingly, promptly submitted her letter of interest and a resume.

This concludes the chronological event leading up the latest nominee for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (928) 871-6378. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Dee".

Edward Dee, Executive Director
Office of Navajo Government Development

xc: ONGD file

NAVAJO NATION

195

10/23/2019

NNC 2019 FALL SESSION

05:53:38 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0259-19: Confirming	PASSED
MOT Begay, P	the Nomination of Crystal Cree,	
SEC James, V	a Graduate Student, to the	
	Commission on Navajo Government	

Yea : 18

Nay : 1

Excused : 3

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 18

Begay, E	Freeland, M	Stewart, W	Walker, T
Begay, K	Halona, P	Tso	Wauneka, E
Begay, P	Henio, J	Tso, C	Yazzie
Brown	Nez, R	Tso, D	Yellowhair
Charles-Newton	Slater, C		

Nay : 1

Crotty

Excused : 3

Daniels	Tso, E	Smith
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Not Voting : 1

James, V

Presiding Speaker: Damon