

SUMMARY

The Office of the Auditor General has conducted a special review of the Diné College Wisdom of the People grant. In 2008, the College was awarded \$250,000 Wisdom of the People grant to fund a five-year project to conduct research of Navajo language, history and beliefs. This special review was requested by the Navajo Nation Council Education Committee to evaluate Diné College process in obtaining, administrating, and monitoring the Wisdom of the People grant and project. The review focused on evaluating the 2008 and 2009 activities, which is two years of the five year grant.

Finding I: Diné College did not Comply with its Established Process in Obtaining and Administering the Wisdom of the People Grant

The Institutional Grants and Sponsored Projects Office was established to review and approve grant proposals. Contrary to College policies and procedures, the College President obtained the grant without the Institutional Grants and Sponsored Projects Office's review and approval. In addition, the Board of Regents, which is the oversight body of the College was not totally informed. Records show the Board of Regents was unaware of all activities surrounding the Wisdom of the People grant and project, specifically the consultants hired and paid using the grant. Furthermore, the College did not comply with procurement policies and procedures in the hiring of consultants. Wisdom of the People grant consultants were hired using the sole-source procurement method. However, there is no documentation to support the basis for the sole-source procurement.

Finding II: Lack of Monitoring Contributed to Wisdom of the People Grant Consultants being paid although Services were not Rendered

Review of consultant activities for the two year period found there is lack of effective project planning and monitoring of the Wisdom of the People grant. The principal investigator did not develop an effective project plan and a method to monitor the status of the project although he was given this responsibility and was paid \$10,000. The lack of effective monitoring led to questionable payments made to five consultants. The College could not provide evidence that the activities the consultants were to perform were undertaken to develop the project deliverables. We found the project lacked the following:

- Activities to produce multi-teaching tools.
- Activities to compile into book format the Diné College history.
- Research to develop ethno botany textbook.
- Research for Diné culture textbook.
- Songs and leadership instructions for developing a summer institute.

All indications show that Diné College disbursed \$86,500 to the consultants although services were not fully rendered.