



# NEWS RELEASE

## Office of Public Relations

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **From Graduation to Work: Diné College Grad on the Right Track**

**TSAILE, Ariz.** — One of Diné College's recent graduates may be able to teach a thing or two to about the advantage of possessing a degree from the first college established by Native Americans for Native Americans.

Sharonna Yazzie — "I'm originally from a place called 'Little Rough Rock,' located within the Lukachukai community" — is a two-time graduate from Diné College. Yazzie, 23, graduated in May 2015 with an associate of arts degree in business administration and in May 2017 with a bachelor's of arts in the same major.

Currently, Yazzie works as a bank teller and customer service representative at the First American Credit Union in Tse Benito, N.M. She credits her Diné College education with providing the groundwork to do future things like assist in the building of the Navajo Nation economy.

Yazzie was a panelist at the Oct. 4 Annual Meeting of Diné College. That 3-person panel fielded an array of questions on how the college prepared them for the world of work.

"After going to Diné College, I did continuous research on the economy of the Navajo Nation and realized what can be improved and how that change can be made," Yazzie explained. "I plan on helping the Navajo Nation as much as I can financially. One of my role models is the great Annie Dodge Wauneka, who helped make a difference with the Navajo Nation in health," Yazzie said. (Dodge Wauneka was the daughter of Navajo leader Henry Chee Dodge, a former council delegate and health and education advocate.) Yazzie continued, "I plan on making a difference with respect to

the (Navajo) economy."

A Chinle High School graduate, Yazzie said when she first started at Diné College she wasn't exactly sure as to what she should major in. "I had health and criminal investigations in mind. But thanks to the advisors, they helped me make a decision that I don't regret."

Yazzie said that Diné College offered courses of interest like accounting, economics and various management courses that helped her conquer college and career aspirations.

"These courses were tough with the instructors always telling us what many jobs require an employee to know before entering," Yazzie said. "Aside from the courses that prepared me, I also had the opportunity to be a part of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). This allowed me to travel many places and get acquainted with other tribal colleges of my interest. It was an amazing experience knowing that there will be changes made to other tribes, including the Navajo Nation, with what the tribal schools teach students."