



For Immediate Release

June 13, 2018

“Walking the Path of Beauty and Professionalism, a Journey to Hozhó”

On June 9th, 2018 the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc. (FDIHB), the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education, and Diné College-Window Rock Center collaborated to host the “Walking the Path of Beauty and Professionalism, a Journey to Hozhó” discussion panel. This event was created as an initiative to promote awareness on the importance of education, health, government, and professionalism to individuals of various ages and experiences. The discussion panel covered a wide range of disciplines including; business, civic innovation, engineering, government, education, and health. These 6 disciplines were specifically chosen because of their high demand on the Navajo reservation and their potential to deliver positive benefits to the Navajo Nation. A total of 15 highly distinguished individuals comprised the panel, all of them providing valuable insight to the importance of the 6 disciplines.



This event was the first of its kind in the Window Rock & Fort Defiance region. Andy Nez, Senior Education Specialist, stated “I rarely see Diné youth activating or leading such events; therefore, this event inculcates youth and culture to expose important areas critically related to the two.” Diné culture and teachings were an important factor throughout the discussion panel with panelists often referring to Diné teachings and culture to support their message. The framework for this event was formulated around issues currently facing Diné youth. Panelists hoped to inform and motivate youth, students with undeclared majors/minors, and those already in their chosen field to pursue and acknowledge the depth and importance of the 6 disciplines.



Among the 15 panelists, Dr. Michael Tutt, Dr. Naomi Young, and Mrs. Tina James-Tafoya, represented FDIHB. All three individuals provided valuable information to attendees regarding their own personal experiences in their academic career and also their current fields. Each individual hoped that their

message was able to motivate the youth in every capacity. Mrs. Tina James-Tafoya, Chief Administrative Officer, stated, “I hope attendees took away from the panel discussion, that we have qualified and determined Navajo health professionals and experts who can have great impacts on the State of our Navajo Nation’s health. Also, I hope attendees were able to see that healthcare is not just a profession for clinicians but that there are many other great opportunities for Navajo professionals who are not doctors or nurses.”

In 2010, FDIHB became the fourth Public Law 93-638, self-sustained hospital on the Navajo Nation and in 2015 began extending its services by opening the Nahát’á Dził Health Center located in Sanders,



AZ. Recently in early 2018, FDIHB made history by opening the Nihi Dine’é Bá Wellness Center. Since 2002, when Tsehootsooi Medical Center officially opened its doors, FDIHB has continued to provide superior and compassionate healthcare to its surrounding communities by raising the level of health, Hózhó, and quality of life.

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