



DINÉ C.A.R.E. HIRES NEW DIRECTORS

FEBRUARY 6, 2023
NAVAJO NATION

Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment (C.A.R.E.) is pleased to announce the appointment of Robyn Jackson as Executive Director; Kelly Francisco as Operations Director; and Reyaun Francisco as Projects Director. “Solidifying the organizational structure of Diné C.A.R.E. has been a priority of the Board. We are confident in the experience and passion each director will bring to the organization. These positions require an understanding of k’é and a deep connection to the community, which we recognized in each individual,” said Samuel Sage, Vice President of the Board.

Robyn Jackson (she/her), Executive Director, is Tó’áhaní (Near the Water Clan) and is from the Diné community of Wheatfields, AZ, where she grew up in the Chuska Mountains. She has experience in research, community organizing, organizational management, and fundraising in social and environmental justice campaigns, related to energy and food sovereignty in the Navajo Nation and Four Corners region. Robyn began full-time work with Diné C.A.R.E. in 2017 as their Climate & Energy Outreach Coordinator, and in 2022 became Interim Executive Director. Robyn has a B.A. in Sociology from Fort Lewis College and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Indigenous Nation-Building, Leadership & Management from Northern Arizona University.



“I strongly believe in the mission and values of Diné C.A.R.E., and its longstanding dedication to the protection of all life within the Four Sacred Mountains. I deeply admire and respect the valiant endeavors and accomplishments of Diné C.A.R.E.’s founders in ensuring the integrity of our culture and teachings, as well as the health of our lands and communities. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from many of Diné C.A.R.E.’s members. My parents were among the group of founding members. In accepting the position of Executive Director with Diné C.A.R.E., I am dedicating myself to this way of life, of movement building and seeking social and environmental justice for our communities. I would like to carry on the work of its members, and I hope to pass on this sacred work to future generations.” – Robyn Jackson

Kelly Francisco, (she/her), Operations Director is Kinlichíí’nii (Red House Clan); born for Naakaii Dine’é (Mexican People Clan); her maternal grandfather is Tsi’naajinii (Black Streaked Wood People); and her paternal grandfather is Naakaii Dine’é. Her family resides in St. Michaels, AZ. Kelly is passionate about learning and sharing knowledge on organizational, finance, data and information systems; improving relationships, operations and processes. Kelly has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of New Mexico and is soon to complete an Accounting Certificate from Central New Mexico Community College. During her time at UNM, she was very active with several Native student organizations, including Kiva Club, which rooted her first experience in community organizing, environmental justice, and social justice issues.



*"As Operations Director, I would draw from 10+ years of professional experience to guide and learn alongside Diné C.A.R.E as it thrives into the next phase of its emergence. Crossing paths with Diné C.A.R.E. over ten years ago has had a lasting impact on how I have been able to imagine myself supporting Diné people regain access to resources, recognition and justice. Reviewing the organization's mission, vision, and values fills me with a deep amount of hope, excitement, reconnection, and sense of responsibility. This opportunity lights the way for my path back to Dinétah and to be of service to the People." - **Kelly Francisco***

Reyaun Francisco, (he/him), Projects Director, is of the Naakai Diné'e (Mexican People Clan), born for Kinya'aanii (Towering House People Clan), and his maternal grandfather is of the Maii Deeshgiizhnii (Coyote Pass People Clan). Reyaun was born an environmentalist/conservationist in Iyanbito, NM. Generations of stories, songs, and prayers were passed onto Reyaun, that have guided him to ensure we protect our land, air, and water for future generations. After graduating from New Mexico State University, Reyaun diversified his knowledge in voter outreach, food insecurity, and land management. After learning about the 1979 Churchrock Uranium Mine spill that impacted his community, he has been a vocal advocate for a just transition that incorporates Indigenous voices, lifeways, and communities.



*"I am honored by the trust Diné C.A.R.E. Board and Staff have placed in me to fulfill the role of the Projects Director. I join them in prayer to protect and honor the sacred gift our Diné ancestors have passed down from Hwééldi that is 16 million acres of sacred Diné sovereign lands. Through our fundamental Diné teachings it is time we come together as k'é to protect and honor Nihimá Nahasdzáán." - **Reyaun Francisco***

About Diné C.A.R.E.

Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment (C.A.R.E.) is an all-Navajo non-profit environmental justice organization comprised of grassroots community members active on Navajo Nation lands in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. Incorporated on Navajo Nation in 1991, Diné C.A.R.E. advocates for Diné traditional teachings by protecting and providing a voice for all life within and beyond the Four Sacred Mountains.

Mission

Diné C.A.R.E. promotes regenerative and sustainable uses of natural resources consistent with the Diné philosophy of life. Diné C.A.R.E. empowers local and traditional people to organize and determine their own destinies, in ways that protect the health of their communities, their long-held subsistence practices, and way of life.

CONTACT

Email: dinecare88@gmail.com

Mailing Address: Teesto CPU PO Box 7185 Winslow AZ 86047