

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Third Year, 2021

AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING DINÉ COLLEGE TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE FUNDING FROM FY 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) BUILD BACK BETTER REGIONAL CHALLENGE

WHEREAS:

- A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and is empowered to coordinate[s] all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation." 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A), 701(A)(4).
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and is empowered to oversee the education initiatives of the Navajo Nation by promoting academic excellence and culturally relevant education and to recommend to the Navajo Nation Council legislation relating to social services, health, environmental health, education, veteran services, employment and labor. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(B)(6)(a).
- C. The Navajo Nation recognizes the negative impact to the Nation's economy due to the effects of COVID-19 as well as the negative economic impact of the closure of the Navajo Generating Station.
- D. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), a bureau within the U.S. Department of Commerce, created a \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge that seeks to transform regional economies through projects that will help regions recover from the coronavirus pandemic and increase resilience.
- E. The ARPA Build Back Better Regional Challenge Funding is a two-phase competition to (1) help regions develop transformational economic development strategies and (2) fund the implementation of those strategies that will create and grow regional growth clusters.
- F. In phase 1, 50-60 eligible coalitions will be considered finalists and the grants (award floor: \$200,000; award ceiling

\$500,000) will be used to prepare more detailed applications for transformational projects that benefit their respective geographic regions and are aligned around a holistic approach to building, strengthening, or scaling a strategic industry or industries.

- G. In phase 2, EDA will select 20-30 of the finalist coalitions to receive \$25--\$75 million (and potentially up to \$100 million) each to fund the collection of projects identified.
- H. Eligible activities under the ARPA BBBRC funding includes construction activities for entities such as water and sewer system improvements, industrial parks, shipping and logistics facilities, business incubators and accelerators, brownfield redevelopment, technology-based facilities, food aggregation, processing and distribution centers, wet labs, multi-tenant manufacturing facilities, science and research parks, transportation enhancements, and telecommunications infrastructure (e.g., broadband) and development facilities. This also includes non-construction activities such as design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategy development, entrepreneurial support, demand-driven workforce training, new academic curricula, market feasibility studies, and the capitalization of revolving loan funds (RLFs).
- I. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3122 (4)(A)(iv) and 13 C.F.R. § 300.3 (3) institutions of higher education, including Diné College, or a consortium of institutions of higher education is eligible to receive ARPA BBBRC funding.
- J. Diné College is chartered and established as a nonprofit educational institution wholly owned by the Navajo Nation which provides educational opportunities to the Navajo people and others in areas important to the economic and social development of the Navajo Nation through various programs and initiatives. 10 N.N.C. §§ 2001, 2002(A).
- K. Diné College and regional partners are planning projects to assist in the transformation of the regional economy on the Navajo Nation. Diné College's plan is attached as **Exhibit A** and includes eight (8) projects totaling \$100,000,000.00.
- L. The Board of Regents of Diné College, in the exercise of its authority over the College, has approved Diné College to apply for the American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant funding.

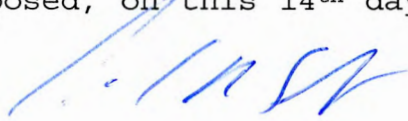
- M. The Navajo Nation hereby supports the efforts of Diné College to apply for \$100,000,000.00 from FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant funding. **Exhibit B.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

The Navajo Nation hereby supports Diné College's application to receive funding from the FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge to implement its plan outlined in **Exhibit A.**

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of 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 21 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 14th day of October 2021.


Honorable Carl R. Slater, Chairman Pro Tem
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

10/18/21
Date

Motion: Honorable Mark A. Freeland
Second: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

Chairman Pro Tem Carl R. Slater not voting



DINÉ COLLEGE

THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OF THE NAVAJO

EXHIBIT

tabbies

A

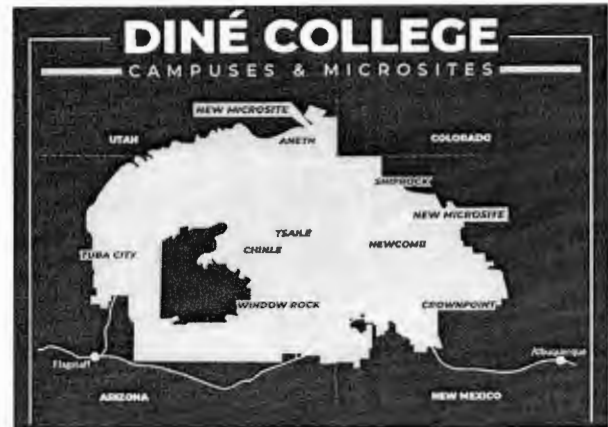
Build Back Better Regional Challenge – Navajo Nation Building

Introduction

Diné College and regional partners are planning projects to assist in the transformation of the regional economy on the Navajo Nation. Under a singular vision and conceptual framework we will grow new industries and scale existing ones, as we implement 8 mutually supportive projects totaling \$100 Million for the EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant.

Regional Approach for a Regional Funding Opportunity

With six campuses and two microsites across Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, Diné College has embraced a regional approach to education, economic development, workforce training, entrepreneurship, and industry partnerships. We plan to use existing and new sites to deliver workforce training, provide small business support, and disseminate best practices across Navajo Nation to ensure an equitable distribution of economic benefits across Navajo Nation.



Vision

A vibrant, resilient, and sustainable Navajo economy that leverages the cultural wisdom of the Diné traditions through targeted agricultural and eco-tourism projects supported by world-class technology and energy innovations that will enhance overall economic, environmental and social wellbeing.

Mission

Support and enable economic prosperity through educational attainment, entrepreneurship, targeted industry development, and high-quality jobs in sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism supported by energy and technology innovations.

Sustainability and Internal Resilience to Guard Against Future Setbacks

The Navajo Nation economy has faced the double setback of navigating the economic uncertainty of COVID-19 in the wake of the coal economy's economic downturn and loss of the Navajo Generating Station. In spite of these challenges the regional coalition is optimistic because the Diné have a legacy of perseverance, creativity, and innovation in the face of hardship. The economic vision for the future is one of collaboration and cooperation that leverages regional and cultural strengths, makes data-informed strategic investments and enables the Diné to build a thriving economy for the present as well as anticipate, withstand, and rebound from future economic challenges.

Eight Component Projects

Nation Building: Diné Center for Economic Development

1. **Agri-Hub Incubator/Accelerator** (agriculture, tourism, energy, technology) – This project will incubate and accelerate new business development on Navajo Nation and in nearby communities to both drive innovation and create high-quality jobs. The Agri-Hub will be a key part of the incubator and operate in partnership with the Diné College Land Grant Office, in addition to supporting hospitality and eco-tourism related initiatives.

2. **Data Research Center** Navajo Nation needs to scale and strategize economic development by conducting its own feasibility studies and making data-informed decisions. Under the advisement of Navajo-based statistical experts, we will develop research services to serve and support Navajo economic development.
3. **Revolving Capital Loan Fund** – With coalition members and community partners we will submit a component application for and administer the revolving capital loan fund to ensure that budding entrepreneurs can gain access to capital in a timely fashion.
4. **Workforce Development Design and Delivery** – In collaboration with coalition members and government entities, Diné College will design and deliver workforce training programs to prepare people for new jobs that will be made available through the suite of agricultural, hospitality, energy, and technology jobs that will be created for this proposal.

Agriculture

5. **Meat processing (slaughterhouse and mobile)** – In partnership with industry stakeholders, Navajo Beef has already demonstrated success and market demand. By increasing meat processing on Navajo Nation, including mobile slaughterhouses to build organic, boutique brands for border towns, and possibly international clients.
6. **Wool Mill** – Having a wool baler, and also enabling dyeing and other processing would enable Navajo Nation to keep this established, desirable, and profitable industry on the Nation, and would contribute to increased entrepreneurship and high-quality jobs.

Eco-Tourism

7. **Heritage Trail** – With over 6 million visitors at the Grand Canyon every year, and up to 3 million reaching nearby towns like Flagstaff, there is tremendous opportunity to increase tourism to the Navajo Nation. To do that we need to tell them where to go by building a Heritage Trail that has buy-in from local communities.
8. **Hotel, Conference Center & Hospitality Training** – To build the tourism industry across Navajo Nation and to provide a key stop on the Heritage Trail, a hotel and conference center will serve the college in terms of bringing new visitors and events to the Nation, as well as training students and workforce to work in the hospitality industry across Navajo Nation.

In addition to these 8 targeted projects using sustainable energy and other technology developments will be economic development activities that support each of these endeavors while creating their own additional layer of economic development creating opportunities for entrepreneurship and high-quality jobs.

Nation Building (Energy & Technology development)

Economic Development Center

Accelerator/
Agri-Hub

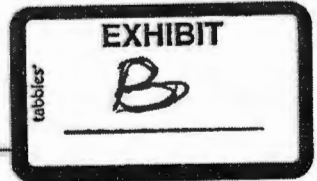
Agriculture

Eco-Tourism



DINÉ COLLEGE

THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OF THE NAVAJO



Board of Regents

DC-OCT-2550-21

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS DINÉ COLLEGE

Respectfully requesting the Navajo Nation Council to support Diné College's proposal to the Economic Development Agency for a Build Back Better Communities Regional Challenge grant in the amount of \$100,000,000.

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 Navajo Nation has been economically impacted by the closure of the Navajo Generating Station and the Kayenta and Black Mesa coal mines with losses to the Navajo Nation government totaling more than \$40 million; and
4. In order to address the loss of funds, the Navajo Nation must seek alternative energy, build emerging industry and reimagine its economy; and
5. In order to make informed decisions that impact the economic development of the Navajo Nation regional cluster, data is needed that is relevant and accessible in real time; and
6. The Diné College proposal will focus on three major components with specific projects within each component. The three major components are the creation of a Economic Development Center, Agriculture and Eco-tourism; and
7. Diné College has created a coalition that consists of the Navajo Nation, non-profits and a foundation to work collaboratively in ensuring that the projects are successful and the impact is measured; and

8. Diné College is uniquely situated to be a regional cluster leader because of the need for a higher education institution that can help in the development of a new workforce, developing academic programs aligned with new economies and its ability to be agile and not restricted by a bureaucracy that could jeopardize the tight timelines of the Build Back Better funds; and
9. The economic impact of this proposal is substantial to the region. For example, the by creating a complete meat market (growers, range management, feedlot, meatpacking, market) within the Navajo Nation, the potential revenue will jump from \$300 million to more than \$900 million as well as create hundreds of new jobs; and
10. As has been documented by research and common sense, the lack of access to capital is one of the major deterrants in the successful launch of small businesses and by creating a revolving capital loan fund this proposal is addressing this challenge; and
11. The current tourism market does not provide the opportunity for our Navajo entrepreneurs to access it in a way that drives our Navajo economy. Creating a Heritage Trail with a conference center within the Nation would have two benefits with one encouraging local entities to stay within the reservation and provide conference services and the other is to encourage visitors to have additional opportunities to spend on the Navajo Nation; and
12. The proposal also addresses the need to build the capacity of our business owners in the latest business approaches and with a leadership development program built within our incubator and agri-hub through our Navajo Nation Center for Economic Development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

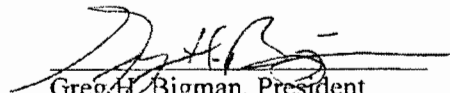
1. Respectfully requesting the Navajo Nation Council to support Diné College's proposal to the Economic Development Agency for a Build Back Better Communities Regional Challenge grant in the amount of \$100,000,000.
2. The Diné College Board of Regents authorizes, directs, and empowers the Diné College 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

1. Exhibi A - Build Back Better Regional Challenge – Navajo Nation Building



Greg H. Bigman, President
Diné College Board of Regents

MOTION: Regent Hatathlie
SECOND: Regent Toadecheenie

NAVAJO NATION

1116

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

10/14/2021

04:57:23 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0210-21	PASSED
MOT Freeland, M	Supporting Dine College to apply	
SEC Begay, K	for and receive funding from	
	FY2021 American Rescue...	

Yeas : 21

Nays : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 2

Yea : 21

Begay, E	Daniels	Nez, R	Tso, E
Begay, K	Freeland, M	Smith	Tso, O
Begay, P	Halona, P	Stewart, W	Wauneka, E
Brown	Henio, J	Tso, C	Yazzie
Charles-Newton	James, V	Tso, D	Yellowhair
Damon			

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 2

Crotty	Walker, T
--------	-----------

Presiding Speaker: Slater, C