



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Progressively-minded DC Hands Provost Reigns to Dr. Geraldine Garrity

Lukachukai, Ariz., Native is First Female to Ever Hold the Post

TSAILE, Ariz. — What began as a small community school is now one of the most progressively-minded institutions serving Native Americans.

Diné College, a two and four-year degree granting tribally-controlled school with branches in Chinle, Tuba City, Window Rock, Shiprock and Crownpoint, recently named its first female provost.

Dr. Geraldine Garrity, a Lukachukai, Ariz., native, was named to the job — the second in command at the college — Oct. 4 and by college president Monty Roessel at the Diné College Annual Meeting. The eight-member BOR oversees Diné College and its \$22 million operating budget.

"I am very excited to have been chosen for the job," Garrity said. "It carries with it a lot of responsibility and keeps students as the priority."

Garrity possesses undergraduate and graduate degrees from Diné College/Arizona State University. She has a doctorate in education from Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif. She has worked at the college in various capacities the past seven years — including jobs as Interim Provost since April, and as the Chairwoman of the Diné College Center for Diné Teacher Education and head of the Faculty Association.

Garrity said a couple of things that stick out with respect to taking the job are student assessment and furthering distance education, specifically online learning. Roessel, president since January 2017, emphasized both at the meeting.

"One thing I really want to stress is the online instruction and distance learning," Garrity said. "We're talking accountability. We want instructors to give the same kind of online instruction as they would in a regular classroom."

Garrity noted that the provost job comes with a variety of responsibilities. She shared Roessel's enthusiasm with regard to establishing a law school — something tribally-controlled institutions typically don't have. Also, there is talk of Diné College establishing another satellite campus in Piñon, Ariz., also on the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation, and about an hour-drive from the main campus in Tsaile.

"There are always new responsibilities as far as curriculum and, generally, academics, go," Garrity said.

The History of the DC Provost Job

Prior to Garrity, Henry Fowler and Martin Ahumada held the provost positions. Fowler teaches mathematics at Diné College and Ahumada is a former Diné College interim president.

The college has had female presidents, but never a female provost. Past female presidents of the college were Maggie George, Cassandra Manuelito and (interim) Marie Nez.

The college's job of assistant vice president of academic affairs, which is similar in description to that of provost, was held by George, (Shiprock Campus Director) Prescilla Weaver and Rebecca Benally.

Diné College began in 1968 as Navajo Community College. The name change was completed in 1992 under then-president and current BOR member Dr. Tommy Lewis.