



NAVAJO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MANY FARMS RURAL POST OFFICE * CHINLE, ARIZONA * 86503

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February 7, 1973

Ms. Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. Gilpin:

I have the honor to share with you an appeal for funds to help build the most important building that ever will be built on the Navajo Reservation. As you know, through support from people like yourself and through a faith that transcends all obstacles, the Navajo people are completing the construction of the first college located on an Indian Reservation and controlled by Indian people. To be completed within the next several months are dormitories, academic classrooms and laboratories, vocational shops and facilities, a gymnasium, a student union and a library as well as housing for faculty and staff.

The heart and the hub of the campus, and actually the symbolic center of the Navajo Nation, is yet to be constructed. This is the Navajo Culture Center. The Culture Center will stand on a small hill in the eastern portion of the campus facing the rising sun. The Center will be to the Navajo what the White House, Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument are to most other Americans. The Culture Center will not only be a sanctuary consecrated to the beauty and dignity of Navajo Culture but will also serve as an educational and research center dedicated to Navajo and Indian studies. Classrooms, faculty offices, language laboratories and a curriculum center will be located in this facility. In addition, this structure will include a museum in which will be displayed examples of Navajo material culture as well as that of other Tribes throughout the Western Hemisphere.

A group of Navajo Medicine men and Navajo elders have been planning this building for the past five years. The Board of Regents has used all construction funds raised to date to complete the new Tsaile Campus as it now stands in the hope that the Navajo Culture Center can be built with the nickles, dimes, and dollars of Americans from all walks of life who want to share in the realization of this dream of the Navajo people.

February 7, 1973

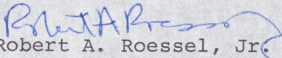
We are asking for contributions earmarked for this building and any and all donations will be gratefully and enthusiastically accepted. Contacts have been made with industry as well as with individuals in the hope that the generosity of the American public will make possible the construction of this building. Surely there could be no better way to demonstrate to the world America's interest in, and concern with America's first residents than to join with the Navajo in providing the resources to build the Culture Center.

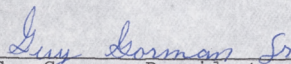
The Navajo Tribe itself has contributed over \$1,000,000 toward construction of the campus. An additional \$150,000 has been allocated by the Tribe toward building the Navajo Culture Center. When one recalls that the Navajo have the lowest annual average family income in the United States (less than \$800) then the tremendous level of Tribal support is obvious.

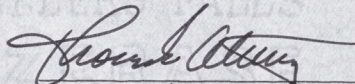
Enclosed is a booklet which not only discusses the Culture Center, the costs of construction, but also has basic information about Navajo Community College, its programs, enrollment, and history.

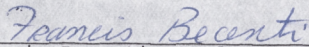
If you wish someone from the College to come and talk with you about this building and its significance so that you would be in a better position to understand its importance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,


Robert A. Roessel, Jr.
Chancellor


Guy Gorman, President
Board of Regents


Thomas Atcitty, President
Navajo Community College


Francis Becenti, Student Body
President