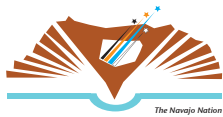




The
Department of
Diné Education



2008 Annual Report

Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance

P.O. Box 1870 Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-7444, 1-800-243-2956, www.onnsfa.org

Scholarship Director Sums up 2008; Shares 2009 Goals

2008 has been a great year for the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance (ONNSFA). With a total budget of \$14.6 million in 2008, we were able to fund more students than we have in prior years. This was possible because the Navajo Region BIA, which makes up a majority of our funding source, was able to dedicate additional funding towards Navajo Nation higher education.

Here, at the Navajo Nation Scholarship Central Office and in our five field offices across the Navajo Nation, we have a dedicated staff of 27 full-time employees who are providing the best services they can. I am very proud of the fact that they are doing their best to help students and parents.

We provide an annual report every year to the BIA and to the public. We hope that the information and data we provide in these reports are a source of information to you. We hope that you use this information in making decisions about you or your children's education at all levels elementary, secondary and post

secondary education.

You'll read more about this in the story on the last page of this report, but permit me to share with you how pleased we are to have our scholarship funding restored to the 2008 levels. We began FY 2009 with fewer funds than in 2008. In addition, the funds that we had were delayed because of shortfalls and economic downturns across all levels of government (including the BIA). Because of this, the scholarship office was sustaining a cutback in funding. If this decrease in funding had continued, this would've meant less scholarship funding for our Navajo students. I am happy to report that our funding was restored to 2008 levels. I acknowledge and thank all those who were involved in advocating this restoration of funding.

In the months and years to come, we will also be asking the thousands of Navajo students of the past, who have been aided by our program, to continue to give back to the Navajo Nation.

Today, we have more than 10,000 students attending higher education throughout the country. In order to fund every qualifying student that applies to ONNSFA, we need at least \$58 million per semester. Our current funding from our major funding source—the BIA—is at \$10.9 million which is clearly not enough to fund everyone. Therefore, we are appealing to our past student recipients and the Navajo public to contribute steadily towards the Navajo Nation Scholarship program to help our children receive their education.

Every year, we have a modest contribution in private individual donations. This past year, the family of the late Dollie L. Yazzie, an educator and mother, established a memorial scholarship in her name to be administered by the scholarship program.

This scholarship, in the News and Announcements section of this report, is called the Dollie L. Yazzie Memorial Scholarship, and will help fund the college education of at least two more Navajo students. As with all our donors, we cannot thank them enough for kind and generous their contributions.

For those wishing to contribute to the scholarship program, contributions can be made by sending a money order to ONNSFA P.O. Box 1870 Window Rock, AZ 86515. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

As we move into 2009 and 2010, we are very happy to announce that students can now apply for Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance online at www.onnsfa.org beginning April 13, 2009. We encourage all students who have access to a computer and the internet to apply for Fall 2009 funding online.

This has been a work in progress for over a year now. The Navajo Region BIA provided funding to ONNSFA to upgrade our database and our website. We sincerely appreciate their commitment to higher education for our children.

This is major milestone in our program—online applications. We have tested the online application process and we're confident that it will be a safe and secure way to apply for funding. It ought to alleviate and minimize the complaints we receive about lost applications. Our website is currently being redesigned so students can check the status of their applications. During the fall and spring deadline dates, ONNSFA gets inundated with phone calls during these peak seasons. Now, by going online, students do not have to call our staff during these times but check their status online.

I would like to acknowledge

the work of our staff who headed up this 'online applications' project with Comspec, our contracted company, which proved invaluable in setting up the system. In particular, I would like to acknowledge and thank some of our staff, our "Super Users" - Kay Nave-Mark, Rowena Becenti, and Eltavisia Begay. They were those who tested the product and then trained staff. I also want to thank Carol J. Yazzie, our Application System Programmer, who is vital to our information technology and database function here at ONNSFA.

In addition to the new web online applications, universities and colleges will be able to complete the Financial Needs Analysis (FNA) form over the internet. This feature will eliminate the need for school institutions manually completing an FNA and mailing it to ONNSFA. This feature will save on cost of materials (paper, stamps, envelopes) and the online FNA will show up instantly on the ONNSFA student information system database.

Fort Lewis College is the first institution to use the FNA online feature this spring. San Juan College and Dine College will be coming onboard with the online FNA this fall term. ONNSFA is continuing to publicize this feature with other institutions with high Navajo student enrollment.

Last year, we featured all our contributors in our annual report. This year, we feature Peabody Coal Company, Frontier Communications, and the Veterans for Peace Scholarship. I would also like to thank our Navajo students and staff at colleges and universities around the country for sharing your success stories with us through the years, and for permitting us to share them in this year's annual report.

— Rose Graham, Director

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2008 Data & Statistics

ONNSFA has funding sources that, generally speaking, fall into one of five categories listed and presented in the pie chart below. These categories are:

1. Federal Funds,
2. Navajo Nation General Funds
3. Trust Funds,
4. Corporate Funds, and
5. Private Donations.

Federal Funds (BIA P.L. 93-638)

The Federal Funds are BIA '638' funds that make up the majority funding source. In 2008 Federal Funds accounted for about 66% of scholarship funding for Need-Based, No-Need-Based, and Chief Manuelito students. The Statistical Profile on the facing

page offers some information on number of students awarded and total amounts awarded using these Federal Funds.

Navajo Nation General Funds

The Navajo Nation General Funds are funds from the Navajo Nation.

Trust Funds

The NECA trust fund and Tucson Electric trust funds are further described on page 25 of this report. Briefly, NECA, in the form of a dividend, contributes \$1 million annually to a scholarship trust fund established with the Navajo Nation. Tucson Electric is a fund that was established in 1973. The Navajo Nation generates invest-

ment income from this fund, which has yielded an average of \$75,000 per year over the past five years.

Corporate Funds

The Corporate Funds represents those dollars coming from corporate entities like Navajo Agricultural Products Industries, Peabody, Four-Corners (APS), and Pittsburgh & Midway Coal. This fund accounts for about 8% of funding in 2007.

Private Donations

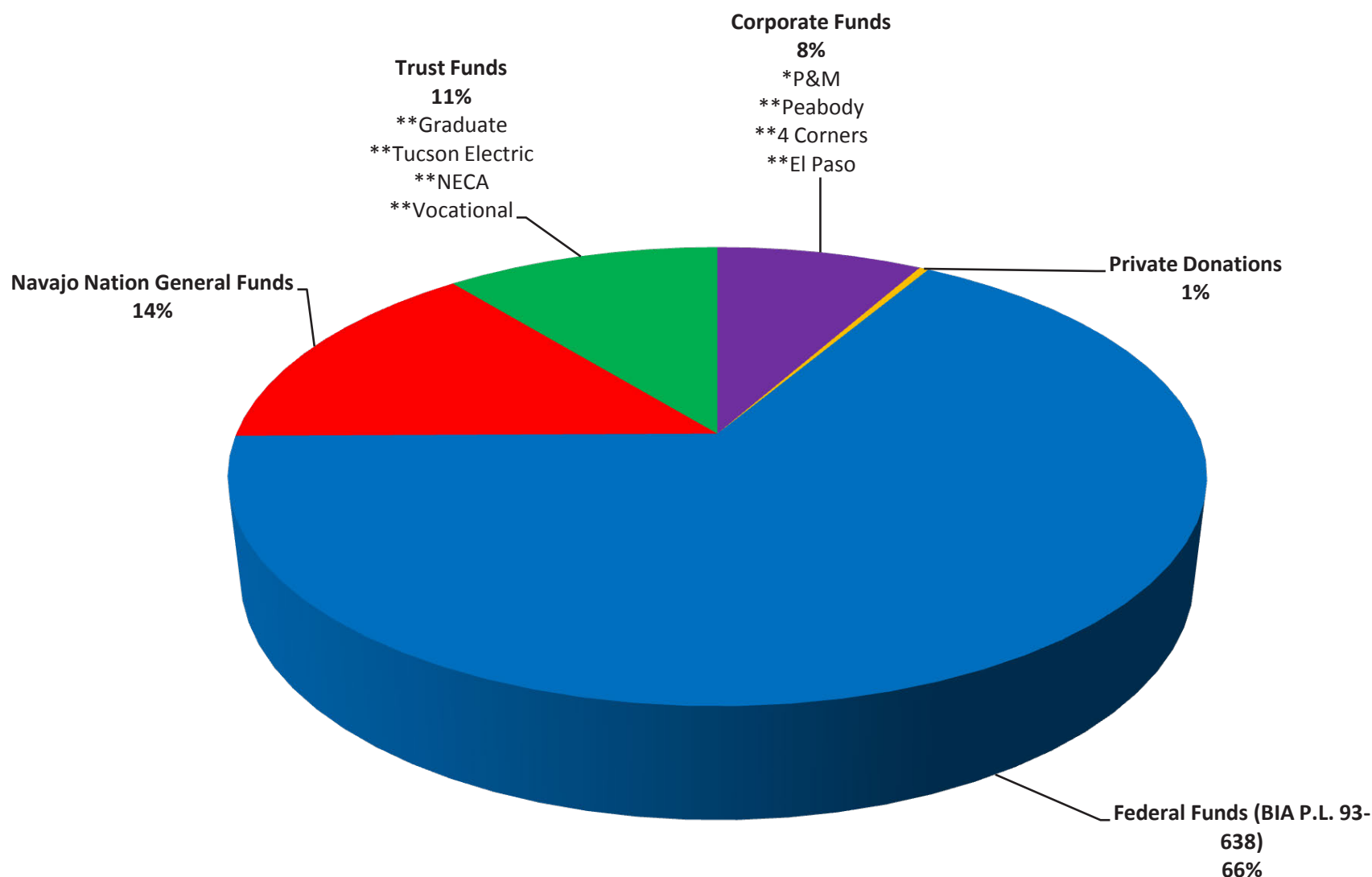
Although the smallest funding source, Private Donations are contributions that represent the sacrifice and generosity from various individuals from all across

the country. Margeret Sussman, Serena Sharp, and Dr. Jennifer Denetdale are examples of contributors to this fund in 2007. This fund can fluctuate from year to year depending on the number of donors and amount of donations. In 2007, contributors to this fund made up about 1 percent of all Funding Sources.

Types of Students

From these funding sources, ONNSFA funded scholarships to 5,634 students who fall into one of the following categories of students, presented here in no particular order or rank:

Funding Sources



The graph represents the sources of funding for students for Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2008 Calendar Year.



Statistical Profile 2008 Calendar Year

Total Number of Students REQUESTING Awards	10,363
Total Number of AWARDS (This figure is a total count of AWARDS and includes some instances of two awards [one award in Spring; one in Fall] per one student in the 2008 ONNSFA calendar year)	7,505
Total Number of STUDENTS Receiving Awards (This figure is a total count of STUDENTS receiving awards. Students who received one or more awards in the 2008 calendar year are counted only once. Compare this figure [5,634 students] to the above number of Total AWARDS [7,505].)	5,634
Percentage of Females Receiving Awards	66%
Percentage of Males Receiving Awards	34%
Percentage of Undergraduates Receiving Awards	91%
Percentage of Graduates Receiving Awards	9%
Total Number of STUDENTS Awarded from Navajo Nation General Funds and Trust Funds, Corporate Funds, and Private Donations	2,697
Total Number of STUDENTS Awarded Funds from Federal Funds	4,808
Total Amount of FUNDS Awarded using Navajo Nation General Funds and Trust Funds, Corporate Funds, and Private Donations	\$4,947,137
Total Amount of FUNDS Awarded using Federal Funds	\$9,748,201
GRAND TOTAL of FUNDS Awarded from All Funding Sources	\$14,695,338
Total Amount of Federal Funds Awarded to Need-Based Students	\$5,669,784
Total Amount of Federal Funds Awarded to No-Need-Based Students	\$4,078,417
Percentage of Federal Funds Awarded to Chief Manuelito Scholars	33%
Ratio of Federal Funds Awarded to Chief Manuelito Scholars to GRAND TOTAL	22%

Need-Based Students

The majority of students fall into the Need-Based category. This category represents those students who are “in need” of scholarship funding based on the FNA (Financial Need Analysis). These students do not have enough personal or family resources to meet or exceed a college or university’s Cost of Attendance—tuition, books, and housing. The FNA and the Federal FAFSA form help ONNSFA determine the amount of the student’s need. Need-based students can get up to \$2,000 per semester, or \$4,000 per year, based on their individual needs assessment.

No-Need-Based Students

The second category of students are No-Need students, or students whose cost of attendance needs are fully met. Essentially, ONNSFA awards these students up to \$500.00 per semester.

Chief Manuelito Scholars

Third, are Chief Manuelito scholars, or merit-based scholarships for high-achieving students meeting high GPA or college testing (e.g., ACT and SAT) scores. Students who meet these requirements, take a Navajo language and Navajo Government course, and file before deadlines, are awarded \$7,000 per year, or \$3,500 per semester.

Undergraduates and Graduate Students

The aforementioned categories of students are for the most part descriptive of the undergraduate student population. While a huge majority of ONNSFA funding goes toward undergraduates (91 percent), it also funds a population of graduate and Ph.D. students from the aforementioned funding sources.

Part-time Undergraduates

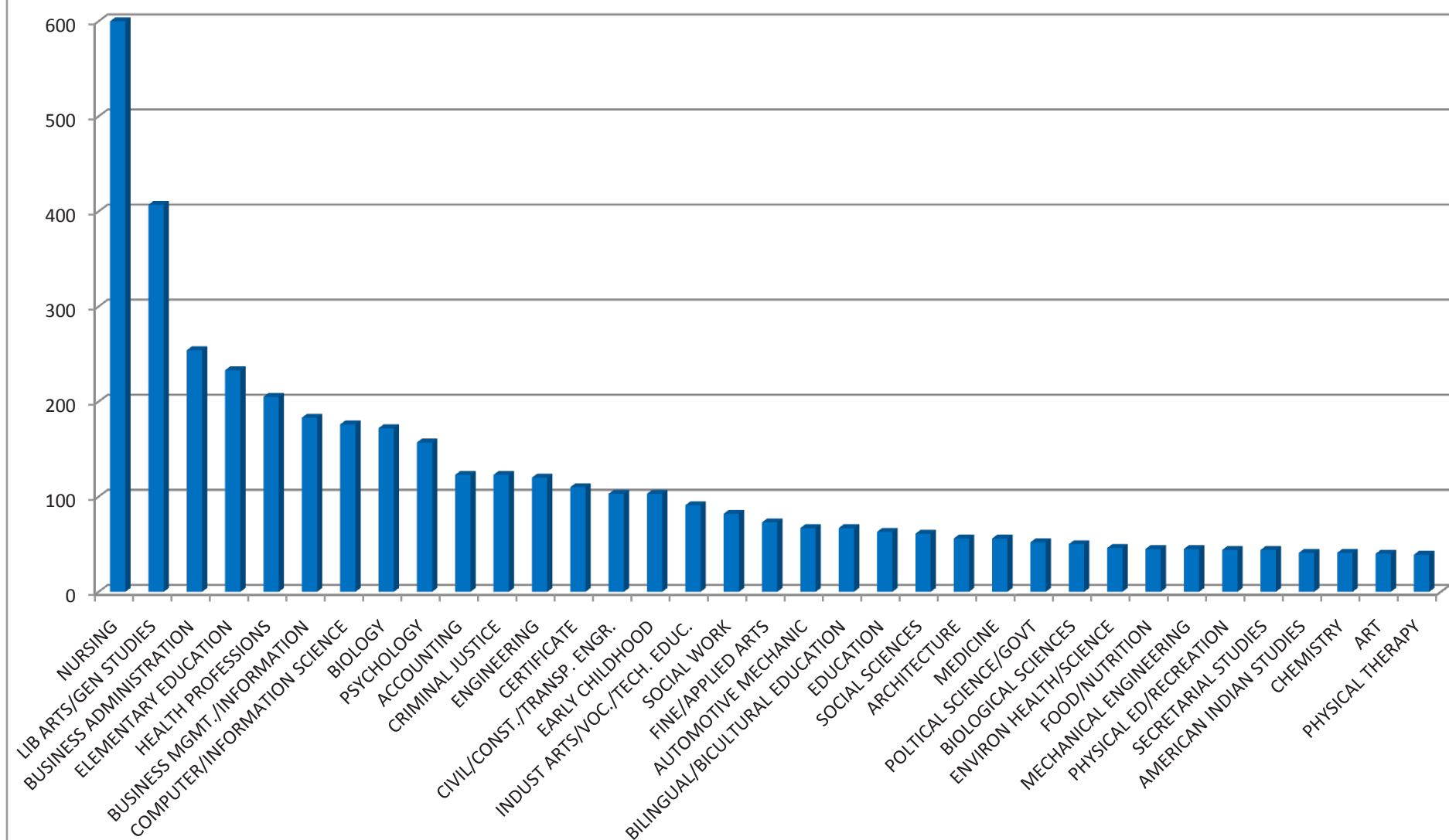
ONNSFA also funds part-time, undergraduate students. The requirements of part-time funding are different and limited in amount and time.

The tables presented in the following pages contain a profile of undergraduate and graduate students funded in the areas of top Fields of Study, top Colleges/Universities Attended, Navajo Nation Chapter Affiliation, and a table comparing Gender.

For more information and further explanations about the data and statistics presented in this report, please call ONNSFA at (928) 871-7444.



Top 35 Undergraduate Fields of Study



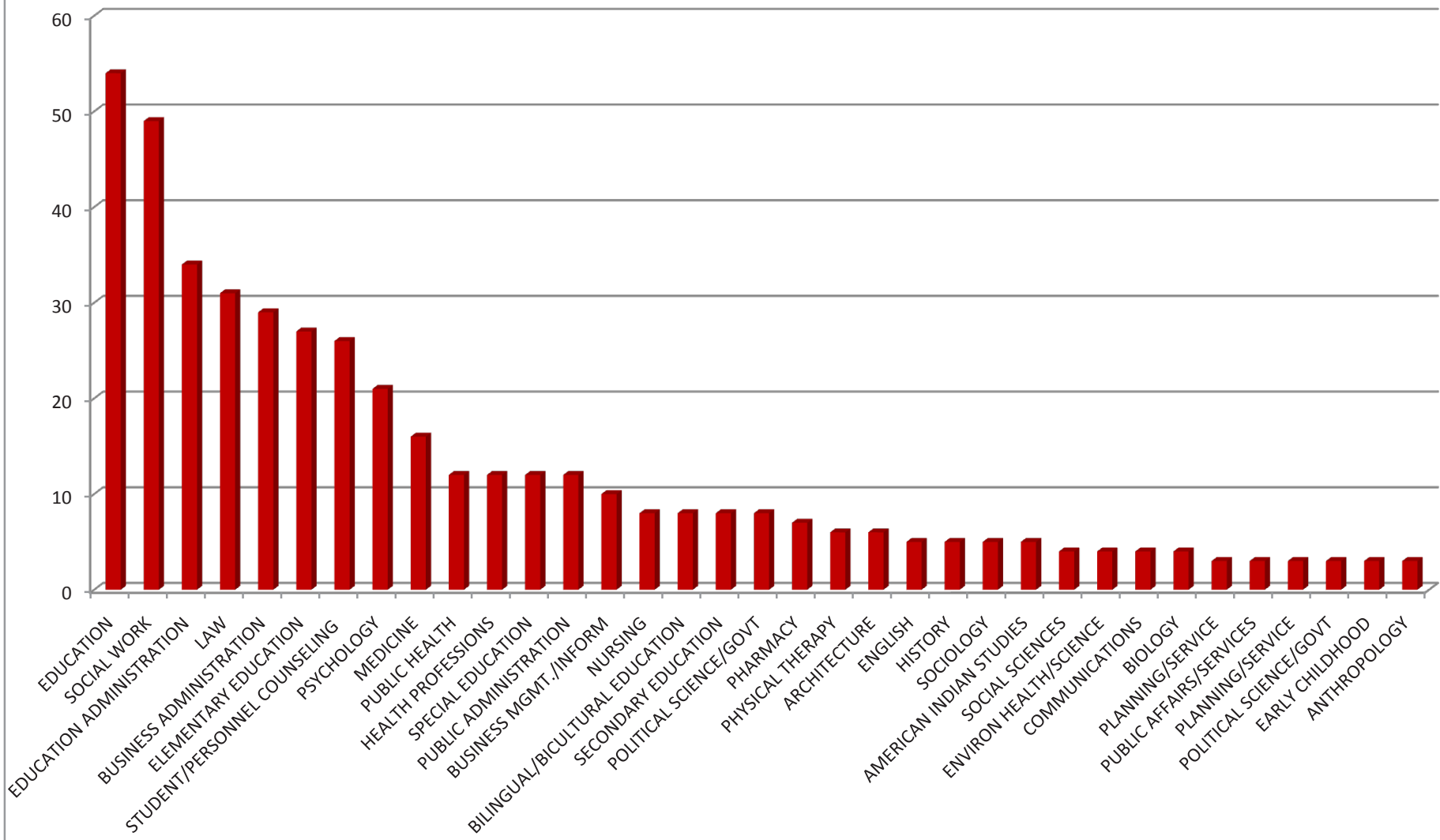
The numbers represent the overall undergraduate students funded in Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2008.

This graph shows that close to 600 students identified themselves as majoring in Nursing. Of that number, eight (8) or about 1 percent will be graduating with a BSN this spring.

The second most popular subject of undergraduate study is Liberal Arts/General Studies at 401, followed by Business Administration with 254 students.



Top 35 Graduate Fields of Study



The numbers represent the overall graduate students funded in Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2008.

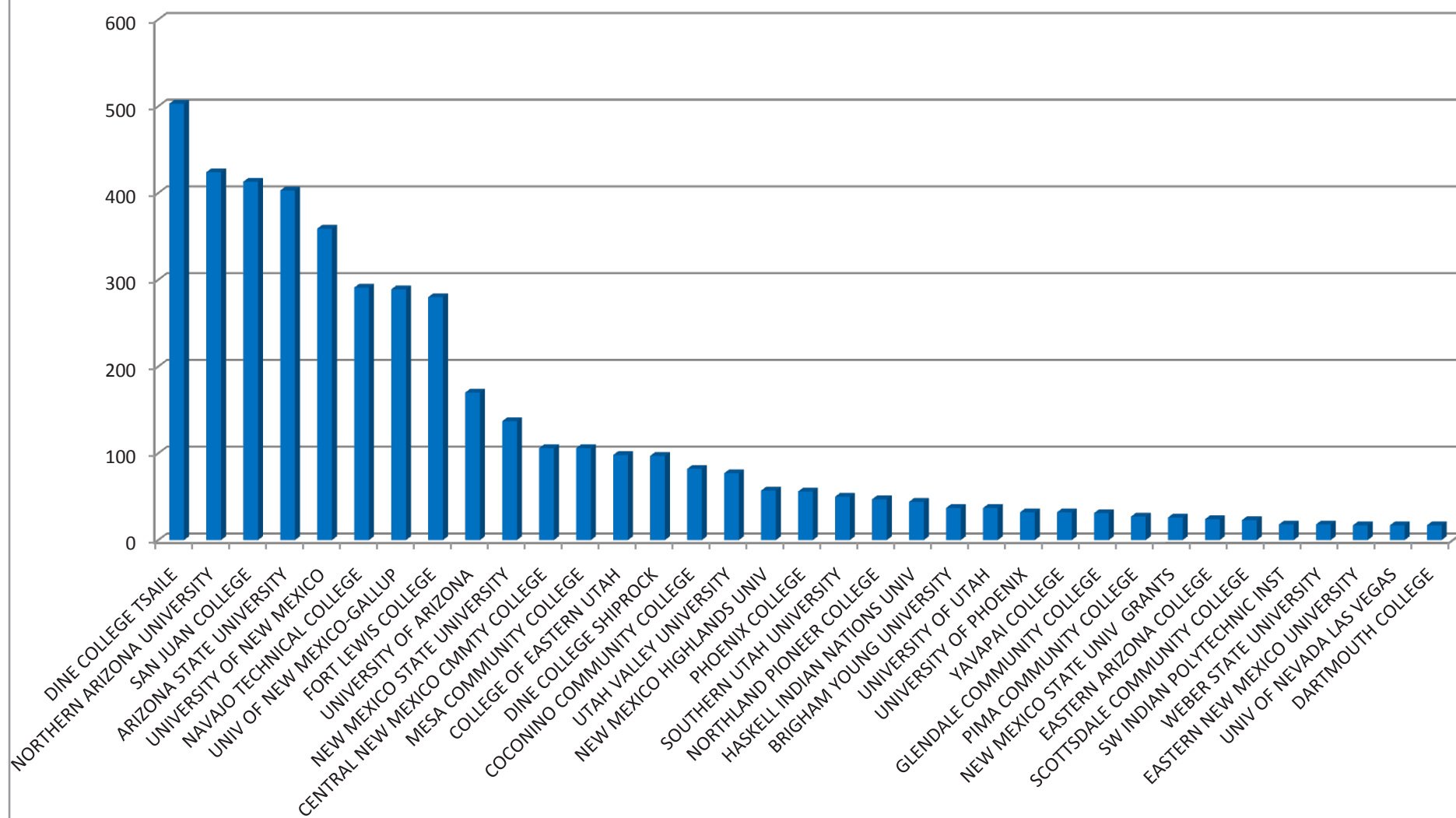
Education is the most popular subject of study. Fifty-four (54) graduate students are studying Education, followed by 49 students studying Social Work, and 34 studying Education Administration. You will also notice that Education as a subject is one of the top fields of study for undergraduates as well. Perhaps, this is indicative of the success

of the Navajo Nation Teacher Education Program, funded by ONNSFA.

With a high degree of students seeking a masters in Education, Social Work, Law, and Business Administration, ONNSFA can be a resource for companies seeking and recruiting for master's educated employees.



Top 35 Undergraduate Colleges and Universities



The numbers represent the Top 25 Colleges and Universities attended by undergraduate students funded in Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2008 Calendar Year.

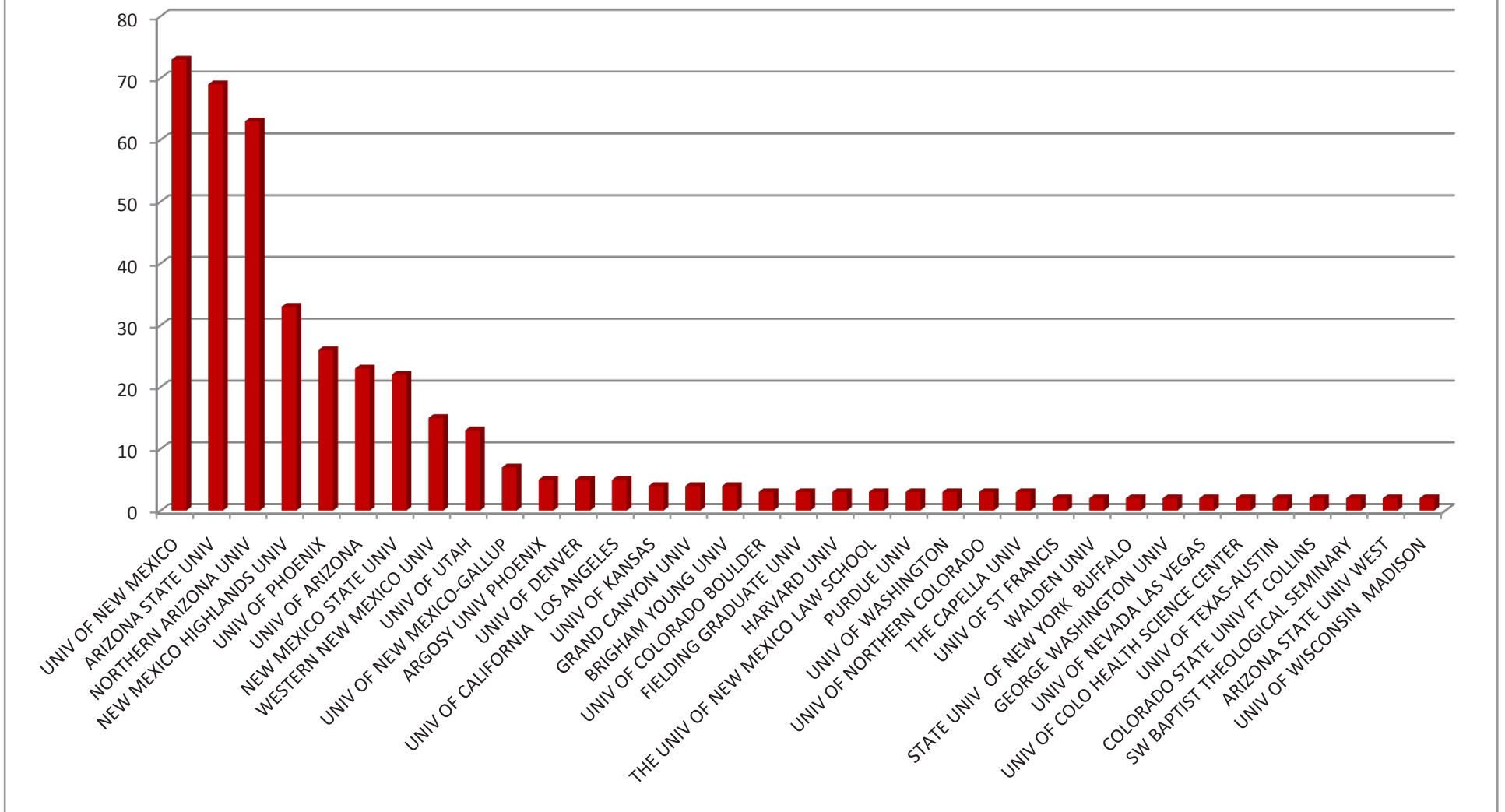
This graph shows that the majority of our Navajo students are studying at colleges and universities in the Four Corner's region.

Diné College has the most undergraduate Navajo

students with 503 followed by Northern Arizona University with 424 students and San Juan College with 413 students. The numbers represent only those students funded through the Navajo Nation Scholarship.



Top 35 Graduates Colleges and Universities



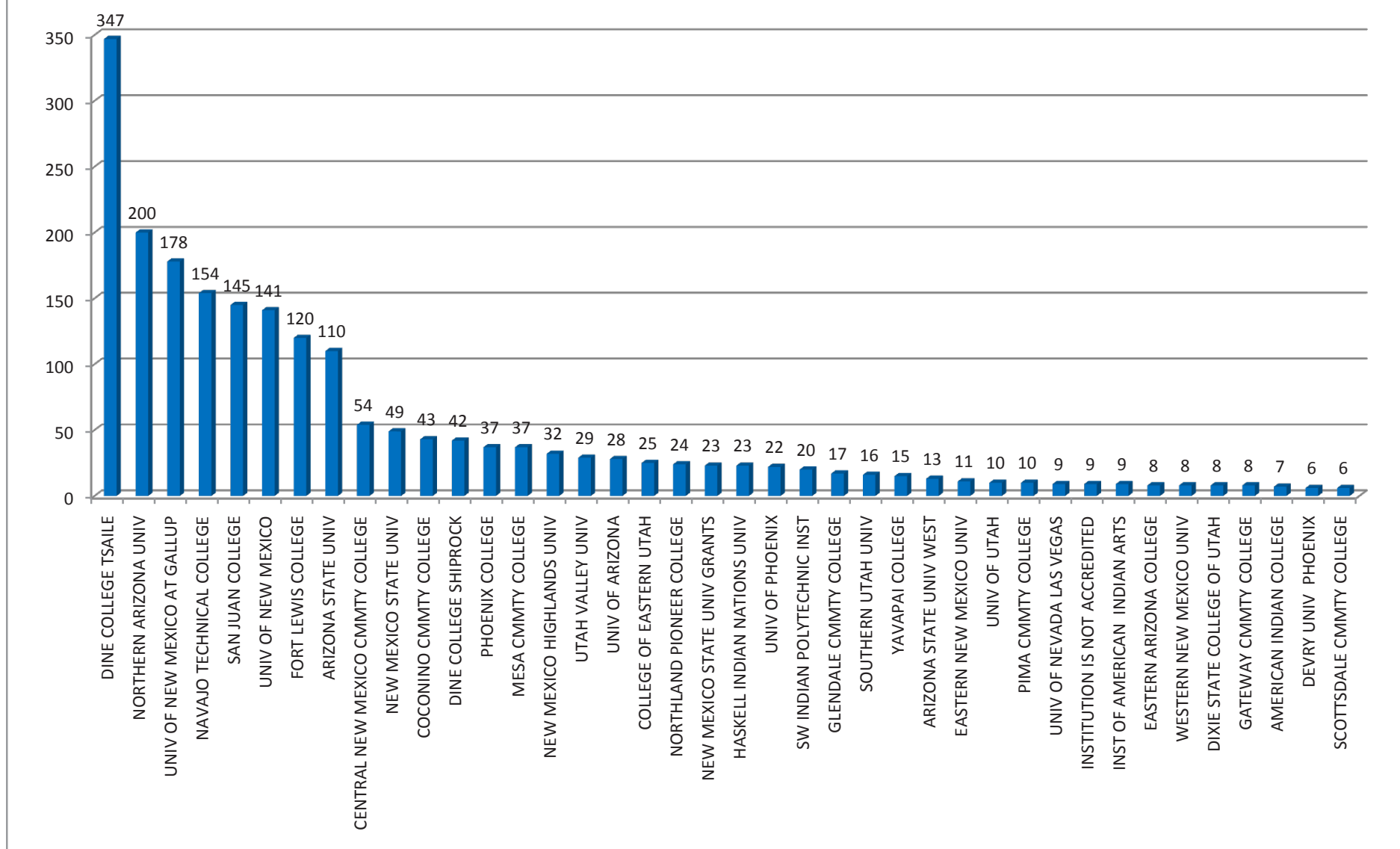
The numbers represent the Top 25 Colleges and Universities attended by graduate students funded in Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2008 Calendar Year.

These numbers represent both campus-based students and those that are pursuing their graduate degree “online.” With the availability of the internet, many Navajo students are pursuing a graduate education while maintaining full-time employment on or near the Navajo Nation.

The University of New Mexico has the most students with 73, followed by Arizona State University with 69 students and Northern Arizona University with 63, The numbers represent only those students funded through the Navajo Nation Scholarship.



2008 Academic Year of Remedial courses by College



The numbers represent the overall students taking remedial courses by College in Fall 2007, Winter 2008, Spring 2008 and Summer 2008.

Many of our entering college freshmen have to take remedial courses in Math, English, and Science. The preponderance of remedial education for our students is an indication that for whatever reason our students are not obtaining this foundational knowledge at the secondary level (high school). Unfortunately, the cost of remedial coursework consumes at

least one quarter (25 percent) of scholarship funding. While ONNSFA presently funds remedial coursework, the true intent of the scholarship funding is to pay for higher education college level coursework and not remedial education.

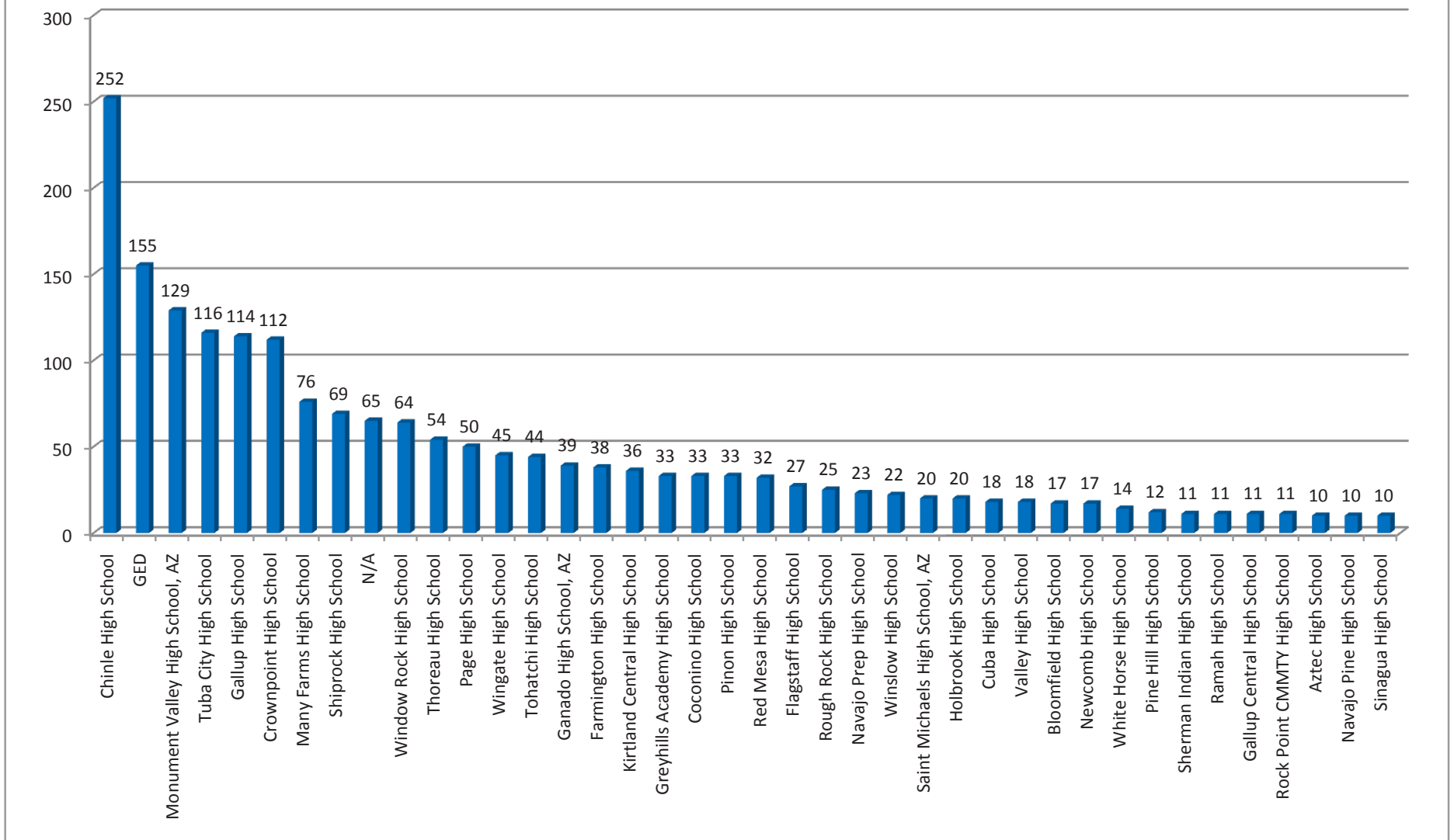
Whatever the reasons may be, it is important to share this information (see this page and the facing page) for the

benefit of our parents, students, educators, school board members, and administrators at all levels of our education system—public, private, BIA, contract and grant. Without dwelling on all the possible reasons, this data represents a opportunity for everyone involved with Navajo education to better prepare our students for college level coursework.

The graph on this page depicts the number of students who are taking remedial coursework at the college they are attending. For instance, there are 347 students, funded by the scholarship program, who are expending their funding on remedial coursework at Diné College.



2008 Academic Year of Remedial courses by High School

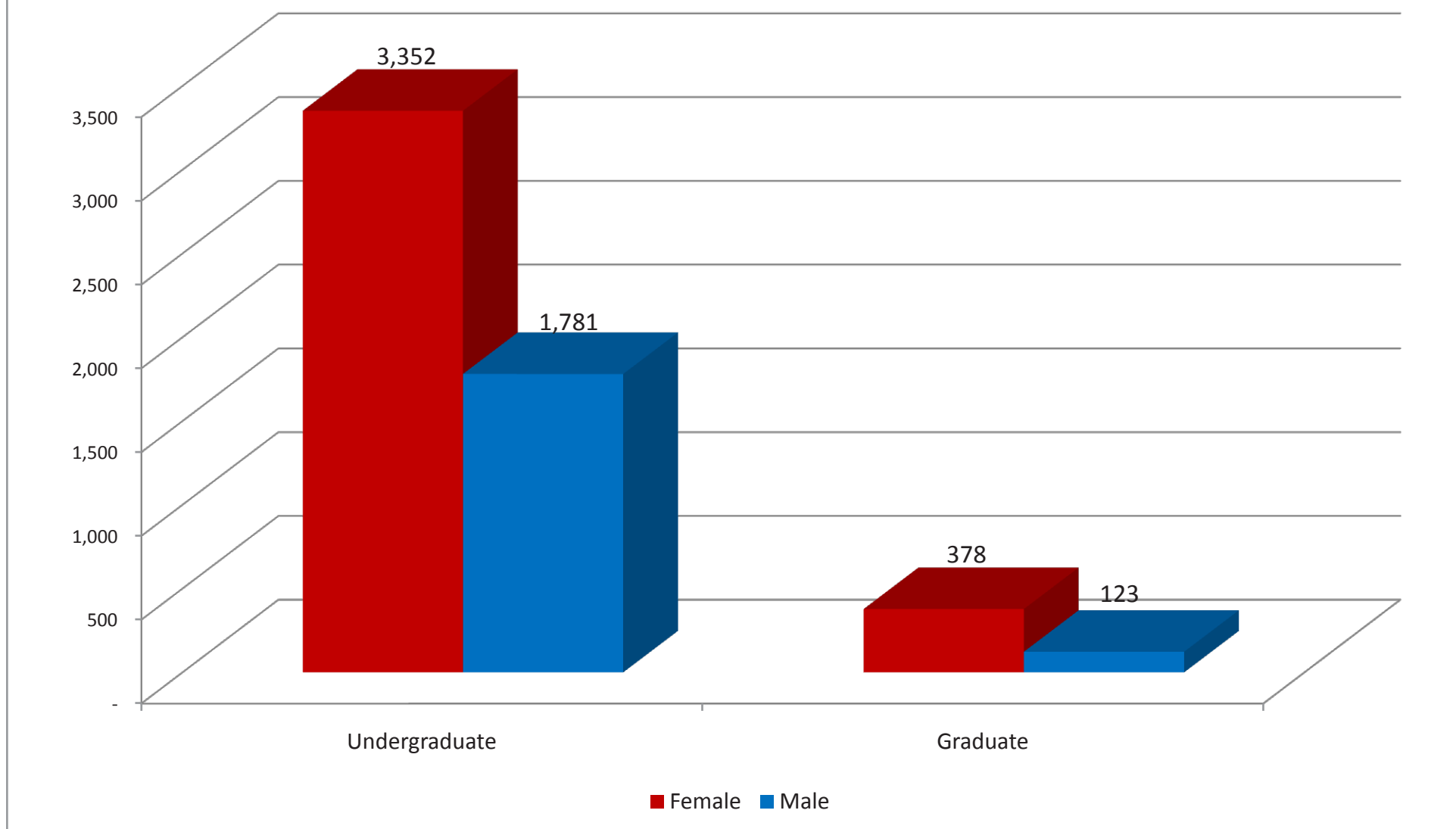


The numbers represent the overall students taking remedial courses by High School in Fall 2007, Winter 2008, Spring 2008 and Summer 2008.

Gleaned from applications from students, this graph depicts the number of students who are taking remedial coursework and the high school they graduated from. For instance, 252 students, enrolled in college and who graduated from Chinle High School, are expending their scholarship funding on remedial coursework.



Gender



The graph indicates that the majority are female at 66% and male at 34% for Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008 and Winter 2008 Calendar Year.

This graph compares the number of females and males seeking undergraduate and graduate degrees. This information is often requested of our office and is presented here as raw data. While there may be speculation on this point and some well-reasoned explanations as to why there are more females seeking undergraduate and graduate degrees, ONNS-FA has not conducted a survey or studied the matter in order to render a judgment as to why more females than males are pursuing a higher education.



Students Awarded and their Chapter Affiliation - 2008

In filling out an ONNSFA application, students indicate their Navajo Nation Chapter affiliation. Chapters are grouped into five Agencies as seen below. For example, in the Aneth Chapter of the Shiprock Agency, 81 students were awarded funding in 2008. In two (2) instances, students did not know their Chapter affiliation. In total, 5,634 students were awarded in 2008. ONNSFA encourages all students to register as a voter with their chapter. Chapters receive funds for scholarships, housing, etc. based on the number of registered voters and population.

Shiprock Agency

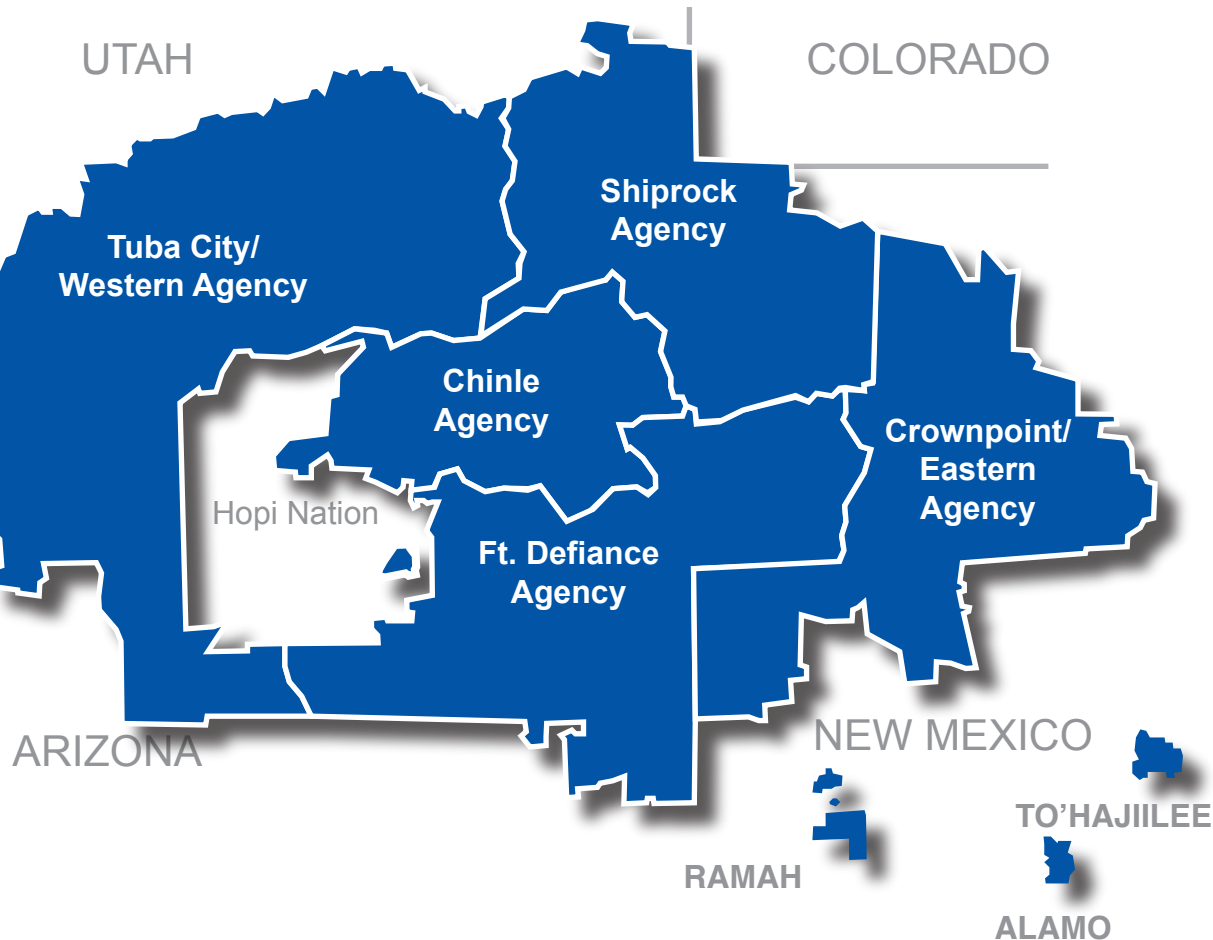
- Aneth - 81
- Beclabito - 34
- Burnham - 14
- Cove - 35
- Cudei (Gadii'ahi) - 26
- Hogback - 59
- Mexican Water - 35
- Nenahnezad - 64
- Newcomb - 37
- Red Mesa - 50
- Red Valley - 42
- Rock Point - 71
- San Juan - 14
- Sanostee - 72
- Sheepsprings - 32
- Shiprock - 397
- Sweetwater - 42
- Toadlena/Two Grey Hills - 20
- Teec Nos Pos - 59
- Upper Fruitland - 91

Crownpoint/ Eastern Agency

- Alamo - 15
- Baca/Haystack - 24
- Becenti - 25
- Bread Springs
- Casamero Lake - 16
- Chichiltah - 45
- Church Rock - 82
- Counselor - 13
- Crownpoint - 164
- Huerfano - 63
- Iyanbito - 18
- Lake Valley - 18
- Littlewater - 27
- Manuelito - 28
- Mariano Lake - 22
- Nageezi - 29
- Nahodishgish - 15
- Ojo Encino - 17
- Pinedate - 31
- Pueblo Pintado - 22
- Ramah - 32
- Red Rock - 35
- Rock Springs - 39
- Smith Lake - 20
- Standing Rock - 35
- Thoreau - 47
- Tohajiilee - 18
- Torreon/Star Lake - 34
- Tsayatoh - 21
- Whitehorse Lake - 15
- White Rock - 14

Tuba City/ Western Agency

- Birdspring - 27
- Bodaway/Gap - 42
- Cameron - 34
- Chilchinbeto - 31
- Coalmine Canyon - 35
- Coppermine - 43
- Dennehotso - 43
- Inscription House - 26
- Kaibeto - 21
- Kayenta - 134
- Lechee - 52
- Leupp - 45
- Navajo Mountain - 25
- Oljato - 77
- Shonto - 60
- Tolani Lake - 22
- Tonalea - 51
- Tuba City - 328



Chinle Agency

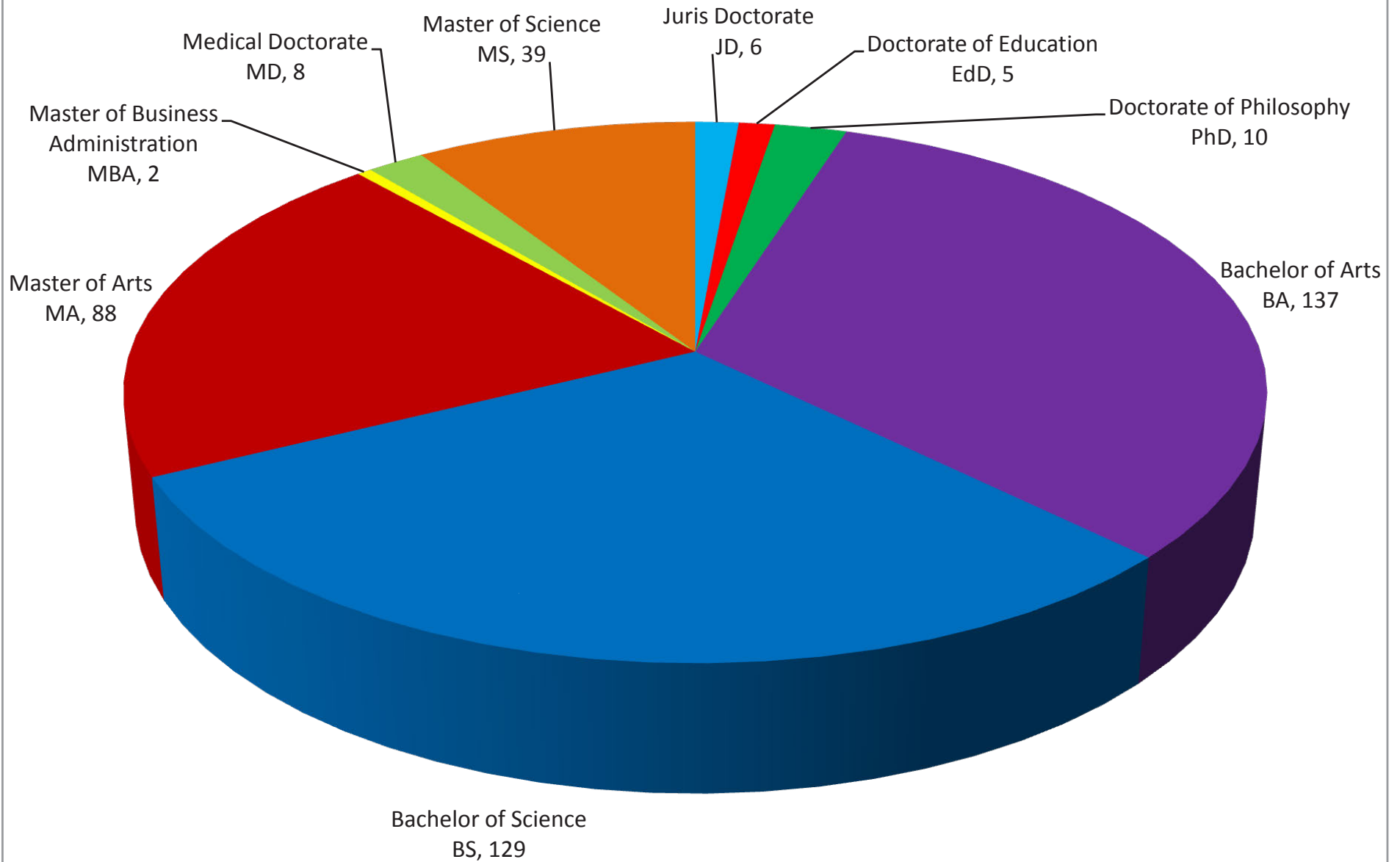
- Black Mesa - 22
- Chinle - 277
- Forest Lake - 23
- Hard Rock - 43
- Lukachukai - 87
- Many Farms - 91
- Nazlini - 32
- Pinon - 59
- Rough Rock - 38
- Round Rock - 41
- Tachee/Blue Gap - 18
- Tsaile/Wheatfields - 77
- Tselani/Cottonwood - 48
- Whippoorwill Spring - 32

Ft. Defiance Agency

- Crystal - 46
- Cornfields - 27
- Coyote Canyon - 45
- Dilkon - 45
- Ft. Defiance - 271
- Ganado - 63
- Greasewood Springs - 36
- Houck - 43
- Indian Wells - 22
- Jeddito - 33
- Kinlichee - 53
- Klagetoh - 25
- Low Mountain - 26
- Lupton - 35
- Mexican Springs - 32
- Nahata Dziil - 28
- Naschitti - 52
- Oak-Pine Springs - 27
- Red Lake - 36
- Sawmill - 52
- Steamboat - 51
- St. Michaels - 112
- Teestoh - 35
- Tohatchi - 44
- Twin Lakes - 61
- White Cone - 39
- Wide Ruins - 26



2009 Spring Graduates



The graph represents the Doctorate, Master and Bachelor graduates for the Spring 2009 term. The numbers do not include the more than 100 students who earn their associate degrees.

The Scholarship Office reports that among the 424 graduates are:

- 29 Doctorate degrees, which include 8 Medical Doctorate, 6 Juris Doctorate, 5 Doctorate of Education and 10 Doctorate of Philosophy.

- 129 Master degrees, which include 88 Master of Arts, 39 Master of Science and 2 Master of Business Administration
- 266 Bachelor degrees, which include 129 Bachelor of Arts and 137 Bachelor of Science

Arizona State University had the most graduates with 71, followed by University of New Mexico with 67 graduates and Northern Arizona University with 66 graduates.

Chinle ONNSFA



The hardworking team at Chinle ONNSFA, located at the Student Activities Building on the Tsaile Campus of Diné College (L-R): Victoria Nez, Office Specialist; Eltavisa Begay, Sr. Financial Aid Counselor; Marilyn Daw, Financial Aid Counselor; and Laverne Teller, Office Specialist.

ONNSFA Chinle Agency's sole purpose is to help the students. It is staffed with four employees as pictured above:

- Eltavisa Begay, Senior Financial Aid Counselor;
- Marilyn Daw, Financial Aid Counselor;
- Victoria Nez and
- LaVerne Teller.

We are there to assist the student, whether it is helping them complete their application, pointing them in the right direction so that they can obtain the required documents needed to complete their packet, or filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The Chinle Agency ONNSFA office is located on the Diné College Tsaile Campus, Room 202 of the Student Services Building. Students can submit documents to any ONNSFA Agency and their paperwork will be forwarded to

their appropriate agency office. Students are now encouraged to apply online, as well.

Chinle ONNSFA gives these tips when filling out an application: It is important for students to know which Chapter they are affiliated with because that piece of information helps determine which ONNSFA Agency they will be working with when the time comes for them to apply for scholarship funding.

ONNSFA Chinle Agency serves students who are affiliated with the following Chapters: Black Mesa, BlueGap-Tachee, Chinle, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Lukachukai, Many Farms, Nazlini, Pinon, Rough Rock, Round Rock, Tsaile-Wheatfields, Tselani-Cottonwood and Whippoorwill.

Knowing your chapter affiliation is beneficial for the student because they may also get additional funding from their chapter's scholarship fund. For

more information about the chapter scholarship, students must contact their respective chapter.

In addition to assisting with the paperwork, ONNSFA Chinle Agency provides presentations to high schools and middle schools near and far. We begin scheduling our Spring high school/middle school visits as early as February and will continue well into April. Our Fall presentations usually begin in September and continue into early November. It is important for high school college-bound students to be well informed early on about ONNSFA requirements and deadlines so they know what to expect when they begin the application process.

We also attend college fairs, career days and participate in "College Goal Sunday." College Goal Sunday is a state-

wide annual event for area high school seniors and their parents/guardians, coordinated by Diné College. This year is the fifth year that a financial aid counselor from ONNSFA Chinle has been invited to attend one of these events and provide information to those in attendance. Even though this is strictly a volunteer venture hosted by Diné College, there are many financial aid and high school personnel on hand from our office and from the local schools to assist those students and parents in attendance.

This year's event was held at Chinle High School on Sunday, February 8th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. However, due to a snow storm the night before, it caused roadways to be snow packed and icy and resulted in a low turnout for the event. However, undeterred, staff carried on. There was a lot of one-to-one assistance.

College Goal Sunday is a great forum where we offer expert advice to students and parents on financial aid while addressing many questions that seniors and their parents/guardians have. They leave with an understanding of the importance of the FAFSA process and how it impacts their son or daughter's financial situation while preparing for college in the fall. ONNSFA looks forward to many more years of assisting our students, their parents/guardians and working alongside high school and college officials.

Our contact information is P.O. Box 25B Tsaile, Arizona 86556. Call us toll free: 1-800-919-9269. Fax Number: (928) 724-2208. Email: onnfachinle@navajo.org. Website: www.onnsfa.org



Crownpoint ONNSFA

ONNSFA Crownpoint Agency has been at the Eastern Navajo Agency since 1998, initially located in a trailer that was owned by then Crownpoint Institute of Technology, now called Navajo Technical College (NTC).

Three years ago, the ONNSFA Crownpoint Agency relocated to the new Diné Family Empowerment Center which houses the NTC Financial Aid Office, NTC President's Office, NTC Financial Services Department, Eastern Navajo Land Commission, Navajo Nation Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, and the Program for Self Reliance.

ONNSFA Crownpoint Agency currently serves the following area high schools: Alamo Navajo Community School, Crownpoint, Cuba, Grants, Magdalena, Pine Hill, Ramah, Thoreau, To'Hajiilee Community School, Tsi'Yi Gai, and Fort Wingate.

On occasion, as requests are made, ONNSFA Crownpoint Agency will make presentations to Navajo students at Los Lunas High School and Albuquerque Public Schools.

Area universities that ONNSFA Crownpoint Financial Aid Counselors visit are New Mexico State University, Las Cruces and Grants campus, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque and UNM-Gallup campus, Western New Mexico, Silver City, and the WNMU-Gallup campus, Mesalands Community College, Eastern New Mexico University, Navajo Technical College, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Central New Mexico Community College and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

Rowena J. Becenti, Financial Aid Counselor of

ONNSFA Crownpoint Agency has for the past couple of years been chosen to serve as a reader for the Gates Millennium Scholarship. As a reader, Rowena evaluates scores of student essays and assists with choosing the next Gates finalists. This prestigious scholarship was established in 1999 by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Rowena is also a reader for the Daniels' Fund.

This year, we would like to feature an outstanding Ph.D. candidate, Steven Chischilly. In his own words, he shares with us his education experience:

"My name is Steven Chischilly, and I am currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Colorado at Boulder in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department. I earned a Master's degree from the University of Colorado in 1994 in Population Genetics and after approximately 10 years of teaching at Navajo Technical College I decided to return to graduate school to pursue the PhD degree.

"In 2005, I took a year off from teaching and returned to school and completed all of the required coursework. Currently I am working on the dissertation [for a Ph.D.] I completed a Bachelor of Science degree from Fort Lewis College in Environmental Biology and an Associates of Arts degree in Agriculture. I am originally from Western Navajo Agency, from the Navajo communities of Kayenta and Shonto, Arizona.

"The dissertation work that I am currently conducting involves determining the occurrence and possibly the extent of genetic mutations occurring in piñon pine (*Pinus edulis*) growing on radioactive tailings piles on the Colorado Plateau. By



Crownpoint ONNSFA staff (L-R): Nancy Eriacho, Office Specialist; Rowena Becenti, Financial Aid Counselor; Shirley Yazzie, Office Specialist; President Joe Shirley, Jr.; and Winona Kay, Sr. Financial Aid Counselor.

looking at the chloroplast and mitochondrial DNA of these "individuals" and comparing them to control site individuals (non-radioactive), we will determine the occurrence and extent of mutations within these organelles and correlate these results with age and proximity to the radiation sources.

"Currently we have extracted DNA from around 300 trees with 48 of these coming from the radioactive sites. We are awaiting the microsatellite libraries from a company in California. With the libraries we will be able to publish the findings and complete the work on the DNA analysis. I am working with two student research interns, and they are funded by a grant we obtained from the National Science Foundation.

"My maternal clan is Red Streak Along the Water, born for Bitter Water, and my maternal grandfather's clan is Coyote Canyon and my paternal grandfather's clan is One Who Walks Around, and in this way I intro-

duce myself to you as a Diné man.

"I am married to April Chischilly and we have three sons: Steven Jr., Nicolas, and Samuel. We reside in the Navajo community of Crownpoint, NM and have been here for the past 13 years.

"Prior to working at Navajo Technical College I worked as a Field Biologist, working with the monitoring and censusing of rare, threatened and endangered species on the Navajo Nation. I also worked for the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency as a Program Manager for the Solid Waste Program. The [subject] that I teach here at the college (Navajo Technical College) is Environmental Science and Natural Resources.

"I would like to thank the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Aid, the Crownpoint Agency Office, for all of their support while I pursued this dream. With this degree, I hope to offer a four-year degree [to students attending] Navajo Technical College, and [one day] become a published author. "

Ft. Defiance ONNSFA

Roger Begay is a fine example of the caliber of students being funded through the Ft. Defiance Agency of the Navajo Nation Scholarship Office.

Begay is in his final semester at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. “He has faced many obstacles throughout his education,” said Maxine Damon, Sr. Financial Aid Counselor.

Roger tells his story in these words:

“I am a member of the Navajo Tribe and grew up on the reservation near Window Rock, Arizona.

“After graduating, with honors, from Window Rock High, my education continued at Arizona State University, where I was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Biology.”

One of the first in his family to graduate from college, Begay “persevered” through undergraduate studies, completing his degree in 2001.

Following his undergraduate degree, Begay decided to once again persevere - this time, in a general surgery residency.

He was driven to become a physician from some very personal experiences in his life.

He explains, “My desire to become a physician [was] motivated by a number of factors. The first [was] the death of a 12 month old cousin-brother and the grieving process that followed. Being able to help people understand illness in order to improve illness outcome underlies a great portion of my motivation. The second factor was the mangling of my younger brother’s leg in an ATV accident. Living in a rural setting the nearest trauma facility was hours away. This lack of rural



Staff of the Ft. Defiance ONNSFA are (L-R): Nate Burton, Office Specialist; Dorothea Paul; Maxine Damon, Sr. Fin. Aid Counselor; Lena Mae Joe, Fin. Aid Counselor; Margaret Yazzie; and Orlinda Brown, Fin. Aid Counselor.

medical doctors motivated me to improve the welfare of those in rural areas. A third factor, which was the solidifying factor in my decision to pursue becoming an MD, [was] the death of my best friend one month before my high school graduation. My friend was involved in an altercation in which he received several puncture wounds to the abdomen. He died shortly after arriving at the local hospital, while awaiting transfer to a trauma facility. Having the training to possibly prevent untimely deaths [was] the greatest factor underlying my motivation to become a surgeon.

“For as long as I can remember, I have had an interest in the trauma aspect of medicine. I have made several attempts to understand this inner desire. I have come to the conclusion that my interest in the trauma aspect of medicine is rooted in the experience related to my younger brother’s accident and [was] solidified by the

death of my best friend. These experiences have instilled within me a curiosity that has been directed toward medicine. In attempting to understand how these situations could have been better managed, I made a conscious effort at an early age to learn about human anatomy and physiology as it applied to these situations. Being able to save individuals who are victims of similar unfortunate circumstances is what underlies my life long goal of becoming a surgeon.

Begay chose UNM for its excellent program. His goal is to return “to the rural communities of the United States, I think it would be important to be trained to handle the most common surgical complaints but to also to be able to handle and stabilized those who are involved in traumatic situations.

“Throughout my life I have experienced many situations involving misunderstood illnesses, untimely deaths,

unnecessary amputations and other unfortunate effects of debilitating western ailments afflicting Americans, all of which will be better addressed by my becoming a physician. Having a person to relate to, to trust and to understand are the greatest reasons underlying my motivation in becoming a physician. The potential for medical knowledge, understanding and prevention, in which a physician is capable of achieving, are the reasons I choose to pursue becoming a physician as opposed to any other health care profession. My ability to handle life threatening situations, along with my ability to relate to people with compassion and understanding are the reasons why I believe I would make an outstanding surgeon.”

Begay will graduate in 2009 from the UNM School of Medicine.



Shiprock ONNSFA (Northern Agency)

The Shiprock Agency Office of the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance credits the following areas for their continued success this past year:

The Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance has been decentralized to 5 Agency offices for almost 10 years. Shiprock Agency being one of them. There are many clients who truly appreciate the convenience of having an ONNSFA office in their agency. Decentralization also allows a more personal relationship between the applicants and the agency staff. This is one of the more positive aspects for the Shiprock Agency ONNSFA.

The Shiprock Agency ONNSFA office is located in the BIA Natanii Nez Business Complex, Room 111. This is a prime location for clients, because the Shiprock Agency Navajo Office of Vital Records is located in the same building. The working relationship between the ONNSFA staff and the Vital Records staff is positive and friendly. Both offices work closely to process numerous requests for Certificates of Indian Blood, which are required by ONNSFA.

The Shiprock Agency ONNSFA office employs four permanent staff. There are two Financial Aid Counselors:

- Kay Nave-Mark
- Grace Cooley

AND two Office Specialists:

- Jefferline Francisco
- Angela Nevayaktewa

All four employees have attended post secondary institutions



The hardworking Shiprock ONNSFA Staff (L-R): Grace Cooley, Financial Aid Counselor; Jefferline Francisco, Office Specialist; Angela Nevayaktewa, Office Specialist; and Kay Nave-Mark, Sr. Financial Aid Counselor.

and understand the frustration and challenges their applicants/students face. That is why each staff member at Shiprock ONNSFA works very hard to assist students and parents with application procedural details. If a student is unable to qualify and receive a Navajo Nation Scholarship, staff members are dedicated to helping students and parents seek and find other possible sources of funding to fund their college education.

The Shiprock Agency ONNSFA promotes success and hopes each applicant achieves their goals which in turn will someday benefit the Navajo Nation.

As well as reviewing the thousands of applications submitted to the Shiprock Agency ONNSFA, the counselors are responsible for working closely with their Agency high schools and colleges. Shiprock Agency ONNSFA works with fifteen

area high schools and eight colleges. The main focus in working with the high schools is to promote ONNSFA and assist graduating seniors with processing their applications. The success of this endeavor is dependent on a good working relationship with the high school personnel. The counselors of the Shiprock Agency ONNSFA have a good working relationship with high school counselors in their agency and visit each high school at least once a year. They also attend any other event to which they are invited. At these events, they provide helpful information on the application process and deadlines.

As with all ONNSFA Agency Offices, Shiprock ONNSFA also visits students in college. The main focus in working with colleges is to visit and assist ONNSFA applicants at their college campus. These

visits are usually an opportunity for applicants to visit with an ONNSFA counselor. Applicants can also use this opportunity to pick up next year's application or submit any paperwork that has not been received by ONNSFA. ONNSFA staff also use this time to become acquainted with college personnel who work with Navajo students on campus. Many college personnel appreciate the opportunity to learn about the ONNSFA Policies and Procedures. They then use this information to better advise and counsel their students.

The Shiprock Agency ONNSFA staff work tirelessly to assist clients in reaching their educational endeavors. The student's success is their success.

Tuba City ONNSFA



The dedicated staff at Tuba City ONNSFA (L-R): Shirley Tunney, Sr. Financial Aid Counselor; Denise Becenti, Office Specialist; Philandra Adson, Office Specialist; and Danielle Slim, Office Specialist.

The following accomplishments summarize the Tuba City Agency Office of the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance:

The Tuba City ONNSFA counselors made on-site visits to all the high schools, colleges, and universities assigned to our Agency. In addition we visited all the 18 chapters within the Western Navajo Agency. An ONNSFA orientation was provided at each site and the chapters shared with ONNSFA their own Chapter Scholarship applications and eligibility criteria. The Chapter Scholarship applications are put into our resource binder and is made available to all clients that come to our office.

The Tuba City ONNSFA has a collaborative working relationship with local Navajo Nation programs, including Workforce Development, Navajo Nation Child Care Program, and the Navajo Nation Self Reliance Program. Together, we assist each department's clients helping everyone achieve their goals of independence, employment, and higher education.

Tuba City ONNSFA counselors participated in the yearly College Goal Sunday activity that is sponsored by the AASFAA organization and the local high schools each year on the second Sunday of February. This event is intended to provide information to individuals on the FAFSA application process and other scholarship information.

Here is a summary of 2008:

- Leon Curtis, Financial Aid Counselor, participated in the College Goal Sunday event at the Tuba City High School.
- FAFAS application process is provided and ONNSFA provides an orientation of our application process.
- Shirley Tunney attended the "Program Assessment Rating Tool" training provided by the BIA Region office in Gallup, NM.
- Tuba City staff, Shirley, Leon, Denise and Danielle travel to Gallup, NM to attend the Chief Manuelito Banquet held at the Re-

- hoboth Christian School.
- Office Specialist, Philandra Adson, attended the Coconino Community College Career Fair on behalf of ONNSFA. She set up an ONNSFA information booth. The event was successful. Local Flagstaff and surrounding community members as well as college students visited the booth.
- Shirley Tunney participated in the Shiprock ONNSFA BIA monitoring visit conducted by BIA Awarding Official, Frances Price and BIA Tribal Operations Specialist, Irene Herder. The result of the monitoring was successful; no major deficiencies were cited. The purpose for the participation from ONNSFA was to prepare for a future monitoring visit at the Tuba City Agency office.
- Shirley Tunney and Denise Becenti provided an ONNSFA information booth at the 25th NCA-CASI AdvanceED Fall Conference in Flagstaff,

AZ on the NAU campus. ONNSFA information was provided and shared with the school board members, school administrators, teachers, counselors and parents.

- Tuba City ONNSFA staff, Shirley, Denise, Danielle and Philandra attended the 40th Annual AASFAA Conference in Mesa, Az. This is was the first time our office participated in a conference together. The conference provided an opportunity to review and learn new state and federal guidelines and regulations on student financial aid. We also net work with the college/ university financial aid representatives. Conferences such as these help staff better advise students on new requirements, regulations, and guidelines.
- ONNSFA Tuba City staff, Shirley Tunney and Denise Becenti attend the 2008 American Indian Youth Conference in Tucson. ONNSFA provided an information booth that was visited by Native American youths from across the United States and Canada.
- Shirley Tunney was the Master of Ceremony for the ONNSFA Navajo Nation Teacher Education Program Fair. The fair provided information on NNTEP and about the schools that are part of the NNTEP consortium. These schools also set up information booths to share with the attendees.
- Denise Becenti, Office Specialist, was recognized for 10 years of faithful service to the Navajo Nation.



2008 NEWS and UPDATES

Peabody Coal Company Gives Annually: \$186,000 in 2009

Window Rock, Arizona - In January 2009, the Peabody Western Coal Company awarded \$186,000 to the Navajo Nation Scholarship fund.

Rose Graham stated, "The Peabody Coal Company plays a significant role towards this goal (serving over 10,000 students a year) through its generous contribution of funding every year."

Walter Begay, Jr., Manager of Tribal and Government Relations of Peabody, presented Graham a check. "Every year, we're happy to assist with funding scholarships for Navajo students," said Begay.

With Peabody funding last year, the scholarship of-



(L-R): Rose Graham, Director, Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance; and Walter Begay, Jr., Manager Tribal and Government Relation, Peabody Western Coal Company.

fice reported that it funded 81 students in its FY 2008. "The

majority of Peabody funding went to graduate students at 82

percent; and undergraduates at 18 percent. The percentage of students funded included 35 percent full-time students and 65 percent part-time students," reported Graham to the Peabody representative.

"We sincerely appreciate the generous contribution of all our donors. Some are individuals giving back and some are corporations, estates, and companies like Peabody Coal Company," said Graham. "We aren't able to thank our donors enough. Often they don't see the impact they're making - but we do. On behalf of our staff and especially our students, thank you, Peabody, and other donors."

Frontier Reinstates \$20K Scholarship



Lynn Peterson, Denise Baumbach, Winona Kay, Joe Hausner, and President Shirley hold up the \$20,000 check from Frontier to the Navajo Nation.

Denise Baumbach, Vice President and General Manager, Western Region, Frontier Communications, presented a \$20,000 check to the Navajo Nation for scholarships: \$5,000 of that amount will be used for students entering the telecommunications field; \$5,000 for local Frontier Communications employees' dependents; and \$10,000 for students in the five Navajo Nation agencies.

President Joe Shirley, Jr., of the Navajo Nation and Winona Kay,

Senior Financial Aid Counselor, accepted the check from Frontier.

Cindy Jarvison, past recipient of the Frontier Scholarship, and now a Marketing Manager with a local non-profit company, said, "The scholarship is truly a gift that keeps on giving. There's no end to the good that the Frontier scholarship gave me. I feel that an education is the permanent solution in helping your family and community. From my family to yours, thank you, thank you, thank you."

Boyd, Craig Get "Peace" Scholarship

Talia Boyd of Tuba City and Marna Craig of Crownpoint received the Veterans for Peace Fernando Suarez- Jesus Scholarship, named in honor of the first Marine to die in combat in the Iraq war.

Veterans for Peace seeks to inform and help college-bound students who might be considering the military to fund their college education. It visits schools telling students "what the recruiter didn't say" through its Full Disclosure program.

Boyd and Craig both said that they were considering the military if other options were not available.

"I'm honored to receive this," said Boyd. "I tried very hard when applying for this, crossing my fingers. I am overwhelmed and so proud because I believe in what you're doing." Boyd, a graduate of Gallup High School in 2001, is originally from Tuba City.

Craig said when she was awarded and received a check in the mail, she was speechless. In her



Ken Mayer, President of Veterans For Peace, is joined by Marna Craig (L) and Talia Boyd (R).

essay, she said she wrote about her grandpa, a "great man," and veteran of two wars: WWII and the Korean War.

Before the scholarship, Craig "was just thinking about working," and not going to school. She is interested in Veterinarian studies and Business Management. With the scholarship she is now a full-time student.

Boyd, a Freshman at UNM, wants to help people, and give back to the community. In her essay, she wrote about Navajo teachings—walking in beauty and living in harmony. "I said we believe in peace and to me, an education is part of that goal and vital in this day and age."



ONNSFA Honors 2008 Chief Manuelito Scholars



Rehoboth, New Mexico—Every year, ONNSFA sponsors a banquet honoring and recognizing the merit-based Chief Manuelito Scholars. Scholars, family, and friends celebrate their accomplishments. Scholars share their name, Navajo clans, aspirations, and their college of choice. In this group are avowed doctors, lawyers, and entrepreneurs. This year’s event was coordinated by the Crownpoint ONNSFA Office and held at Rehoboth High School.

Rehoboth, NM — On July 25, 2008, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance held its annual Chief Manuelito Awards Ceremony, bestowing plaques and wishing scholars well as they prepare to go to college. Some seventy Navajo Scholars attended the Awards gala held at Rehoboth, New Mexico.

Vice President of the Navajo Nation, Bennie Shelley, told students. “If you can educate yourself,” said he, quoting Nelson Mandela, “you can conquer the world.” Shelly told scholars and their families that reading a book, though simple, is the key to unlocking knowledge, and contributing to meaningful discussion not only in school but at work. “So, don’t be lazy,” he said, “read a book and participate with others,

speaking intelligently, and use your knowledge.”

Lyanda M. Brown, like each scholar, introduced herself to the audience in her Navajo clans and announced her higher education plans. “I will be attending UNM this fall. I’ll be studying pre-med and I plan to go into dentistry,” she said.

Keynote Speaker, Kellie Arviso, shared with Lyanda and other scholars, some lessons she’s learned from her time at UNM. Arviso is in her second year of medical school at UNM. When



Kellie Arviso, past recipient of the Chief Manuelito Scholarship.

you don’t know something, ask for help. She remembers one professor asking her, “Why didn’t you ask for help?” “So, don’t be intimidated,” she said. She also told students that, to her, failed attempts are just stepping stones

and to “remember that you come from a people that have survived,” she said.

The Honorable Edward T. Begay attended the ceremony, providing some opening remarks to the guests and scholars. Roger Willie, an actor from the film *Windtalkers* and graduate of the

University of North Carolina, emceed the event.

“Every year at this time, we take a moment to congratulate our Navajo Chief Manuelito scholars,” said Rose Graham, Director of the Scholarship Office. “It is the one day when our staff can come together and with the scholars and their parents enjoy their accomplishment. There is always excitement in the air because the great adventure of college is ready to start for these scholars. On behalf of ONNSFA, I wish these scholars the very best. I hope that college is everything they hoped it would be. I hope it’s fun. I hope it’s challenging. And I hope that semester after semester, year after year, these scholars make the grade and rise to the challenge.”



Amid Talks of Cutbacks for Scholarships, BIA Restores Funding

In March, President Obama signed the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill after successful passage by the House and Senate in February and March, respectively. In the bill, under a section called "Operation of Indian Programs (OIP)," Congress restored higher education scholarships to FY 2008 levels. Throughout the deliberations, TBAC (the BIA's Tribal Budget Advisory Council), was instrumen-

tal in addressing this issue and advocating restoration of BIA funds in a number of areas.

Without the restoration of funds in the FY 2009 year, ONNSFA would have suffered a 20 percent decrease in funding and consequently would have funded fewer students this year than in the previous year.

"We want to acknowledge all those who advocated on behalf

of our Navajo students' funding," said Navajo Nation Scholarship Office Director, Rose Graham. "The Board of Education, the Education Committee, our delegations to Washington, the Navajo Nation Washington Office, the President and his staff—all of these programs and individuals played a part in making our voice heard at the BIA, Congressional, and Presidential levels."

In October 2008, the Department of the Interior implemented a 20 percent cut (\$2.1 million) in BIA scholarships. In March 2009, Congress and the President passed a bill that restored that funding. The major source of funding, the BIA makes up over \$10 million (or about 80 percent) of the Navajo Nation's overall scholarship funding every year.

In Honor of Late Mother, Educator, Family Creates Dollie L. Yazzie Memorial Scholarship

Two thousand dollars from the family of the late educator Dollie L. Yazzie have been donated to the Navajo Nation as the "Dollie L. Yazzie Memorial Scholarship." "That's what she would've wanted," said daughter and family spokesperson, Daphne J. Etsitty. "Education was very important to her. It's been a year now since she passed and as I look back at all she's done. Her determination to succeed has inspired me and my children to do the best we can in succeeding in all we do, and this includes finishing her projects that were left undone. She's an inspiration to me—she's my hero."

Yazzie, born in Canyon De Chelly in 1935 to the Water's Edge People, for the Bitter Water People, was a Phoenix Indian High School graduate in 1954. Later, she became the first Native American woman to graduate from Arizona State University. She would earn a Master's in Education. Her career in teaching has spanned more than 40 years, beginning in 1958 at Tuba City Elementary School. She retired in 2004 after a 20-year career with the Gallup McKinley County School District.

"I remember," said her daughter, "when she used to bring students home on the weekends." Her mother was teaching at the Tohatchi Boarding School at the



Joseph Yazzie, husband, and Daphne J. Etsitty, daughter of the late Dollie L. Yazzie.

time, she said. "These students came from a hard life, from broken homes. I think she and my dad wanted to give them a chance to have a normal life, at least for a couple of days. These kids were made part of the family and it was my mother's greatest joy to see them succeed in life." These students, years later, would introduce Dollie and Joseph, her husband, as their second parents.

In 1970, Dollie and Linda D. Teller at Rough Rock, Arizona recorded songs for an album called, "Navajo Songs for Classroom Enrichment." Before her untimely passing, her daughter and Dr. Roy Howard of Western New Mexico University, were completing a second recording, "Diné

K'ehji Sin," a collection of Navajo songs from her childhood. This later recording, said the family, was more about her love of music. Completed posthumously on her behalf by Teller and Dr. Howard, the proceeds of this album have become a memorial scholarship in her name.

"She was the greatest mother, the greatest teacher to her students," said Etsitty.

While on vacation in Washington, Yazzie succumbed to sudden sickness.

"She was a great woman," said Joseph, a retired Navajo policeman. She and Joseph have three children—Jacqueline, Derrick, and Daphne—nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"She didn't finish her work—and it meant so much to her to complete," said Etsitty of her mother's final recordings. "We wanted to do something special for her and when Dr. Howard asked us what we wanted to do with the proceeds of her CD sales, we decided to donate it toward a scholarship in her name."

The Dollie L. Yazzie Scholarship will support two Navajo college students with \$1,000 each. All proceeds of CD sales go toward the scholarship fund. The CD "Diné K'ehji Sin" can be found at Ellis Tanner's in Gallup, NM.

U of A Students Land NASA Internships



Jennifer Stanley (R), NASA Intern, in the field with professors.

Jennifer Stanley, an Agricultural Technology Management major, trains youth and adults on how to use geospatial tools like GPS.

This is part of Stanley's NASA internship, overseen by Barron Orr, Ph.D., Associate Dir. to the UA/NASA Space Grant Program and Associate Professor and Geospatial Extension Specialist at U of A.

Erin Boyd, majoring in Natural Resources and Rangeland Ecology and Management with a minor in Animal Science, was also selected as a NASA Intern.

Boyd's internship centers on training and facilitating projects for junior high school students using GIS and GPS. Students choose a project and map it out. "I really enjoy this internship. I enjoy working with people. These kids are really smart," she said.

Adriana Riggs, majoring in mathematics, was also selected as a NASA Undergraduate Research Intern. The three Navajo students are featured in the September 2008 UANews.org.