



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council celebrates Diné College 2024 Fall Commencement



Houston, Texas news anchor Charly Edsitty expresses the importance of authenticity in navigating life's challenges, reminding graduates to embrace their heritage as a unique gift.

TSAILE, Ariz.—On Friday, December 13, Diné College celebrated its 2024 Winter Commencement Ceremony, honoring the academic achievements of 130 graduates who embody the college's commitment to educational excellence and cultural preservation.

In attendance were Navajo Nation Delegate Dr. Andy Nez and Resources and Development Committee Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson, who joined the graduates and their families in celebrating the transformative power of education within the Navajo Nation.

Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson stated that the graduate's educational journey exemplifies the spirit of Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón—a life of a balance, harmony, and purpose.

"You honor the teachings of our ancestors while paving the way for a brighter future for the Navajo Nation. Today's achievement is a testament to your hard work and the enduring legacy of Diné College", said Vice Chair Johnson.

The college awarded 137 degrees and certificates, including three master's degrees in science, 36 bachelor's degrees in the arts, fine arts, and sciences, 74 associate degrees in the arts and sciences, three associate of applied science degrees, and 21 certificates. Notably, seven students earned more than one degree or certificate.

The keynote address was delivered by Houston television journalist Charly Edsitty. She encouraged graduates to embrace life's unpredictability, learn from their mistakes, and remain authentic to their cultural and personal identity.

"Life is going to throw you many obstacles, and right now, you're at the starting line of a brand new journey," said Edsitty. "You might think your path will take you one way, but life might make you go another. No matter where you go or how far you travel, never forget where you come from and the strength you carry as Diné people. Our ancestors' wisdom and resilience have brought you here, and now it's your turn to forge your own way."

Edsitty expressed the importance of authenticity in navigating life's challenges, reminding graduates to embrace their heritage as a unique gift. Her words resonated, as she reflected on the opportunities available today compared to the hardships endured by previous generations.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council celebrates the graduates' achievements and Diné College's mission of fostering leadership and knowledge rooted in Navajo values. Graduates represented all five Diné College campuses, with 78 from the Tsaile main campus, 29 from Tuba City, 15 from Shiprock, 5 from Window Rock, and 3 from Crown Point.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of the Diné College Song led by Avery Denny, symbolizing the interconnectedness of education, culture, and community.

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