



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Native Son Returns To Help As Diné College Dean of Diné Studies and Education

TSAILE, Ariz. — As a young college student, Lawrence Isaac, Jr., helped Diné College through some of its growing pains.

Now, Isaac, a doctoral recipient in education from the University of Arizona, returns to the College in a new role to help again.

Isaac, a Black Mesa, Ariz., native and former U.S. Marine, was named this week as Diné College's Dean of Diné Studies and Education.

"It's great to be back," Isaac said. "This is where it all started for me. I'm very grateful at being back at (Diné College)."

Isaac said he'll work on strengthening curriculum and, administratively, adhering to Diné College's strategic goals — such as furthering Diné identity. He said he won't be teaching, but said he plans to help out on the teaching side as much as possible.

The Isaac, Jr., File

Isaac's job stints over the years include serving as an educational consultant in Kayenta, Ariz. He was also the Dean of Students at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M., and the Superintendent of Schools in Shonto, Ariz.

Isaac graduated from Diné College and was the College's first student

body president in 1968 during the administration of Ned Hatathli. He served six years in the Marines — and remembers the sentiments surrounding the Vietnam War.

"We are honored to have someone like (Dr. Isaac) back at Diné College," Diné College Provost Dr. Geraldine Garrity said. "He brings a wealth of education and experience to the job."

Isaac said he's the perfect person to carry out the College's mission of Native American instruction. He said he's a role model, saying years ago he attended boarding school in Riverside, Okla.

"What we want to do at Diné College is educate through coursework," Isaac said. "I'm talking about strengthening Diné philosophy and education and keeping the emphasis with that."

Isaac assisted in the formation of Diné College's satellite campus in Kayenta in 1997 and was the Kayenta's campus director for a short while. Later, he was a grant writing and proposals consultant in Tucson for a number of years.