

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL --- First Year, 2016

AN ACTION

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES
AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL, CONFIRMING DR. DONALD D. BENN AS
NAVAJO NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DIRECTOR

BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Findings

- A. The Navajo Nation President appoints a person as the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director. 2 N.N.C. § 1923(A).
- B. The appointed Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director reports directly to the Navajo Nation President.
Id.
- C. The Navajo Nation Council gave the Resources and Development Committee legislative oversight over the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency. 2 N.N.C. §§ 501(C)(1) *see also* CJA-03-13, 22nd Navajo Nation Council (2013) *and* 1926 *see also* CJA-03-13, 22nd Navajo Nation Council, sect. 5, 30 (2013).
- D. A proposed resolution requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).
- E. The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director shall possess the authorities found at 2 N.N.C. §1924.

Section Two. Appointment of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director

The Navajo Nation President appoints Dr. Donald D. Benn as the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director. Dr. Benn's appointment letter and resume are attached as EXHIBIT A.

Section Three. Recommendation of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director

The Resources and Development Committee recommends Dr. Donald D. Benn as the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director. 2 N.N.C. §1923(A) *see also* CJA-03-13, 22nd Navajo Nation Council, sect. 5, 30 (2013).

Section Four. Confirmation of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director

The Navajo Nation Council confirms Dr. Donald D. Benn as the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director. 2 N.N.C. §1923(A).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 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 14 in favor and 3 opposed, this 30th day of December, 2015.



LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

1-12-16

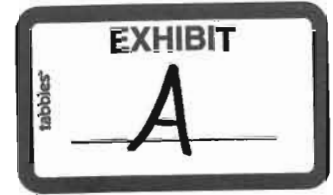
Date

Motion : Honorable Edmund Yazzie
Second : Honorable Alton Joe Shepherd



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT



May 18, 2015

Dr. Donald Benn

Re: Appointment as Executive Director to the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Dr. Benn:

This memorandum serves to appoint you as the Executive Director to the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency. This appointment shall take effect on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. and is subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council.

Your duties are outlined in the plan of operation for the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency. You shall be responsible for the administration and management of the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency and the supervision of all personnel. This includes ensuring compliance with all applicable Navajo Nation and other laws and policies.

Your salary shall be that of the current budgeted salary for the position. During this appointment, you will report to the Chief of Staff, President Begaye and Vice President Nez.

Sincerely,

Russell Begaye, President
NAVAJO NATION

Jonathan Nez, Vice President
NAVAJO NATION

Donald D. Benn, PhD

- Served as Co-Director of the Native American Research Laboratory (NARL) at the University of Montana in Missoula, MT; Provided leadership and direction for NARL administrators, faculty and students; Followed the NARL mission; Directed day-to-day operations of the laboratory and UM relations; Wrote and received two NASA grants and was responsible for the financial management/spending of the both grants and followed operating expenses per UM fiduciary processes; As a consultant, set up budgets for two grants (Administration for Native Americans and Department of Labor) and financials for two Diné chapter level business proposals which were submitted to the Diné Department of Economic Development in Window Rock, AZ
- Supervised 15 UM students (high school, undergraduates, graduate and post-docs), 20 Native American Alfred P. Sloan scholars and 2 NARL-UM staff; As a consultant, worked with Diné chapter officials on Articles of Incorporation, Plan of Operations and two business proposals
- Served to represent NARL to UM administrators/officials; Worked closely with the Alfred P. Sloan program to showcase successful Native American graduate students at national conferences like the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). Also, showcased two former Diné College (DC) undergraduates at national and local meetings; and, worked with DC, NTU and the Diné Nation Workforce to locate Diné science students to work on NASA-funded research on the Diné reservation; As a consultant, represented the Diné Nation to non-native business partners in the states of New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado (served as the founder of the Nihidáh Nidíí DaŁ Diné Research Laboratory, LLC in the State of Arizona)
- Identified Montana-Bakken oil explorations as a threat to aquifers; Represented NARL-UM, as a visiting scientist, to collaborate with tribes (Sioux and Assiniboine) to provide an alternative energy source; Introduced a “green” energy project to Montana tribal council and worked with tribal college students to present collected data; As a consultant, collaborated with Diné Nation government to identify renewable energy and food security projects for two Diné chapters (Thoreau and Lukachukai chapters, respectively); Led these collaborations with discussions to create jobs for Diné veterans and their families; Dealt with non-native business partners and engaged discussions of utilizing waste feed-stocks and data (soil and water) at the chapter level to propose a foundation for the first Diné Nation analytical laboratory; and, consulted with the Diné Medicine Man Association on all Diné chapter level projects
- Organized meetings to collect data according to our Diné principles, which is to *think of* (Nitsáhákees), *plan for* (Nahat’á), *implement* (liná) and *analyze* collected data (Siihasin) for journal publications; Utilized these principles to develop specific aims and metrics for every project, namely for the two NASA grants; and, peer reviewed drafts for authors of several journal publications (*Plant Science*, *Journal of Cell Biology* and *Extremophiles*)
- Shaped the mindset of many Diné College science students to utilize Diné principles; Taught chemistry, biology and nutrition at Diné College; Had students think of, plan for, implement and analyze experimental data as they would in making informed life decisions; and, encouraged these students to attend or research Diné ceremonies and note how closely medicine people observe the same principles; and, consulted with the Diné Medicine Man Association on all Diné chapter level projects
- (4 years) Other strong qualifications for this position are the following; Interacted with the Diné government/Economic Development, Federal/State agencies and several non-native business partners (AZ, NM and CO); Made certain that agreements, MOAs, MOUs and other signatories observe the Diné principles; Paid special attention to business transactions with non-native business partners ensuring that they understand that we follow Diné principles; Always observing K’e when dealing with Diné and Diné chapters in the States of Arizona and New Mexico; Reminded all individuals that we have a way of thinking and planning which we follow regardless of existing politics; and, consulted with the Diné Medicine Man Association on all Diné chapter level projects.

EDUCATION:

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry, May 2005, GPA: 3.333

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

Dissertation: Expression of *Avena sativa* L. (Oat) Polyamine Oxidase (PAO) Gene Variants in Recombinant Yeast Hosts

Master of Science in Chemistry, May 2000, GPA: 3.1

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

Master Thesis: Characterization of the Expression of the Gene for Polyamine Oxidase (PAO) in the Plant *Avena Sativa* L (Oat)

Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry May 1995

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Presidential Scholar (1987-1991)

Undergraduate Thesis: Characterization of the enzyme Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) in the cicada *T. dealbatus*.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Research Science Consultant, Nihidáh Nidíí DaŁ Diné Research Laboratory, LLC (NIIDII), 2010-2014. Served four years as a research scientist consultant supporting Native American community efforts to introduce new technologies, namely renewable resources, to their reservations; and, met with tribal colleges, tribal councils, tribal officials and chapter houses to discuss proposals to build tribal research laboratories which focus on using waste feed stocks to produce food, fuel and energy.

Principle Investigator, NASA/Minority Institution Research Program (NASA/MIRS), 2010. Wrote and received a NASA/MIRS grant to introduce Diné science students to “hands-on” research opportunities; also, presented to administrators at Diné College and NTU proposals to build the first Diné Research on the reservation to support Diné science students and professionals who want to develop new technology research projects on the reservation.

Co-director, University of Montana (UM), 2009-2010. Served as a Co-director of the Native American Research Laboratory (NARL) to provide Native American students with “hands-on” laboratory experience in the hard sciences; directed the daily planning and operation of the laboratory; and, worked with administrators and the Alfred P. Sloan program to increase the number of Native science students at UM.

Science Instructor, Dine College (DC), 2008-2009. Taught chemistry, biology and nutrition classes and served as a sponsor for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society; assisted students with summer research opportunities at NMSU and UNM; and, presented the possibility of establishing the first Diné Research Laboratory at DC to provide local “hands-on” laboratory experience for science students attending DC.

Post doc in Yeast Genomics, University of New Mexico, 2005-2008. Conducted yeast genomic research using DNA microarrays, fluorescence and flow cytometry to study novel yeast stem cells and to use as possible cancer research models.

Senior Research lead, New Mexico State University, 2000-2005. Five years as a lead laboratory manager in an academic setting; organized and planned protocols for experiments for ongoing polyamine oxidase (PAO) research; established a new method for yeast genomic DNA isolation, modified it, and used it to study novel PAO protein expression in yeast; and, taught summer research training classes for Native American science students from various tribal colleges.

Senior Research lead, New Mexico State University, 1996-2000. Four years as a lead laboratory manager in an academic setting; manipulated plasmid DNA variants of a cloned gene for the novel enzyme polyamine oxidase (PAO) to test enzyme activities in bacteria; and, taught summer research training classed for Native American science students from various tribal colleges.

Research Assistant, University of New Mexico, 1991-1995. Assisted with the thermal studies of the enzyme lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) in the cicada *T. dealbatus*; and, completed projects and posters that were presented at local and national conferences.

AWARDS:

NASA-MIRS Fellowship, Exploring Heat Shock Protein Research, Site: DC and NTU (2010)
 NASA grant, Developing Fluorescence-based Molecular Tools, Site: NARL-UM (2009-2010)
 National Science Foundation (NSF), GK12 graduate fellowship (NMSU, 2003-20004)
 National Institute of Health research assistantship MBRS-RISE program (NMSU, 2001-2002)
 Alfred P. Sloan graduate fellowship (NMSU, 1997-1999)
 Minority Biomedical Research Support assistantship (NMSU, 1997-2000)
 Research Initiative for Minority Institution (RIMI) scholarship (UNM, 1993-1995)
 Presidential scholar (UNM, 1987-1989).

POSTERS:

"Enzymatic Characterization of the enzyme Polyamine Oxidase (PAO) in *Avena Sativa L.* (Oat)", GK12 program, Las Cruces, NM, 2003

"Kinetic Characterization of the Enzyme Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) in the cicada *T. dealbatus*", Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), Washington, D.C., 1995.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY:

NSF-GK12 fellow: Assisted a middle school teacher to bring hands-on science to students by preparing lesson plans, following National Benchmarks, and helping these students to focus on careers in the hard sciences.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

New Mexico Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (NM-AGEP)
 SREB Doctoral Scholar, Compact for Faculty Diversity
 Genetics Society of America (GSA), voting member
 National Indian Education Association (NIEA), voting member
 Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
 American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), voting member
 Native American Health Professions Society (NAHPS), founder (UNM)
 Tribal Resource Institute in Business, Engineering and Science (TRIBES).

LANGUAGES:

English (fluent) and Navajo (conversational, reading and writing).

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- Assisted summer biochemistry student interns with laboratory methods and techniques (New Mexico State University, 1997-2004)
- Assisted summer chemistry interns with laboratory methods at a tribally-controlled college (Dine College, Shiprock, NM, 1990-1991)
- Assisted summer medical students producing a video on AIDS (Shiprock Indian Health Service Unit, Shiprock, NM, 1989 summer)
- Assisted summer high school students producing a video on local government regulations (Lukachukai, AZ, 1988 summer).

VOLUNTEER:

Provided workshops in biochemistry techniques at a tribally-control college (Summer 2003)
 Clinical technician, UNM Medical School (Tsaile Health Center, Tsaile, AZ, 1987 summer)
 Summer volunteer at Indian Health Service Unit (1980-1987 summers)

PUBLICATIONS:

(2000) Cloning, Isolation and Sequence of the Gene for the Polyamine Oxidase, Yvette Gardner-Johnson, Emine Koc, Abdi Dharma, Nu Dong, Greg Phillips, Don Benn, and Glenn D. Kuehn, submitted to *Plant Science*

(2006) Isolation of un-budded quiescent and apoptotic cells from stationary-phase yeast cultures, Chris Allen, Sabrina Buttner, Anthony Aragon, Jason Thomas, Jason Jaeteo, Don Benn, Stephanie Ruby, Frank Madeo, and Margaret Werner-Washburne, July 2006, *Journal of Cell Biology*, URL: <http://www.jbc.org/cgi/content/abstract/174/1/89>

(2006) Compendium analysis of transcript abundance in quiescent and non-quiescent yeast cells, Anthony Aragon, Osario Meirelles, Shusmita Roy, Angelina Rodriguez, Don Benn, and Margaret Werner-Washburne, submitted to the *Journal of Cell Biology*

(2011) Two new members of the genus, *Sulfolobus* from Central America: *Sulfolobus salvadorensis* sp. nov. and *Sulfolobus consariquense* sp. nov., Rueben Michael Ceballos, Joshua Marceau, Don Benn, Margie A. Kinnersley, submitted to *Extremophiles*.

REFERENCES:

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Lukachukai Chapter President
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Lukachukai, AZ 86507
Phone: 928/728-2111

NAVAJO NATION

RCS# 332

Fall Session

12/30/2015

04:27:41 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation No. 0244-15

PASSED

MOT Slim

Confirming Dr. Donald Benn as

SEC Daniels

Navajo Nation Environmental
Protection Agency Director

Yea : 14

Nay : 3

Not Voting : 7

Yea : 14

Begay, M
BeGaye, N
Bennett
Chee

Damon
Daniels
Filfred
Hale

Pete
Phelps
Shepherd

Slim
Smith
Witherspoon

Nay : 3

Yazzie

Tso

Tsosie

Not Voting : 7

Bates
Begay, K

Begay, NM
Brown

Crotty
Jack

Perry