

**EVOLVING A DINÉ-  
CENTERED  
RESEARCH &  
EVALUATION  
AGENDA**

**MAY 19, 2017 SYMPOSIUM, NAVAJO TECHNICAL  
UNIVERSITY, CROWNPOINT, DINÉ NATION (NM)**

# GOALS

- TO CONVENE DINÉ COMMUNITY BASED THINKERS TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF ARTICULATING A DINÉ TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE-BASED RESEARCH & EVALUATION AGENDA
- TO FOLLOW UP

# WHAT IS A RESEARCH/ EVALUATION AGENDA?

- TO DESCRIBE PURPOSE AND GOALS
- TO IDENTIFY “LENS” OR “LENSES” & APPROACHES
- TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS NEEDING ATTENTION

THOUGHTS OF SENECA PARTICIPANTS  
AT MAY 17, 2017 NATION REBUILDING  
FOR WELLNESS

SENECA NATION

- protect sovereignty
- protect the culture & language
- ensure self-determination
- uplift our community to ~~more~~ better education and a higher quality of life

**INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY &  
GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP**

# **EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH / EVALUATION AGENDA GOALS**

- **TO EVENTUALLY DEMONSTRATE THE RELEVANCE OF DINÉ TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & EPISTEMOLOGY RESEARCH / EVALUATION TO TRIBAL LEADERS**
- **TO FOCUS ON COMMUNITY - BASED QUESTIONS & VOICE - E.G. FRACKING, RACISM, URANIUM MINING, CASINOS, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, WATER & LAND SECURITY**
- **TO PRODUCE VALID DATA THAT OFFERS A TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE CHOICE TO DECISION MAKERS AS OPPOSED TO A WESTERN-ONLY APPROACH TO DECISION MAKING AND UNDERSTANDING CHOICES**
- **TO OFFER MATRILINEAL BASED DATA AND INFORMATION - WHAT DO OUR GRANDMOTHERS HAVE TO SAY?**
- **TO EVOLVE DECOLONIZING & INDIGENIZING METHODS**
- **TO HEAL → DECOLONIZE → TRANSFORM → MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES**

# EXAMPLE OF “LENS” IN DINÉ-CENTERED RESEARCH / EVALUATION

- IF SUCH A LENS WAS USED TO ASSESS IMPACT OF A WALMART OR A NEW CONVENIENCE STORE TO BE BUILT IN A DINÉ COMMUNITY, WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?
- WHAT LENSES CAN WE DEVELOP TO ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES FACED BY OUR COMMUNITIES?

DINÉ JI.  
SA'ANAA YEI  
BI K'EHÓÓZHO

1. Ké

2. Hózhó

3. Hashke - Ach'áji - Naayéé'iji

4. Ajeoba' Hóóghan bee na'ntin

BRAINSTORM WORK HAZEL JAMES, DUANE “CHILI” YAZZIE,  
BETSY YAZZIE, LARRY EMERSON, 5.17.17

# DINÉ-CENTERED RESEARCH / EVALUATION ALREADY BEING DONE

- NAVAJO WELLNESS MODEL
- HÓZHÓÓGÓ NA'ADÁ MODEL - Dr. HERBERT BENALLY
- NITSÁHÁKEES - NAHAT'Á - IINÁ - SIHASIN - SNBH
- ADAPTATIONS FROM WESTERN RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY: POST-COLONIAL, POST-STRUCTURAL, COMMUNITY BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH, ETC.

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ...

- WHAT DO WE MEAN BY DATA SOVEREIGNTY?
- WHAT DO WE MEAN BY DECOLONIZED DATA GOVERNANCE?
- MEASURING DINÉ FROM A DINÉ TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PERSPECTIVE?
- HOW DO WE CREATE A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TO PROMOTE & PROTECT DINÉ NATION DATA SOVEREIGNTY THAT EMANATES FROM DINÉ TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE?
- WHAT DO INDIGENOUS WRITERS & SCHOLARS SAY?

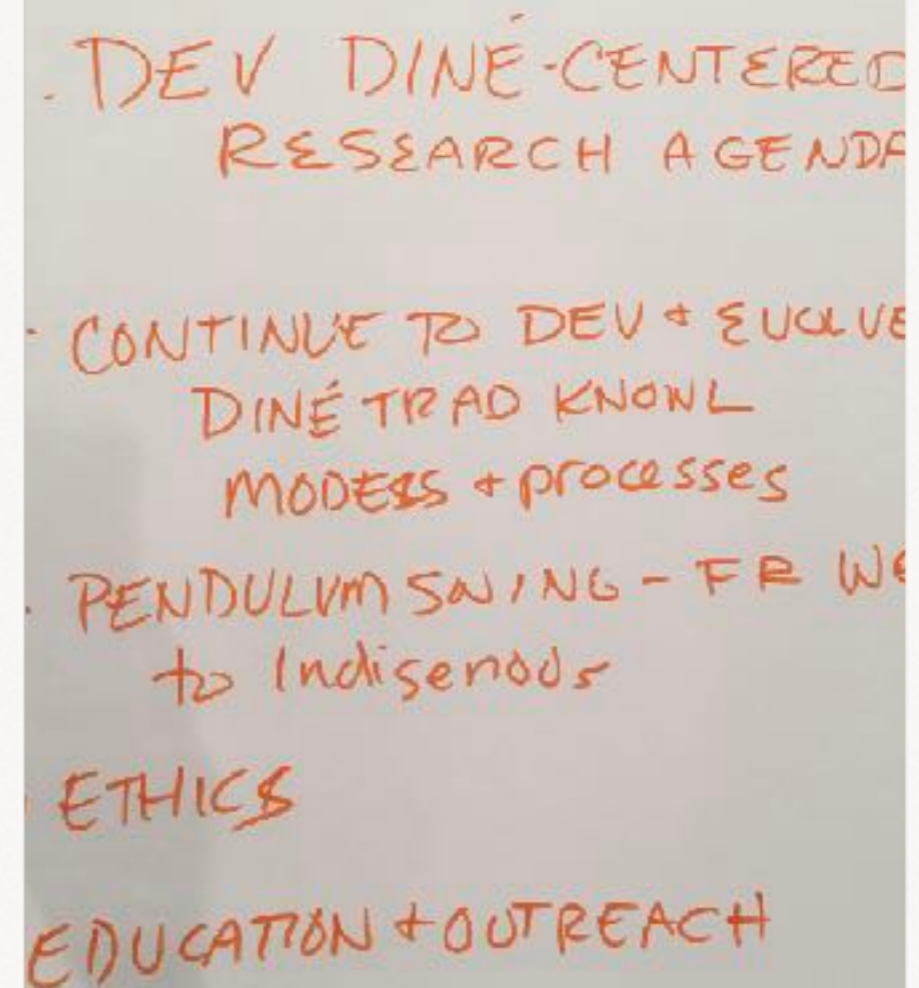
# **DATA SOVEREIGNTY INVOLVES**

- **KNOWLEDGE & EPISTEMOLOGY: WAYS OF KNOWING & ACTING ON THAT KNOWLEDGE**
- **HOW WE REASON THE WORLD: DINÉ TRADITIONAL PEOPLE REASON THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY. WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT AND CRITICAL?**
- **VOICE AND ACTION - WHOSE VOICE? WHOSE QUESTIONS? WHOSE REALITY? WHO'S PROCESS? WHO'S INTERPRETATION?**
- **INFORMATION USED TO GOVERN, PROMOTE SELF-DETERMINATION OR NATION BUILDING**
- **DIGITAL INFORMATION AGE**
- **RELATIONSHIP TO MAINSTREAM DATA - US GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, NAVAJO NATION THREE BRANCH GOVERNMENT**
- **DEMOGRAPHICS - HOW DO WE FRAME THIS?**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATIONAL, JUSTICE**
- **DECOLONIZATION & INDIGENIZATION THEORY & PRACTICE**



# WHAT ARE STRATEGIES TO PROTECT DINÉ DATA SOVEREIGNTY? (EXAMPLES BELOW)

- DEVELOP A DINÉ-CENTERED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION AGENDA
- CONTINUE TO EVOLVE DINÉ - CENTERED MODELS: PHILOSOPHY, METHODS, LITERATURE, DATA GATHERING, INTERPRETATION, DISSEMINATION
- CONSIDER ETHICS ISSUES (E.G. DINÉ ARE A MATRILINEAL PEOPLE ... WHAT ARE ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN ALL RESEARCH DATA EMANATES FROM A PATRIARCHAL & COLONIAL MINDSET?)
- CHANGE MINDSET OF FOLKS ... E.G. PENDULUM SWING OR PARADIGM CHANGE USING DINÉ UNDERSTANDING OF PHENOMENA
- EDUCATE ALLIES, NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



DEV DINÉ-CENTERED RESEARCH AGENDA

CONTINUE TO DEV + EVOLVE DINÉ TRAD KNOWL MODELS + PROCESSES

PENDULUM SWING - FR WE to Indigenous

ETHICS

EDUCATION + OUTREACH

# *SO WHAT?*

