DATE: July 6, 2012

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. JENNIFER DENETDALE TO THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

PURPOSE: The purpose is to confirm the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Denetdale, as one of five commissioners, to the Navajo Nation Human rights Commission.

This written summary is provided in accord with the practices of the Navajo Nation Council or Standing Committee on the resolution as drafted by the Office of Legislative Counsel. This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution detail.
PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

22nd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0270-12

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE NAABIK’IYÁTI’ COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT
OF MS. JENNIFER DENETDALE TO THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION.

BE IT ENACTED:

1. The Navajo Nation finds that Ms. Jennifer Denetdale meets the qualifications required of
Jennifer Denetdale’s Letter of Interest and Resume are attached hereto as Exhibit No. 1.

2. The Navajo Nation confirms the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Denetdale to the Navajo
Nation Human Rights Commission for a four year term beginning upon confirmation by
the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee.
July 2, 2012

Ms. Jennifer Denetdale, Ph.D.

611 Roma Ave., N.E.

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

Dear Ms. Dr. Denetdale

I am pleased to inform you that, Pursuant to 2 NNC Section 922 (A). I have selected you as a candidate to serve on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Commission’s plan of operation, all nominees are required to receive confirmation from the Commission’s oversight committee of the Navajo nation Council before assuming their positions. This proceeding requires your attendance at the Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee Meeting. You will be notified by the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission on the time, date and location of your confirmation hearing. Please be ready to answer questions from the Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee relative to your appointment as a Commissioner of Education.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, Please feel free to contact the Office’s Executive Director, Leonard Gorman, directly at leonardgorman@navajo-nsn.gov or telephone number (928) 871-7436. Again, congratulations on receiving this noteworthy nomination.

Sincerely,

Hon. Johnny Naize, Speaker
22nd Navajo Nation council
Dear Mr. Gorman:

Please consider my application for the education position on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission [NNHRC]. As you know, I am currently serving as an interim Commissioner and after spending 9 months on the Commission, I remain inspired by the work that NNHRC conducts on behalf of the Navajo Nation. My experience on the Commission and position as an associate professor of American Studies at the University of New Mexico makes me an ideal candidate for the NNHRC.

As a commissioner, I will bring my knowledge of the work that the NNHRC has already conducted, including public hearings around Navajo relationships with bordertowns, efforts to halt the desecration of sacred sites, and the status of Navajo women and gender violence. I am committed to the NNHRC’s directive to bring the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the Navajo Nation and our citizens. The implementation of UNDRIP for the Navajo Nation means addressing long-standing Navajo human rights violations and bringing about social justice and true sovereignty for the Navajo people. Further, as a feminist scholar, I have been pleased with the Commission’s willingness to address the epidemic violence that Navajo women are experiencing on the Navajo Nation and beyond its borders. If I am appointed to the NNHRC, I intend to continue the work to address the status of Navajo women and gender violence. I am firmly committed to justice for Diné and all Indigenous peoples and see the work of the NNHRC as part of the process of moving toward real sovereignty for the Navajo Nation.

I am a citizen of the Navajo Nation and a voting member of Tohatchi Chapter. As my vita indicates, I have over twenty years of experience in teaching Navajo and Native American Studies at the university level. As an educator and scholar, I expect my students, many of whom are Diné, to be responsible to our nation and communities and give back once they have attained academic degrees. I also encourage our non-Indian students and faculty to be good allies to Indigenous peoples. My scholarship is shaped by my relationships with the Navajo people. As a historian, I have deconstructed tribal histories from Western perspectives and explored what it means for Native peoples to revitalize traditional ways of life. For example, in my book, *Reclaiming Diné History: The Legacies of Chief Manuelito and Juanita*, I explored the construction of Diné/Navajo history through the stories of two Diné leaders, one of whom figures prominently in American histories and the other, a Diné woman, who is remembered through oral tradition that have been passed down through a matrilineal clan for several generations. My insights demonstrate how Western literary and historical traditions have shaped Native and Diné histories. At the same time, I utilize oral history as a methodology and offer examples of how oral tradition can be incorporated into Navajo histories. In 2007, I arranged for royalties from *Reclaiming Diné History* to go to the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance, because I believe...
because I believe that when we seek assistance and support from our Nation, we should give back once we are in a position to do so. I hope that my message will encourage other Diné who have benefitted from the scholarships to also give back. My research, writing, and teaching indicate my commitment to the Navajo people and our nation.

My service at the university and to the Navajo Nation complements each other. In addition to serving on the Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. board, and the editorial boards of the University of Arizona Press’s First Peoples initiative, and the American Indian Quarterly journal, I have served as an expert witness on behalf of the Navajo Nation, and served as guest curator on an exhibit at the Navajo Nation Museum. I am currently working with the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. on the American Indian Treaties exhibit, which will feature the Navajo treaty of 1868. I am committed to supporting the sovereignty of tribal nations and work to foster dialogues on important Navajo and Native issues by hosting lectures and conferences. At some point, I intend to design a university course on UNDRIP for our students at UNM.

If I am selected to serve on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, I will continue my efforts to give back to my Nation and communities by using my hard earned knowledge and expertise on behalf of the Navajo people. I also understand the Diné language like a fluent speaker and am able to translate from Navajo to English at a conversational level.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 340-1481 or by e-mail at jdenet@unm.edu.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Denetdale, Ph.D.
6116 Roma Ave., N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Received
MAY 17 2012
Human Rights Commission
EDUCATION

1999 Ph.D., History, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

1991 M.A., English, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

1988 B.A., English, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

Teaching and Professional Experience

Associate Professor, American Studies Department, University of New Mexico, 2009-present

Associate Professor, Department of History, Northern Arizona University, 2008-09

Associate Professor, Department of History, University of New Mexico, 2007-08

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of New Mexico, 2002-2007

Interim Director, Women Studies, University of New Mexico, Summer 2007

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Arts, and Religion, NAU, 1999-2002

Books

The Navajo (New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 2011)


Reclaiming Diné History: The Legacies of Navajo Chief Manuelito and Juanita (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2007)

Co-edited Journals and Articles

Co-editor, “Native Feminisms: Legacies, Interventions, and Indigenous Sovereignties,” Wicazo Sa Review vol. 24, no. 2 (Fall 2009)


“One of the Queenliest Women in Dignity, Grace, and Character I Have Ever Met’: Navajo Women and Photography—Portrayals of Juanita, 1868-1902,” New Mexico Historical Review 79:3 (Summer 2004): 289-318

Review essay of Swept Under the Rug: A Hidden History of Navajo Weaving by Kathy M’Closkey and Navajo Saddle Blankets: Textiles to Ride in the American West edited by Lane Coulter, New Mexico Historical Review (Fall 2004): 471-479


Other Writings

“A People Remembers: The Diné and the Bosque Redondo Memorial,” Native Peoples magazine (Jul/Aug 2005), 10


Works in Progress


“Navajo Women, Gender, and the Politics of Tradition,” book-length study

Prizes and Awards

UNM Faculty of Color Award, Spring 2011

Fellowships and Service

Interim member, Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, St. Michaels, Arizona, appointed August 2011

Guest Faculty, Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies seminar, Summer 2011
Guest curator, “Hastiin Ch’il Hajiin and Diné leaders” exhibit, Navajo Nation Museum, Summer 2010
John Topham and Susan Redd Butler Faculty Fellowship, Brigham Young University, Summer 2007
Institute for American Indian Research, University of New Mexico, Summer 2007
Feminist Research Institute Grant, UNM, Summer 2006
Katrin H. Lamon Residence Fellowship, SAR, Santa Fe, NM, 2002-03
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1997
Tufts University Multicultural Teaching Fellowship, Summer 1997

Conference Papers and Public Presentations

“Return to ‘Uprising at Beautiful Mountain’: Family, Marriage and Sexuality in the Making of the Modern Navajo Nation,” Navajo Studies Conference, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM, March 14-17, 2012

Guest faculty presentation, Greyhills Academy, Tuba City, Ariz., March 2012

“The Diné/Navajo Long Walk: War, Remembrance, and Hope,” Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, March 25, 2011


“Native American Historiography and Claiming Space for Tribal Historians,” University of California, Los Angeles, March 9, 2011

Invited presenter, “The Politics of Tradition: Gender and the Navajo Nation,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 2005

“Manuelito & Juanita: Navajo Traditional Leadership,” Native Voices 2010 lecture series, Southwest Seminars, Santa Fe, NM, August 30, 2010

“Diné/Navajo Women: At the intersection of Nation, Gender and Tradition,” Telling New Mexico Inaugural Lecture Series, New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe, NM, August 22, 2010
Speaker, Honoring Indigenous Thought and Survivance Conference, University of California-Santa Cruz, April 30, 2010


Speaker, International Women’s Day events, Northern Arizona University, March 2, 2008

“The Navajo Nation and Sovereignty: Militarization, Gender, and the Politics of Tradition,” public lecture, University of New Mexico, Feminist Research Institute, November 13, 2007

“Native American History, Gender, and the Politics of Tradition,” public lecture, Villanova University, Philadelphia, PA, November 8, 2007


“American History, Native Memories and Juan de Onate,” keynote for the Memory and Monuments: Commemorating and Confronting History on the U.S.-Mexico Border symposium, University of Texas, El Paso, February 22, 2007

“Discontinuities, Memory, and Regeneration: The Bosque Redondo Memorial to the Navajo Long Walk,” American Historical Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8, 2006

“Native Feminisms Without Apology,” University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 28-30, 2006

“Chicana/o-Native Dialogue,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 12-14, 2006


“Remembering Our Grandmothers: Navajo Women, Oral Tradition, and History,” Crownpoint Institute of Technology, Crownpoint, NM, April 17, 2006

“Pageant Her-Story,” guest, Native America Calling talk show, KUNM, March 16, 2006


Languages

English and Navajo
July 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO : Honorable Members
Naa\'bik\'iyati\' Committee

FROM : Hon. Johnny Naize, Speaker
22\textsuperscript{nd} Navajo Nation Council

SUBJECT : ASSIGNMENT OF LEGISLATION

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(4), this memorandum serves to inform and advise you that I assign the following legislation to the Naa\'bik\'iyati\' Committee:

Legislation No. 0270-12

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAA\'BIK\'IYATI\' COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. JENNIFER DENETDALE TO THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

As the Committee assigned to consider the legislation, Legislation No. 0270-12 must be placed on the Naa\'bik\'iyati\' Committee’s agenda at the next regular meeting for final consideration.

ATTACHMENT: Legislation No. 0270-12

xc: Hon. Ben Shelly, President
The Navajo Nation
Harrison Tsosie, Attorney General
Mark Grant, Controller
Honorable Johnny Naize, Council Delegate (Prime Sponsor)
MEMORANDUM

TO:                 Hon. Johnny Naize, Speaker
                   22nd Navajo Nation Council

FROM:              Dustin Jensen, Attorney
                   Office of Legislative Counsel

THROUGH:           Ed McCool, Acting Chief Legislative Counsel
                   Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE:              July 6, 2012

SUBJECT:           OLC Service Request No. 12-545-1: Relating to Naabik'íyáti' Committee;
                   Confirming the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Denetdale to the Navajo Nation Human Rights
                   Commission.

Pursuant to your request, attached is the above-referenced proposed legislation for your
sponsorship. Please review the proposed legislation. If this proposal is acceptable to you, as
drafted, please sign the proposed legislation where it indicates “PRIME SPONSOR” and submit
it to the Office of Legislative Services for the assignment of a legislation number and referral to
the Speaker who will assign it pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §164(A).

If the proposed legislation is unacceptable to you or if you have further questions, please
contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of changes you would like made
to the proposed legislation. You may contact me at (928) 871-7166. Thank you.
THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION

LEGISLATION NO: _0270-12_____ SPONSOR: Johnny Naize

TITLE: An Action Relating To Naa'bik'iyati' Committee: Confirming the Appointment of Ms. Jennifer Denetdale to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

Date posted: July 11, 2012 at 4:45pm

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7590

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 et. seq.