WASHINGTON DC—September 27. According to the Navajo Nation Washington Office press release, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Department of Education Secretary John King approved the Diné School Accountability Plan for BIE-funded schools on the Navajo Nation. The signing of the historic document was made before President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation Board of Education President Dr. Pauline M. Begay and Department of Diné Education Superintendent Dr. Tommy Lewis Jr.

“We want a world class education system for our children and future generations. Our responsibility as a sovereign Nation is to challenge our young minds to reach their highest potential, as they are our future leaders,” President Begaye said. “It will take everyone from our parents, teachers, administrators and legislators working together to achieve our goal of a world class education for our Navajo youth.”
“The Department of Diné Education has been working to ensure that any Navajo child regardless of where they reside on the reservation will have equal standards and will enjoy a strong curriculum that highlights Diné language, history and culture,” Said Dr. Lewis. “These standards will be central in educating all of our children across the Navajo Nation. Navajo leaders, past and present, have worked tirelessly in this effort. We are honored to see this come to fruition and congratulate everyone involved in bringing this important matter to a reality for our children.”

The 60 BIE-funded schools are located on the Navajo Nation in three states, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, with variable and different performance data. According to Dr. Begay each state uses their accountability system when assessing performance data.

“One of the major challenges with using three different state-based accountability plans is that the student performance data is not easily comparable across three state systems,” said Dr. Pauline M. Begay. “The academic standards and assessments among the three states vary, which makes it difficult for the Navajo Nation, parents, and communities to assess student performance.”

Dr. Lewis added, “Many of our families and their children move from different parts of the reservation to another. Children entering a new school should be able to pick up immediately where they left off. With high hopes for our children come high expectations in their educational achievements.”

In 2005, when the No Child Left Behind was still the law, Department of Diné Education initiated the Navajo Accountability Workbook to use an alternative to the Adequate Yearly Progress. In December 2015, President Obama signed into law the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which essentially replaced NCLB.

According to the press release, the Navajo Nation seeks approval for phase one of the Diné School Accountability Plan for school years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 in preparation for the implementation of ESSA in the school year 2017-2018.

There are more works to be done, so Department of Diné Education will continue to work with the Departments of Education and Interior to implement the overall Plan to be consistent.

Go to page 6 for more inside information on DSAP.
August 25 – 26, the 2016 Teachers Institute was held in the John Pinto Center, at the Navajo Department of Transportation. Over 100 attended the two-day conference. On August 25 and 26, Dr. Kalvin White, Education Administration, ODSI, provided the warm welcome address.

The 2016 Teacher Institute Conference included several presentations and group work. The audience received an introduction material on the overview of culturally-responsive curriculum development and watched the video “Taking Traditions to Tomorrow. The video shows Native American Indians contributed important culture and scientific disciplines. This is an excellent video for Native American Indian youth.

Other presentations included: “Building Bridges to Western Science Through Culture Knowledge” and “An indigenous Science Education Curriculum Model”.

According to the presentation, the main idea of the “Building Bridges to Western Science through Culture Knowledge” is seeking recognition of indigenous knowledge. Reasons for indigenous knowledge may include: Equity and social justice; teachers may change the marginalization of native students by introducing indigenous knowledge, and apply student interest and participation. Under this scheme, science teachers need to acknowledge and respect Native culture and knowledge.

On the second day, Dr. White gave a presentation on “The Navajo Nation Accountability. Dr. Hollie Kulago, Principal Education Specialist, ODSI, provided two presentations: Nation Building and Tribal Critical Race Theory and Diné Education Teacher Training Manual Initiative. Dr. Kulago was assisted by Dorthea Litson and Calvin Harvey, both from ODSI.
Window Rock, AZ. Friday, Aug. 19 beginning at 11 AM, the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and the Navajo Nation Board of Education held a collaborative meeting with Mr. William (Bill) Mendoza, the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education for the U.S. Department of Education.

The meeting was held in the Sunrise Conference Room of the Navajo Education Center.

In 2011, President Barack Obama signed the Executive Order 13592, which established the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, to improve American Indian and Alaska Native education opportunities and to strengthen tribal colleges and universities.

Upon the signing of the EO 13592, Bill was appointed in December 2011 as the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education.

Bill is a member of the Oglala-Sicangu Lakota and grew up on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Sioux reservations, South Dakota.
In the Fourth Quarter of FY 2016, NNBOE held Board meetings dealing with Navajo Head Start, Reau-

thorization process and procedures, Grant/Contract Schools Annual Compliance Standards, and ap-

proved reports and related action that request approval by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee. Here are some highlights. Contact NNDODE Admin for information on NNBOE meetings.

### July 2016
- Resolution recommending to the HEHSC and the BFC to approved the FY 2017 Budget for DODE.

### August 2016
- Resolution supporting the Our Youth, Our Future Survey to be given to Navajo student in a sample of schools serving 7th and 12th grades.
- Resolution supporting Arizona’s First Things First Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council Center.
- Resolution referring the Leupp Schools, Inc., reauthorization issues to the HEHSC for resolution.

### September 2016
- Resolution approving the education reform regarding the transfer of authority of 32 BIE operated schools to Navajo.
- NNBOE discussed at length the Gallup-McKinley County School Johnson O’Malley program. The Navajo Nation JOM program provides federal funds to GMCS meet the specialized and unique education needs of Indian children attending public schools through supplemental funds for education program, which are designed at the local level under the planning of the Indian Education Committee. The JOM funding are for Indian students at academic standing, remedial as well as gifted and talented, are able to pay for essential learning materials to foster a successful education to graduation.
Diné School Accountability Plan

September 27, 2016. L to R: President Russell Begaye, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, U.S. Department of Education Secretary John King, Vice President Jonathan Nez, Department of Diné Education Superintendent Dr. Tommy Lewis Jr., and Anne Marie Bledsoe Downes, Acting BIE Director. Photo by the DOI.
Complying with the extensive Navajo Nation budget policy, which included the Budget Instruction Manual, DODE worked long hours to develop the DODE comprehensive fiscal year 2017 operating budget, which is composed of six budget forms:

- Form One: Program Summary.
- Form Two: Performance Criteria.
- Form Three: Positions by BU.
- Form Four: Budget Justification.
- Form Five: Summary of changes.
- Form Six: Contract & Grant Funding.

All these budget forms are necessary and important, and they are all associated together to develop a comprehensive budget.

According to the budget policy, the Navajo Nation budget process for Fiscal Year 2017 started June 16, 2016, and ended the latter part of September when President Russell Begaye signed the budget resolution, which is generally after the Navajo Nation Council adopted its resolution approving the Navajo Nation FY 2017 Operating Budget.

Once the proposed budget is developed, DODE managers came before the legislative oversight committees to introduce and defend their budget. At the oversight committee budget hearings, program managers took an oath, to tell the truth prior to introducing their budget. It is a formality procedure mandated by the Legislative Branch.

DODE first obtained approval from the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, and then the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. After which the Navajo the Navajo Nation Council approved the comprehensive budget by a Resolution.

Obtaining approval from oversight committees is not easy nor is it a quick process. There are several additional meetings to hurdles to arrive at the final approved recommendation by the BFC, like budget revisits. In the FY 2017 budget process, all DODE Programs submitted a budget including the Navajo Nation Board of Education.

The following is the FY 2017 DODE Budget Summary:

DODE Administration $1,293,670; OSER $222,222 for external match funds and $2,000,000 from special revenue fund; OERS: $258,562; ODSI $484,082; NN Library $294,345; Diné Language Immersion $100,000; ONNSFA $330,500 and $11,725,172 from Special Revenue Fund; ODSI $612,781; Office of Diné YOUTH Administration $243,555; ODY Chinle $521,579; ODY Crownpoint $636,999; ODY Fort Defiance $703,344; ODY Shiprock $542,063; ODY Western $633,261; AdvancEd Navajo Nation $338,672; ODAC $417,049; Navajo Nation Board of Education $92,630; and Navajo Head Start $3,558,856 for external match funds and $22,447,502 from special revenue fund.
Office of Diné Accountability and Compliance

Plans are continuing to collaborate with School Boards, NNDODE, HEHSC, and DOJ to work on the proposed amendments to Title 10, and other applicable policies/legislations. ODAC plans to recommend policies that focus on the authority of DODE School Superintendent, Office of Dine Accountability & Compliance, and the Navajo Nation Board of Education.

Strategic Education Leadership Plan (SELP) has been implemented at the ODAC office. In addition, the Strategic School Leadership Plan (SSLP) is carried out as foundational accountability infrastructure capacity building, with the theme of “school leadership is aligned with school budget”. Proposed amendments to the NNBOE was presented on September 20, 2016, in areas of:
- Grant / Contract Conversion/ Maintenance Handbook Policy – ECF-12-01
- Annual Report Policy–Federal Law Section 5206 (b) General and ECF -12-01
- School Intervention Policy—ECJN-09-08
- Uniform Stipend Policy – ECD-35-10
- Reauthorization of 100-297 and 93-638 Schools Policy-HEHSCMY-012-12

Office of Standards, Curriculum and Assessment Development

The NN/OSCAD received another $30,000 grant from NM PED for the 2016-17 year. The Strengthening Tribal Languages grant is being processed through the 164 Review. NM requires a 5% IDC rate as opposed to the Navajo Nation’s IDC rate of 16.9%. There is a legislation that mandates that such requests must be approved by Naabik’íyáti’ Committee, and only they can give approval. Currently the document is at DOJ.

The Navajo Traditional Apprentice Project is continuing to recruit and sign up new participants. 2-3 teams of Practitioners and Apprentices completed their training period. Two teams joined this year. Currently, one team has applied to join NTAP.

Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance

The Navajo Nation Teacher Education funding assists many students. ONNSFA has a great need for educators so this office needs to be developed as a program. Two positions will be created to manage the program.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services

By collaborating with the local school districts, OSERS promotes transitional services for students for post-secondary and employment services.

OSERS continues to collaborate with AZ, NM and Utah state agencies for early intervention, vocational rehabilitation and independent living services for service coordination, dual cases for services and employment.

OSERS strives to provide quality client services for EIP, VR and IL to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are being met.

AdvancED Navajo Nation

In addressing the impact of high turnover in school administrators and teachers, AdvancED Navajo Nation is forging a strong partnership with the Bureau of Indian Education through collaborative work sessions each month.

Johnson O’Malley Program

The NNJOM Program will provide technical assistance, on-site monitoring, and support to the Gallup-McKinley County Schools’ Indian Education Committee to understand the “eligibility” to serve on the IEC.

Office of Dine School Improvement

Completed the Leadership Teacher Institute training. Provided UDP Training for 26 schools and 121 teachers. Completed the STEAM Camp at the Ch’ooshgai Community School and at the WRUSD #8 for 8 schools and 50 students.