Todacheenie newest Diné College board member

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New member coached Window Rock's stellar girls basketball team

TSAILE, Ariz. — Sharon Todacheenie is the newest member of the eight-member Board of Regents at Diné College. Todacheenie is an Arizona native and champion of education.

Todacheenie grew up in Cornfields — on the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation — and was sworn in at the March 5 regular board meeting. A graduate of Many Farms High School and a former college basketball player, Todacheenie works as an instructional specialist at Window Rock High School, and doubles as the head girls basketball coach at Window Rock. Todacheenie has also coached at Rough Rock.

"I'm honored to be a member of the Board of Regents at Diné College," Todacheenie said. "It's a special job. I consider [Diné College] the premier tribal college in the country."

Todacheenie, who will represent the Fort Defiance Agency, went through the initial meeting, serving as the temporary board secretary in the absence of Tommy Lewis, Ed.D. She said she has followed the various academic and social goings-on at Diné College and found out about the board vacancy through "word of mouth."

In terms of accomplishments, Todacheenie will focus on the mission of Diné College, and stay concentrated on College objectives. Members of the Diné College Board of Regents serve four-year terms and are allowed to serve consecutive terms.

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Todacheenie was the K-8 principal at Rough Rock Demonstration School prior to taking the Window Rock job. The Lady Scouts (22-7, 7-3) made it to the semi-finals of the Arizona basketball tournament before bowing to Page, 66-47.

Todacheenie possesses an undergraduate degree from Adams State University in Alamosa, Colo. She possesses two master's degrees from Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University, respectively. She replaces Joe Martin who left the Fort Defiance Agency Board of Regency post some time ago.