



**Board of Regents (BOR) Quarter 3 Meeting Minutes  
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)  
July 29, 2024  
9:00 AM - 12:00 AM (MDT)**

**Strategic Planning Work Session  
1:00 PM – 3:00 (MDT)**

**SIPI Hogan**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88204256105?pwd=NRRnflzX5C1CYhIeCJsxNupI5eMtT0.1>

- A. Chairperson Begaye called the meeting to order at 9:21 MDT.
- B. Regent Tafoya provided the welcome and invocation
- C. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Adam J. Begaye, Chair, Navajo Nation-New Mexico  
Ms. Tanya Lewis, Vice Chair, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-North  
Ms. Esther Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer, Navajo Nation-Arizona  
Ms. Pablita Chavez SGA President  
Mr. Raymond Gachupin, Southern Pueblos Council  
Mr. Timothy Harjo, SIPI Alumni  
Ms. Donna Montoya, Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer, President, SIPI (Ex-Officio, non-voting member)  
Mr. Francis Tafoya, Eight Northern Pueblos

Absent

Mr. Alfred LaPaz, Mescalero Apache Tribe  
Mr. Darrell Flyingman, Oklahoma Tribes  
Dr. John Bush, Member, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-South

- D. Approval of the Agenda

Suggested agenda additions were:

1. A discussion on exploring potential articulation agreements and faculty and staff professional development opportunities with Northern Arizona University under New Business; and

2. A day and time change for the College High Priorities Work Session that was previously scheduled from 3:00-4:00 PM MDT on Monday July 29, 2024, under Announcements.

**The motion to approve the modified agenda was made by Regent Montoya and seconded by Regent Tafoya: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. The modified agenda was passed.**

- E. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
1. April 18, 2024 (Q2). Motion by Regent
  2. June 3, 2024 (Special Meeting)

There were no changes to the April 18 or June 3, 2024, minutes.

**The motion to approve the two sets of minutes was made by Regent Tafoya and seconded by Regent Montoya: 6 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain. The minutes of the April 18 and June 3, 2024, Board meetings were approved.** Regents Gachupin and Lewis abstained from voting since they were not present at the meetings stated above.

- F. Introductions of New Employees

Dr. Pfeiffer started the introduction of the College's new employees:

1. Dawnette Manuelito, Grants and Special Programs
2. Dr. Scott Nowicki, Geographic Information Technology
3. Dr. Sonal Patel, Engineering
4. Jaime Strickland
5. Frank Wiley, Office of Analytics and Outcomes

- G. Action Items

1. 2024-2025 Budget – Approval/Concurrence

President Pfeiffer reported that SIPI received \$12,130,000 for operations, noting that the College has been flat funded for the last three years and that we have a balanced budget. President Pfeiffer also indicated that facilities received \$2,769,411.

Regent Tafoya asked what are SIPI's unmet needs? President Pfeiffer indicated that top priority is to achieve parity in funding with Haskell Indian Nations University, which equates to approximately \$4.0 million annually.

President Pfeiffer continued by stating that if increased funding was received, it would be applied to new program design, current and new staff (salaries and benefits), facilities, and ideally funds would be unrestricted to allow the application of funding to the highest priority areas.

President Pfeiffer confirmed Regent Gachupin's question that SIPI continues to have a contract with the University of New Mexico for adjunct instructors.

Regent Gachupin requested additional detail on the budget to see where departments are spending funds to support priorities such as travel and professional development. Ms. Lujan will provide that information to all Board members.

Vice Chairperson Lewis asked what has changed in the budget? President Pfeiffer indicated that personnel is the larger object of expenditure and there was a large cost of living adjustment this year, also noting that individual departments make priority decisions based on limited resources.

**The motion to approve the 2024-2025 Budget was made by Regent Gachupin and seconded by Regent Montoya: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. The 2024-2025 Budget was approved. Concurrence given.**

2. Revision of Organizational Chart

President Pfeiffer indicated that new position numbers have been added. President Pfeiffer also indicated that Extension, the Land Grant Office, Library, and Distance Education are now their own entities, which gives them the autonomy to build and enhance their programs.

**The motion to approve the revisions to the Organizational Chart was made by Regent Gachupin and seconded by Regent Tafoya: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. The Revisions to the Organizational Chart were approved. Concurrence given.**

3. Direct Admissions Policy

President Pfeiffer indicated the College would like to begin a Pilot Direct Admissions Process with Bureau of Indian Education High Schools. The Program will give students with a 3.0 grade point average or higher direct admissions to SIPI. Letters of invitation for students to join SIPI will begin at the junior year.

President Pfeiffer indicated that the Pilot Program had received all requisite approvals for from the College's academic and institutional shared governing bodies and that SIPI has a new Dual Enrollment Coordinator.

Vice Chairperson Lewis asked if there are enrollment barriers to the Program since high school students can be 17 years old and the College’s residential requirement is that students must be 18 years old.

Regent Gachupin asked if parents could sign a waiver allowing participating students to live in the residence halls if they are 17. President Pfeffer said she would consult with the Residential Programs and report back to the Board.

**The motion to implement the Direct Admissions Pilot Program was made by Regent Tafoya and seconded by Regent Montoya: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. The Direct Admissions Pilot Program was approved. Concurrence given.**

4. Admissions Policy – Concurrence

President Pfeiffer indicated that the proposed Admissions Policy reflects changes related to the Board’s approval of Descendancy Language Supporting Admissions approved at the special June 3, 2024, Board of Regents meeting.

Regent Gachupin said that this was a great policy and should add to enrollment, noting that he presented it to the Southern Pueblos Council and all were in favor of the new Admissions Policy.

**The motion to approve the Admissions Policy was made by Regent Gachupin and seconded by Regent Montoya: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. The Admissions Policy was approved. Concurrence given.**

H. New Business

1. New Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and Adding to the Strategic Plan

i. Adult and Basic Education KPI

In advancing SIPI’s actions related to increased persistence and completion rates, the following resolution was presented:

Resolution # 1 2024-7

***Addition of a Key Performance Indicator for Adult and Basic Education***

**Whereas**, SIPI is a federally operated community college established at the request of the 19 Pueblo tribes of New Mexico and other federally recognized tribes. SIPI was created in 1971 by the U.S. Congress in accordance with authorities contained at 25 USC 13 (The Snyder Act of November 02, 1921/ P.L. 67-85) to provide postsecondary opportunities to

students who are enrolled in federally recognized tribes throughout the United States; and

**Whereas**, SIPI, a national Indian community college and land grant institution authorized by Congress in partial fulfillment of treaty and trust responsibilities, offers 19 career technical training and transfer degree programs and adult and basic education services to students from the nation's 574 federally recognized tribes; and

**Whereas**, SIPI, through the Office of Analytics and Outcomes, provides the Board of Regents with Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reporting on its technical training and transfer degree programs in the areas of student enrollment, persistence, and completion; and

**Whereas**, The Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute 2020 to 2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1 states, "The Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute will provide services and programs to strengthen student skill sets, demonstrated to impact student grit throughout the student life cycle"; and

**Whereas**, "The Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, as stated in the 2020 to 2025 Strategic Plan, values integrity and accountability, the importance of data in supporting decisions, open and honest communication, and being a mission-driven institution."

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the SIPI Board of Regents charges the President of the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute to work with colleagues to develop and propose KPIs as related to Adult and Developmental Education at the Quarter 4 2024 SIPI Board of Regents meeting.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the proposed also include a calendar for when the Board of Regents will receive KPI reporting on Adult and Basic Education to occur at a minimum of once per academic year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that KPI reporting on Adult and Basic Education will continue in the current and future Strategic Plans of the College.

**The motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Regent Montoya and seconded by Regent Tafoya: 8 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain. The Resolution for the College to add Key Performance Indicator(s) for Adult and Basic Education was passed.**

ii. Goals for All of the KPIs

To further advance SIPI's actions related to increased enrollment, persistence, and completion rates, the following resolution was presented

Resolution #2 2024-7

***Key Performance Indicator Goal Setting and Reporting***

**Whereas**, SIPI, a national Indian community college and land grant institution authorized by Congress in partial fulfillment of treaty and trust responsibilities, offers 19 career technical training and transfer degree programs and adult and basic education services to students from the nation's 574 federally recognized tribes; and

**Whereas**, SIPI, through the Office of Analytics and Outcomes, provides the Board of Regents with Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reporting in the areas of student enrollment, persistence, and completion; and will be providing new ones currently under development for Adult and Basic Education (see Resolution o#1 2024-7 on Adult and Basic Education); and

**Whereas**, The Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute is following best practice related to the reporting of student enrollment, persistence, and completion; and

**Whereas**, The Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, as stated in the 2020 to 2025 Strategic Plan, values integrity and accountability, the importance of data in supporting decisions, open and honest communication, and being a mission-driven institution.”

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the SIPI Board of Regents charges the President of the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute to work with colleagues to develop and propose goals for all of the College's current and newly developed Adult and Basic Education KPIs at Quarter 4 2024 SIPI Board of Regents meeting.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the proposed reporting (stated above) also include a calendar for when the Board of Regents will receive

KPI goal reporting on each of the College's KPIs to occur at a minimum of once per academic year per KPI.

**The motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Regent Gachupin and seconded by Regent Montoya: 8 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain. The Resolution for the College to add Key Performance Indicator Goal Setting and Reporting was passed.**

## 2. Distance Education Plan

Mr. Michael Samudio and Dr. Jonathan French presented an overview of SIPI's Distance Education Plan, including plans to serve students nationally and to next add Geographic Information Technology and Business programs online.

SIPI has blanket approval from the Higher Learning Commission to add online programs to its academic portfolio. As a federal entity, SIPI is exempt for needing to acquire National Council on State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements authorization to offer programs serving students outside the State of New Mexico.

Quality Matters training is/will be completed to ensure quality and consistency between synchronous and asynchronous courses. Program Reviews will be used to determine whether programs lend themselves to offered in a distance format. It was noted that there are some disciplines where online education is not a viable option. Culinary Arts and Vision Care Technology were cited as examples.

In response to questions from the Regents, Early Childhood Education is the only program currently online and it has an enrollment of 30 students. There are no course minimas for online courses, and courses are cross listed to build larger class sizes.

Regent Tafoya requested a list of online courses offered so Regents could share the information with the constituencies that they represent.

Dr. Rives asked if SIPI is considering Hybrid formats.

## 3. Northern Arizona University Exploration

Chairperson Begaye summarized discussions resulting from a meeting that he requested with officials from Northern Arizona University (NAU), noting that the largest percentage of SIPI's out-of-state students are from Arizona and as the College looks to increase enrollment, it will have seamless transfer pathways for students. Dr. Rives noted that NAU, like SIPI, has offers free tuition to students from the 20 tribes of Arizona and they offer a strong system of student support.

Dr. Pfeiffer asked why the Board is providing such a specific resolution, instead a more generic one that calls for the College to develop and implement articulation

agreements. Dr. Rives responded that this one is time sensitive as NAU was going to contact the President's Office soon about a meeting and the Board agreed to provide a more generic resolution at the 2024, Quarter 4 meeting.

Consensus was that all approved institutional partnerships must include meaningful benefits to students and SIPI. The College will not enter into agreements that only benefit the receiving institution. The following Resolution was presented after discussions.

Resolution # 4 2024-7  
*Northern Arizona University Exploration*

**Whereas**, the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), a national Indian community college and land grant institution authorized by Congress in partial fulfillment of treaty and trust responsibilities, offers 19 career technical training and transfer degree programs and adult and basic education services to students from the nation's 574 federally recognized tribes; and

**Whereas**, the SIPI Board of Regents (BOR) serves in a governance/advisory capacity (Article III, Section I, Constitution to the Board of Regents Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute); and

**Whereas**, The Bureau of Indian Education-BOR-SIPI March 2020 Memorandum of Understanding indicates that the BOR shall act as an advocate for SIPI and promote SIPI within Indian Country, and provide information about the programs and opportunities SIPI provides; and

**Whereas**, The BOR Chairperson convened a July 2024 SIPI advocacy meeting with institutional representatives from Northern Arizona University (NAU); and

**Whereas**, the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute 2025 Strategic Plan includes a goal that SIPI will develop programs to help students more effectively navigate educational transitions into and out of the college; and,

**Whereas**, SIPI and NAU share commitments to student access and success through free tuition, curricular and cocurricular programs and services, and to honoring indigenous culture, language, and self-determination.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the SIPI Board of Regents charges the President of the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute to work with colleagues to explore potential SIPI-NAU articulation agreements and



faculty and staff professional development opportunities with contact information provided by the SIPI BOR Chairperson.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the BOR requests quarterly updates on partnership exploration and implementation to the benefit of students and the College until agreement(s) with NAU have been enacted, if appropriate.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the BOR will establish a more general resolution to expand the exploration of partnership opportunities with SIPI beyond NAU at the Q4 Board meeting.

**The motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Regent and seconded by Regent Gachupin: 6 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstain. The Resolution for the College to Explore Partnerships with Northern Arizona University was passed.**

## I. Reports

### 1. SIPI Quarterly Reports

#### i. President Pfeiffer presented the College Overview that included:

- a) Developing a draft calendar for 2025-2026 that will be presented to the Board for action at the 2024 Quarter 4 meeting.
- b) Transitioning to a semester schedule in summer 2025.
- c) Hiring a Dual Enrollment Coordinator.
- d) Transitioning leadership in Advanced and Technical Education. Dr. Muskett accepted a new position at Haskell Indian Nations University.
- e) Achieving full staffing in Grants and Special Projects.
- f) Receiving two large grants: One from Dollar General and one from the American Indian College Fund to support the Early Childhood Education Program.
- g) Completing the Summer Bridge Program; 12 of 14 participants graduated from the program and are eligible to enroll at the College.
- h) Onboarding a new nurse to ensure that the College has COVID clinics and protocol.
- i) Completing annual Academic and Non-Academic Program Assessments, with 100% compliance.

i. Appropriated Funds

Ms. Bella Lujan reviewed appropriations for operations and facilities in relationship in amounts allocated, expended, remaining, and expiration dates. Also reviewed were appropriations that will be available October 1, 2024, and student fee revenue.

ii. Grants

Dr. Eduardo Servin indicated that Title III funding helps to support distance education and he is working to fill Principal Investigator (PI) positions for grants where Dr. Musket was the PI.

Dr. Servin also indicated that Dr. Lansing is the Principal Investigator for the Early Childhood Education grant that President Pfeiffer referenced. Additionally, SIPI has applied for a TRIO grant to provide holistic culturally based student services. received a \$10 million grant to remodel the Library and is awaiting the Solicitor's final determination to proceed with the Greenhouse project.

2. Board of Regents Development Office

Mr. Bobby Wallace presented the 2022 Audit for the SIPI Foundation. There were no findings. Prior to taking a motion to accept the audit, Chairperson Begaye asked that the record reflect Vice Chairperson Lewis had to leave the meeting at 12PM to return to her work responsibilities.

**The motion to accept the 2022 Audit was made by Regent Tafoya and seconded by Regent Montoya: 7 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain. The motion to accept the FY2022 audit was passed.**

Mr. Wallace thanked the Board and indicated that he is currently working on completing the 2023 audit. Additionally, he is working with the Albuquerque Community Foundation that will feature SIPI in an upcoming publication, and the Foundation received a \$20,000 grant from Chevron.

President Pfeiffer asked if we have an active Alumni Association, if the Development Office is looking at a ½ time position, and if there is a breakdown on the use of Title III funds in the Development Office.

Mr. Wallace indicated the Alumni Association is not active at this time, the Development Office does not have the funds to support a ½ staff position, he would be glad to provide a breakout of title III funds, and the grant from Chevron supports the advocacy work of the Board and the Development Office.

Regent Harjo indicated that the Development Office should build out the Alumni Association. He also indicated that the alumni Webpage should feature successful alumni to serve as role models for current students.

### 3. Student Government Association (SGA)

Ms. Pablita Chavez's report highlighted accomplishments during her first trimester as SGA President, including:

- i. Filling all SGA Officer positions for 2024-2025:
  1. Delilah Washee, Vice President
  2. Tracy Wilson, Secretary
  3. Sage Baca, Treasurer
- ii. Providing 14 activities to on-campus and commuter students.
- iii. Supporting 4 clubs (Optics Club, Natural Resources Club, AISES Club, and Arts & Crafts Club) that have been active this summer.

## J. Old Business

### 1. College Advocacy in DC and Beyond

Chairperson Begaye summarized his and the Development Office's efforts that include:

- Exploring curricular and facilities partnerships with the Indian Health Service.
- Meeting with Northern Arizona University to explore transfer pathways and other partnership opportunities.
- Touring the healthcare facilities at the Western Maricopa Education Center/West-MEC
- Attending the All Pueblo Council of Governors.
- Preparing to attend the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Continuing to advocate for parity of funding with tribes and federally.

### 2. Name Change

Chairperson Begaye summarized the process leading to the suggested name of National American Indian Community College. President Pfeiffer indicated that a significant number of people and time and effort has gone into the process.

Discussions focused on reasons for and against the suggested new name, and the need to understand the costs associated with and the marketing plan for a new name if one is approved.

Regent Gachupin indicated he did not recall any concerns when presenting the new name to the Southern Pueblos Council and asked Regent Tafoya if he heard any concerns when presenting the name to the Eight Northern Pueblos to which the answer was no.

Regent Gachupin reminded the Regents that while we may have personal feelings for or against the name change, we need to vote according to how our constituencies view the suggested name change.

The motion to engage in a name change was tabled until more Regents could be in attendance, given the magnitude of this decision. Chairperson Begaye will schedule a special Board of Regents meeting for this purpose.

3. Semester Change Update and Timeline

Present Pfeiffer indicated current process steps include receiving Higher Learning Commission approvals and working with Human Resources since the semester change represents a change in working conditions to unionized employees.

4. Accomplishments and Immediate Next Steps in HLC Monitoring Report

Mr. Monte Monteith distributed copies of a Handout entitled SIPI Monitoring Initiatives/Activities Update, 7/28/2024. The Handout, with copy following the minutes, describes how the College is addressing the HLC Monitoring Report due September 2025 with regard to: (1) Assessment of Student Learning, (2) Program Review, and (3) Enrollment, Persistence, and Completion Rates.

Dr. Rives asked if Board actions on the three topic area (noted above) are included in the Handout. Mr. Monteith indicated that Board actions will be included in the Report.

Mr. Monteith noted that today's Board actions calling for the establishment of Key Performance Indicator(s) (KPI) in Adult and Basic Education and having the College set goals and provide progress reporting on all of the College's KPIs are good examples of how the Board is contributing to SIPI's efforts to increase enrollment, persistence, and completion rates.

5. Process Changes Resulting from the June 2024 Approval of Descendancy Language Supporting Admissions

Item covered under Action Item G3 of these minutes.

K. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

L. Announcements

Chairperson Begaye announced the following meetings:

1. There will be meeting with Dr. Pfeiffer to review the BIE-BOR-SIPI MOU, July 29, from 4:00 PM-5:00 PM (MDT).
2. There will be a meeting with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department regarding capital outlay on July 30, 2024, from 8:00 AM -10:00 AM (MDT).
3. There will be a working lunch with President Pfeiffer and other administrators to document high priority needs and costs for SIPI on July, 2024, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (MDT)

M. Future Meetings

1. Special Meeting on Name Change will be scheduled by Chairperson Begaye
2. SIPI Board of Regents 2024, Quarter 4 Board of Regents Meeting will be at the SIPI Hogan at 9:00 AM.

N. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Regent Tafoya and seconded by Regent Montoya. Unanimously passed. Chairperson Begaye adjourned the meeting at 1:54 PM MDT.

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There was a College Strategic Planning Work Session facilitated by Mr. Edward Hummingbird from 2:00 – 3:30 PM MDT.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joe Rives, Ph.D.  
Recording Secretary