

Dagot'ée dóó Ya'at'ée!

Warm greetings to all San Carlos Unified School District Stakeholders, Parents, Grandparents, families & relatives, tribal & community leaders, and of course our wonderful staff and students alike.

First, I want to express to you that it has been such an honor to lead and serve the SCUSD students, staff & community as superintendent over the last 7 years and together we can look forward to accomplishing our strategic growth goals utilizing our ***Evidence of ShíGóózhó*** framework as our guide to implementation of western educational knowledge and standards while adding value to learning by integrating the cultural wisdom and concepts of our San Carlos Apache people for greater relevancy and meaning and for stronger relationships and community building with and between all stakeholders.

Dr. Deborah Dennison *yínishye*. I am Dr. Deborah Dennison. Scottish, McPherson Clan *éi nishli*, meaning I am born of Scottish decent on my mother's or maternalistic side. *Ádóó Kinyaa'aanii dine'è, éi bashishchín*, meaning I am born for the Towering House Clan of the Navajo People on my father's or paternalistic side. *Ashiihii éi dashinali, dóó Tó Haach'i', di déé' naashá*. My paternal grandfather is of the Salt Clan of the Navajo people and I make my homestead on our ranch in Tohatchi, New Mexico on the Navajo Nation.

It's important to acknowledge the respect and appreciation I have for our teachers, principals and all staff for the forward movement realizing daily our mission of ***“Existing to Educate & Empower Students to Become Culturally Responsive, Global Nnee.”*** We have witnessed the ripple effect of positive change out to the community and beyond, from all our schools and district since the development and implementation of our strategic plan driven by our vision of ***“Being An Effective Student Focused Learning Community Graduating Culturally Confident Citizens.”*** This work we are doing is not easy, yet I have witnessed our teachers and staff rise to the occasion with excitement especially during the pandemic, and still keep the student-centered focus.

I also want to give a huge welcome to all new teachers, students and staff that have chosen to join our successful journey forward with SCUSD, and also to those who continue to support our efforts with cutting edge learning opportunities. Working together we have much to look forward to with another great school year of improvements and academic success stories each and every day!

Ah'iyee dóó Ahéheé! Thank you,



Dr. Deborah J. Dennison, Superintendent
San Carlos Unified School District