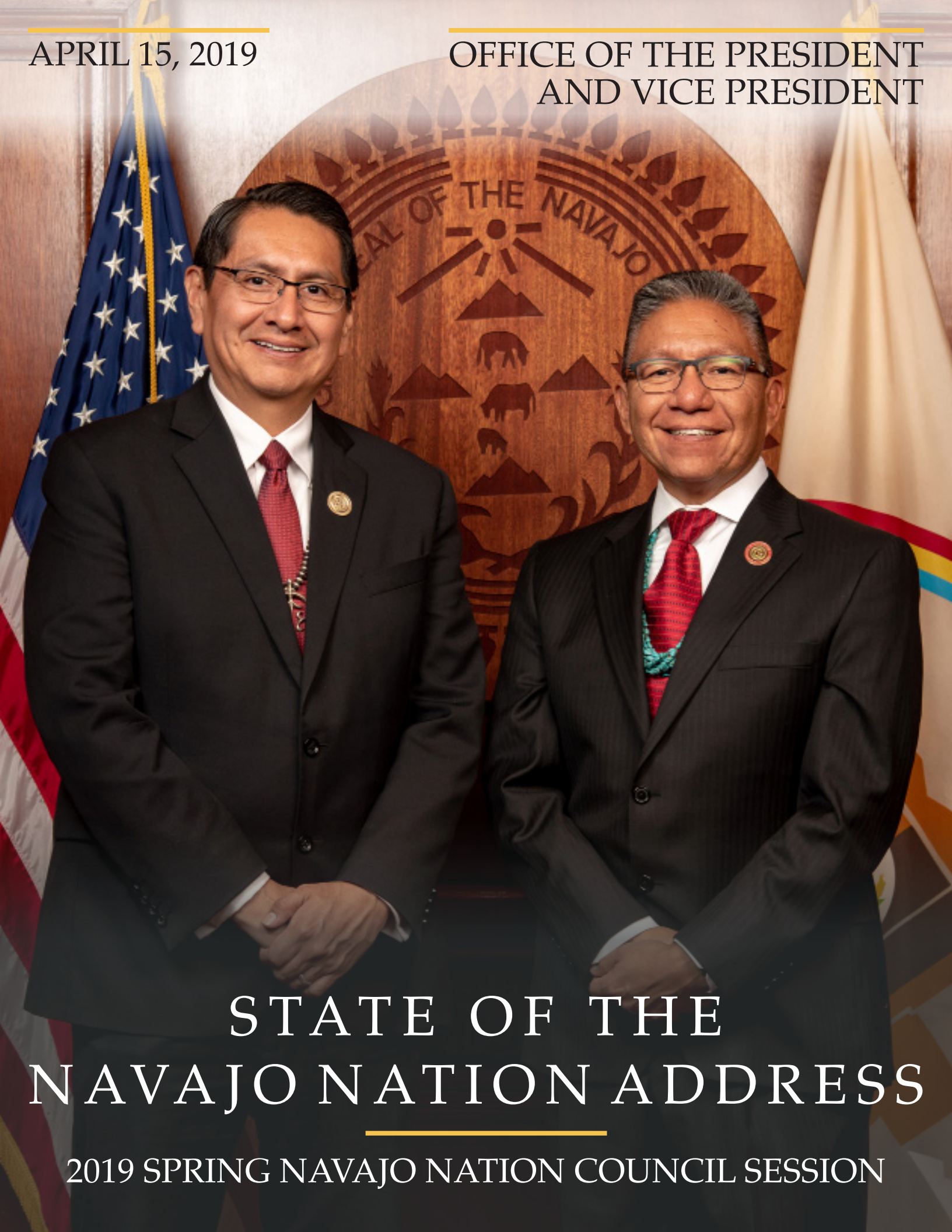


APRIL 15, 2019

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AND VICE PRESIDENT



STATE OF THE NAVAJO NATION ADDRESS

2019 SPRING NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL SESSION



SUMMARY

- 4 Welcom Message - President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer
- 5 \$28 million secured for Capital Outlay Fund projects
- 7 A New Direction for Energy Development on the Navajo Nation
- 8 “Buy Navajo, Buy Local” – Navajo Sovereignty Day
- 10 Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Awareness Month
- 11 Nahata Dziil Shopping Center
- 13 State of New Mexico replaces Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 14 Protecting the Greater Chaco Landscape
- 15 Newcomb Home Modernization Project
- 16 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act
- 17 Diné bi Beeso Baa’á’hályą’ – Task Force
- 18 Call for a Navajo Food Policy
- 19 2019 Navajo Nation Spelling Bee Champion
- 16 Nez-Lizer Administration

Office of the President and Vice President News
P.O. Box 7440
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7000

Prepared by:

Communications Director
Jared Touchin

Sr. Public Information Officer
Crystalyne Curley

<http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov>

President
Jonathan Nez
and
Vice President
Myron Lizer



Yáát'ééh to the honorable members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Seth Damon, Chief Justice Jayne B. Jayne, as well as chapter, county, state, and federal leaders, and most importantly our Diné Citizens. On behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration we are pleased to present to you the State of the Navajo Nation Address for the 2019 Spring Council Session.

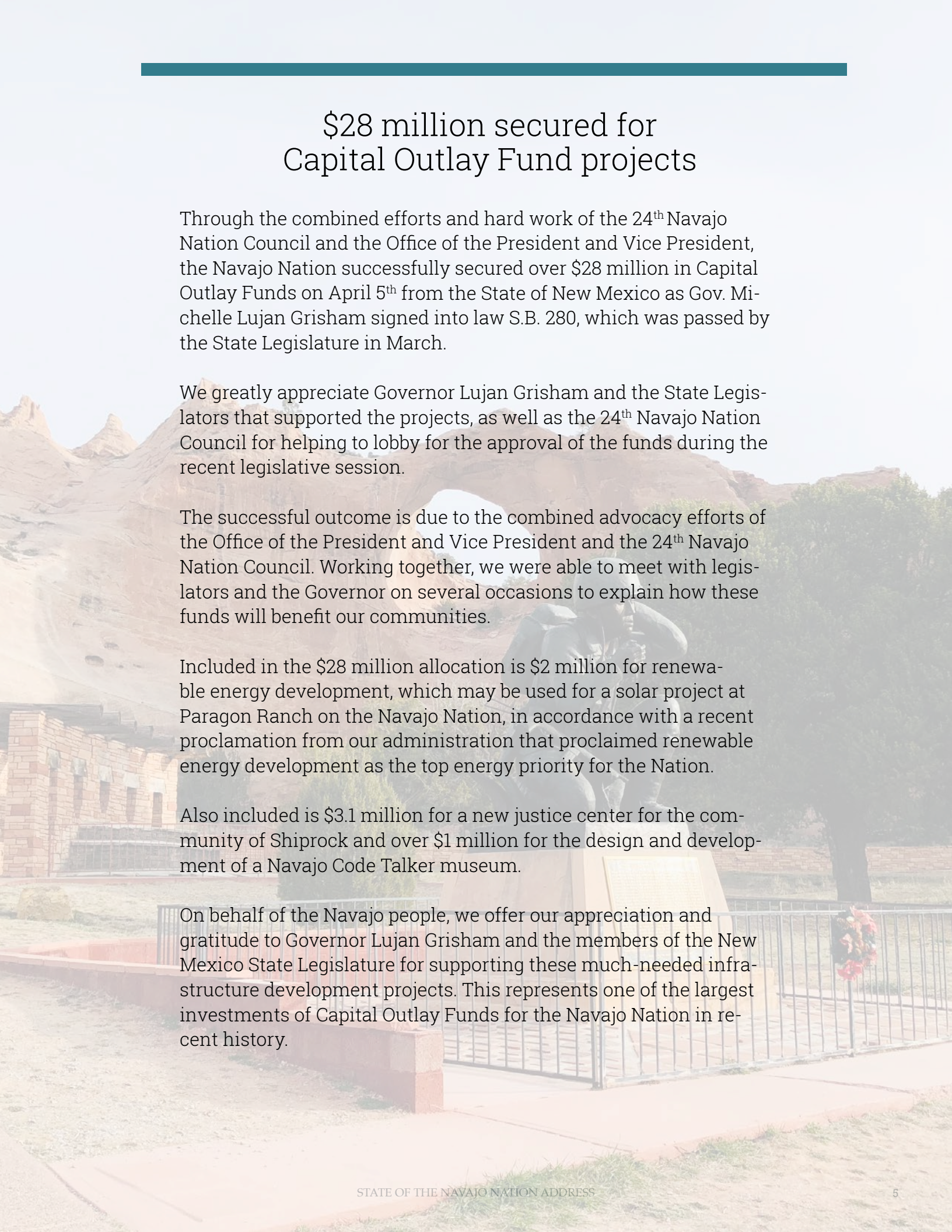
April 23rd will mark the 100th day in office for our administration and for the 24th Navajo Nation Council. The Nez-Lizer Administration remains committed to working together with the Council to bring positive change for our Navajo people and communities, and we believe that we have laid the groundwork to build a positive and productive working relationship with each member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council for the benefit of our people and the Navajo Nation.

Within the first 100 days, the Nez-Lizer Administration and the 24th Navajo Nation Council worked together to successfully secure over \$28 million in Capital Outlay Funds for our communities in New Mexico – marking one of the largest investments by the State of New Mexico in recent history. Working side-by-side with Council members in Santa Fe was a blessing and we thank you for joining us in meeting with the Governor and State Legislators to support our Nation's chapters. Be assured other significant proposals and projects are ongoing, and these successes will be reported in the near future.

As we have stated before, we were put into office because our Navajo people want change. In our view, change presents opportunity – the opportunity to work together to strengthen and empower our people and our communities through the teaching we know as, "T'áá hwó' ajít'éego." The Nez-Lizer Administration continues to reinforce this teaching within our youth. We need to believe in ourselves individually, collectively, and at the government level to become self-reliant and determine our own future. This is a critical teaching that our administration continues to promote and practice.

We are pleased to inform our Diné people that we have filled all of our cabinet positions within our administration well before the 100-day mark. We have a great team of Division Directors in place who are dedicated to working for the best interests of the Navajo Nation and creating positive change. To move our Nation further, we respectfully ask for the support of the 24th Navajo Nation Council in confirming the cabinet members for the Nez-Lizer Administration.

In closing, we once again thank 24th Navajo Nation Council for your leadership and support. We assure you that the Nez-Lizer administration will continue working with you to create a better future for all of our people. God bless each of you, and God bless our great Navajo Nation!



\$28 million secured for Capital Outlay Fund projects

Through the combined efforts and hard work of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the President and Vice President, the Navajo Nation successfully secured over \$28 million in Capital Outlay Funds on April 5th from the State of New Mexico as Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed into law S.B. 280, which was passed by the State Legislature in March.

We greatly appreciate Governor Lujan Grisham and the State Legislators that supported the projects, as well as the 24th Navajo Nation Council for helping to lobby for the approval of the funds during the recent legislative session.

The successful outcome is due to the combined advocacy efforts of the Office of the President and Vice President and the 24th Navajo Nation Council. Working together, we were able to meet with legislators and the Governor on several occasions to explain how these funds will benefit our communities.

Included in the \$28 million allocation is \$2 million for renewable energy development, which may be used for a solar project at Paragon Ranch on the Navajo Nation, in accordance with a recent proclamation from our administration that proclaimed renewable energy development as the top energy priority for the Nation.

Also included is \$3.1 million for a new justice center for the community of Shiprock and over \$1 million for the design and development of a Navajo Code Talker museum.

On behalf of the Navajo people, we offer our appreciation and gratitude to Governor Lujan Grisham and the members of the New Mexico State Legislature for supporting these much-needed infrastructure development projects. This represents one of the largest investments of Capital Outlay Funds for the Navajo Nation in recent history.

CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDS

The project listing for the Navajo Nation includes the following:

PROJECTS	AMOUNT		
To'hajiilee Chapter Water System Improvements	\$ 130,000	Tohatchi Chapter Warehouse Construct	\$ 300,000
Baahaali Chapter House Renovation	\$ 75,000	Tsa-Ya-Toh Chapter Power Line Extend	\$ 360,000
Baahaali Chapter Vehicle Purchase	\$ 50,000	Tse Bonito Judicial Complex Master Plan	\$ 1,200,000
Baca/Prewitt Chapter Backhoe Purchase	\$ 125,475	Tse De Tah Spring Rd Survey - Manuelito Chapter	\$ 75,000
Bahast'lah Chapter Water Line Extend	\$ 100	Tse'Il'Ahi' Chapter Headstart Bldg Construct	\$ 200,000
Becenti Chapter Veterans Center	\$ 515,000	W Tsayatoh & Sunset Valley Roads - Tsayatoh Chapter	\$ 300,000
Blue Medicine Well Road Baahaali CHP	\$ 100,000	Whitehorse Lake Chapter /Rincon/Sandsprings Bathrooms	\$ 150,000
Casamero Lake Chapter Cemetary Construction	\$ 40,000	Rocksprings v Multipurpose Bldg	\$ 100,000
Casamero Lake Chapter Power Line Extend	\$ 373,500	Beclabito Chapter Helipad	\$ 400,000
Casamero Lake Chapter Senior Center Construct	\$ 70,000	Beclabito Chapter Senior Center - Vehicles	\$ 57,000
Chee Dodge Elem School Access Improve - Rock Springs Chapter	\$ 558,500	Dine College Shiprock Agr Mltprps Ctr Construct	\$ 400,000
Chichiltah Chapter Bathroom Additions	\$ 125,000	Gahii'Ahi/To'Koi CHP Government Complex Construct	\$ 600,000
Chichiltah Chapter Heavy Equipment Prchs	\$ 200,000	Gahii'Ahi/To'Koi Chapter Senior Ctr Construct	\$ 356,500
Chichiltah Chapter Senior Ctr ADD Heater	\$ 10,000	Huerfano Chapter Cemetery	\$ 100,000
Coyote Canyon Chapter Water Sys Improve	\$ 100,000	Lake Valley Chapter Heavy Equipment Purchase	\$ 75,000
CR 6 Improve Chichiltah Chapter McKinley County	\$ 100,000	Lake Valley Chapter Powerline Install	\$ 100,000
CR 6 Improve Rock Springs CHP	\$ 300,000	Nageezi Chapter Road Grader Purchase	\$ 175,000
Crownpoint Chapter Solar Street Lights	\$ 200,000	Naschitti Chapter Powerline Install	\$ 100,000
Crownpoint Chapter Veterans Center Fclty Improve	\$ 5,000	Navajo Nation Vets Ctr Shiprock Chapter Construct	\$ 200,000
Dine College Livestock Research Center	\$ 620,000	Navajo Nation Vets Ctr Shiprock Chapter Water Line	\$ 50,000
Ft. Defiance Chapter Power Line Extend	\$ 85,000	Navajo Preparatory School Security & Com	\$ 362,500
Iyanbito Chapter House Fence	\$ 180,000	Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Tse Alnaozt'Il Chapter	\$ 90,000
Iyanbito Chapter Vehicle Purchase	\$ 40,000	Newcomb CHP Waterline Extend	\$ 175,000
Manuelito Chapter Land Use Master Plan	\$ 100,000	NM Hwy 371/Navajo Rte 36 Traffic Signal	\$ 1,300,000
Manuelito Chapter Motor Grader Prchs	\$ 60,000	Red Valley Chapter Mitten Rock Power Lines	\$ 350,000
Mariano Lake Chapter Multipurpose Bldg.	\$ 220,000	Sanostee Chapter Comm. Cemetery	\$ 80,000
Mexican Springs Chapter Multipurpose Building	\$ 200,000	Shiprock Chapter Complex Plan	\$ 100,000
Mexican Springs Chapter Power Line Extend	\$ 382,500	Shiprock Police Dept Jud/Public Safety Complex	\$ 3,150,000
Mexican Springs Chapter Senior Ctr Strg Unit Prchs	\$ 5,000	Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter Power Line Extend	\$ 300,000
Navajo Code Talkers Museum & Veterans Center	\$ 1,054,473	Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Chapter Compound Improve	\$ 125,000
Navajo Rts 52 & 98 Improve Nahodishgish CHP	\$ 120,000	Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Chapter Senior Ctr Improve	\$ 50,000
Navajo Tech Univ Electronic Access Control	\$ 200,000	Tooh Haltsooi Chapter Power Line Extend	\$ 905,400
Navajo Tech Univ Trades Prgm Fclty Expand	\$ 750,000	Tse'Daa'Kaan Chapter Hogback Senior Center Improve	\$ 50,000
NM Hwy 118 Improve McKinley County	\$ 862,000	Tse'Daa'Kaan Chapter Power Line Extensions	\$ 472,000
Pinedale Chapter Bathrooms Construct	\$ 510,000	Upper Fruitland Chapter Senior Center Add Ph 2	\$ 400,000
Pinehaven Rd Improve Baahaali CHP	\$ 75,000	White Rock Chapter Multipurpose Bldg. Improv	\$ 100,000
Pueblo Pintado Chapter Maintenance Equip	\$ 50,000	White Rock Chapter Veterans Bldg	\$ 325,000
Ramah Chapter Navajo Police Dept Vehicles Prchs	\$ 450,000	Counselor CHP Lybrook Water System Improv	\$ 150,000
Red Lake Chapter Road Drain & Utility Improve	\$ 115,000	Torreon Starlake CHP Emergency Services Bldg	\$ 150,000
Red Rock Chapter House Ren	\$ 100,000	Alamo CHP Grader Purchase	\$ 500,000
Red Rock Chapter Veh Prchs	\$ 70,000	Alamo CHP Water Well	\$ 787,500
Red Willow Rd Improve Mariano Lake Chapter	\$ 200,000	Navajo Nation Renewable Energy System	\$ 2,000,000
Smith Lake Chapter Parking Lot	\$ 519,000	Navajo Nation Water System	\$ 225,000
Smith Lake Chapter Rgnl SCADA Sys Construct	\$ 675,000	Grand Total of Navajo Nation Projects	\$28,752,948
Smith Lake Chapter Veterans Ctr Improve	\$ 250,000		
Thoreau Chapter Veterans Service Ctr Construct	\$ 336,500		

A New Direction for Energy Development on the Navajo Nation

On April 2nd, the Nez-Lizer Administration issued a historic proclamation during a ceremony held at the Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, stating that our administration will pursue and prioritize clean renewable energy development for the long-term benefit of the Navajo people.

The proclamation, known as Navajo Hayoółkaał or Navajo Sunrise, was signed to create a new economic vision for the Navajo people through healing the land, fostering clean energy development, and providing leadership for the energy market for the Navajo people.

The time is now for our Nation to transition and prioritize clean renewable energy. Our people, especially the younger people, want change and that's what our administration is committed to.

On March 21st, the Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'íyáti' Committee voted down legislation to support the acquisition of the Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine, a clear indication that the Navajo people want a new direction for energy development.

The proclamation states that the Nez-Lizer Administration will prioritize providing off-grid solar generated electricity to Navajo households that do not have electricity and building new community and utility-scale clean



energy projects. Once this economic engine is established, the administration will continue to secure new investment and new jobs through ancillary industries like the assembly of solar panels and racking systems, further solidifying its role as a leader in the clean energy market.

In addition, the Nez-Lizer Administration will support groups that provide off-grid solar power and energy storage for Navajo households that do not have electricity. We recognize that the Navajo Nation has been providing electricity for the Western United States for many years while many of our own people lack basic access to power and running water.

The State of New Mexico recently approved the “Energy Transition Act,” requiring public utilities to acquire renewable resources until electricity generation is 100-percent carbon-free by the year 2045. The law also set aside funds for workforce development and economic development opportunities.

The world around us is moving ahead with clean energy and the Navajo Nation cannot afford to be left behind, especially when we have many sources of clean energy that can be harnessed to benefit our people.

The Nez-Lizer Administration supports amending the Navajo Energy Act of 2013, to include clean renewable energy as the Navajo Nation’s top energy priority and to create an energy office to oversee energy projects and development.

The proclamation states that through the Diné teaching of “T’áá hwó’ ajít’éego” and for the many who have called upon our Nation’s leaders to transition away from our overdependence on fossil fuels, the Navajo Nation will strive for a balanced energy portfolio and will pursue and prioritize clean renewable energy development for the long-term benefit of the Navajo People and our communities.

“Buy Navajo, Buy Local” – Navajo Sovereignty Day

When the Nez-Lizer Administration took office in January, we focused on the Navajo concept of “T’áá hwó’ ajít’éego,” which basically means self-reliance or self-determination for us as individuals. This powerful teaching is what drives us as individuals to work hard every day and pursue what we want in life. In terms of economic development initiatives, this concept plays a very significant role in how we think and how we work together to help our communities and entrepreneurs.

In order to help our Nation prosper economically, the Nez-Lizer Administration has become a proponent of “Buy Navajo, Buy Local” and we’ve made it a top priority. “Buy Navajo, Buy Local” basically means that we want our Diné people to purchase their products and services on the Navajo Nation from our own people. We need to change the mindsets of many to support small businesses on the Navajo Nation as opposed to having our consumers spend millions and millions each year in border towns.

April 22nd is Navajo Sovereignty Day on the Navajo Nation, and we want to use this as an opportunity to ask our Diné people to join us, during the week of Sovereignty Day, in purchasing products and services within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation. Not only will this support our Navajo business owners, but it will also allow us to partner with other entities to measure the economic impact on nearby non-Navajo businesses in other towns to show just how large of an economic giant the Navajo people are.

We are very excited and we extend an invitation to all of our Navajo people to join us in this venture. We thank you for your support.

#BUYNVAJO
#BUYLOCAL



Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Awareness Month

On April 5th, Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelina Nez and Second Lady Dottie Lizer joined us along with programs and advocacy groups in proclaiming the month of April as “Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Awareness Month.”

The proclamation, signed at the Office of the President and Vice President, recognizes the devastating impact that sexual assault and sexual harassment has on Navajo people and recognizes that the crimes of rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment cause undeniable and ongoing harm to Diné families and communities.

Sexual assault and harassment impact far too many of our Native women. It’s important that we support one another, especially when an accusation is made – it’s critical that we address and investigate those situations to their fullest extent.

The proclamation also directs divisions, departments, and programs under the Executive Branch to implement sexual harassment training for Navajo Nation employees, to ensure that workers are knowledgeable and aware of what constitutes inappropriate behavior in the workplace.

It is a very serious problem when one in two Native American women have experienced sexual violence. We need to begin paying more attention to these issues and let it be known that we are not going to stand for any type of violence against our Navajo women. We need to stand together and let our voices be heard.

Sexual assaults threaten every community across the country, including the Navajo Nation, and each of us plays a role in protecting those we love, including our grandparents, parents, spouses, daughters, and sons. During this month, we must

commit ourselves to end sexual violence and to support all survivors. When we are actively involved, we can prevent sexual violence across the Navajo Nation. The first step is increasing education and awareness. Together, we can begin the healing process and restore Hozhó and balance. It's time for all of us to take action to create a safer environment for all.

The proclamation also recognizes that these problems also affect Navajo women, children, and the LGBTQI community at high rates.

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in the community. It harms our communities and kinship; therefore, prevention must be a priority to confront the devastating statistics.

Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Charlaine Tso of the 24th Navajo Nation Council also attended the signing ceremony and voiced their support for the proclamation and for bringing an end to sexual assaults and harassment on the Navajo Nation. We welcome Delegate Tso as a champion of this important issue and we thank Delegate Crotty for being a strong advocate for many issues, including sexual assault prevention and continuing to advocate for more resources for survivors of these offenses.

In addition, the Office of the President and Vice President is seeking candidates to serve on the Navajo Nation Women's Commission. We ask anyone that is interest to contact our office.

Nahata Dziil Shopping Center

The Nez-Lizer Administration congratulates the community of Nahata Dziil for achieving a milestone with the completion of the Nahata Dziil Shopping Center. We were honored to join local residents and officials gathered recently to celebrate the grand opening of the new shopping center, which includes a Bashas' grocery store, Pizza Edge, and a laundromat.

The Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development's Project Development Office worked hard for years to address challenges including the need for a land exchange with the federal government for the site of the shopping center, the development of a new water source and wastewater system, and securing funds for the construction of the shopping center.

We are truly thankful to the staff at the Division of Economic Development and the Nahata Dziil Commission Governance for overcoming the many challenges over the years in order to make this a success for the community of Nahata Dziil and the Navajo Nation. The shopping center will create 120 new jobs and increase tax revenue for the Navajo Nation.

The project is another big step forward for the Nez-Lizer Administration's "Buy Navajo, Buy Local" initiative. Since taking office, we've been encouraging everyone to support local businesses and Navajo entrepreneurs through the notion of Buy Navajo, Buy Local and that's exactly what this project represents.

The shopping center is located near the Interstate-40 exit, which is a prime location for local residents and those traveling through the community.

Not only does this garner more tax revenue and creates jobs, but it also provides much needed food products and services for local Navajo residents who would otherwise have to drive to nearby border towns to purchase products. We were also pleased to see the store offering many healthy fruits and vegetables for Navajo people.

The market was partially funded through the Permanent Trust Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan approved by the 23rd Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the President and Vice President in 2016, which allocated \$150 million for economic development and agriculture development projects, and water infrastructure development from the annual interest earned from the principle. Thank you to the 24th Navajo Nation Council for your support.



State of New Mexico replaces Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day

We are very thankful to New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for signing a historic bill into law on April 2nd, that officially replaces "Columbus Day" with "Indigenous Peoples' Day" in the state of New Mexico.

This change is long overdue. We strongly believe that honoring Indigenous people will inspire all people, especially Navajo youth, to learn the true history of our Diné people and the resiliency that continues to define Native Americans to this day.

The federal government declared Columbus Day as a holiday without input from Native Americans and without knowing the true history of Native Americans. For many years, Indigenous people have protested Columbus Day because it celebrates colonialism, oppression, and injustice inflicted on Indigenous peoples.

Observing Indigenous Peoples' Day allows citizens to recognize our rich heritage and represents a step toward healing and growth.

The Nez-Lizer administration also thanks New Mexico State Rep. Derrick J. Lente (D), Rep. Andrea Romero (D), and Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr. (D) for sponsoring the bill, which was approved by the New Mexico State Legislature in March.

We are very hopeful that the change will also inspire educators throughout the state to teach the true history of Indigenous peoples, so that the younger generations will know the challenges that were overcome by Navajo people.

Protecting the Greater Chaco Landscape

On March 22nd, the Nez-Lizer Administration met with the All Pueblo Council of Governors in a historic summit to declare our shared commitment to the Greater Chaco Landscape and to call on our Congressional leaders and the Department of the Interior to conserve these sacred lands for future generations. The Navajo Nation and the All Pueblo Council of Governors are joined by many other elected leaders from New Mexico who stand with them in protecting this area.

During the meeting, we reaffirmed the Navajo Nation's support for the protection of Chaco Canyon from mineral extraction and thanked the All Pueblo Council of Governors for their support on this issue. We also thank U.S. Senator Tom Udall and U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich for introducing the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act on April 9th. We look forward to supporting this bill along with our representatives in the House and Senate.

Navajo and Pueblo leaders, along with members of New Mexico's congressional delegation, our Governor, and our state land commissioner have repeatedly sent a strong and unified message to the Department of the Interior and the BLM – protect public lands near Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

Whether the agency chooses to respect our tribal and state leaders' request will be seen as the BLM readies the release of a draft management plan amendment for the area. In recent months, the agency suggested it would ignore this unprecedented level of support for land conservation by allowing lands within a roughly ten-mile buffer of the Park to be developed for oil and gas.

More than 90% of our public lands in the region are already leased for energy development, and the few remaining unleased areas near the park form a world class landscape of cultural objects and sacred sites. Now is the time for all of us who treasure the Greater Chaco Landscape to come together. Please join us in our efforts to demand that the BLM do more to protect the lands near Chaco.



Newcomb Home Modernization Project

The Nez-Lizer Administration congratulates the community of Newcomb, New Mexico and Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) for completing the most recent 10 housing unit modernization project. We had the honor of joining local families at the Newcomb Chapter on March 26th, as they celebrated the \$1.8 million project led by NHA.

The project began with assessing the structural needs of the homes, followed by the replacement of most non-structural elements within each home. The modernized homes are now equipped with upgraded building materials that are designed to last longer than the original materials and are built to be more energy efficient. NHA began modernizing approximately 200 homes two years ago in various communities.

Our administration encourages the families to take pride and to maintain and care for the homes and new equipment. Thank you to NHA and the community of Newcomb for the warm welcome and for hosting the great event.





Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the U.S. House of Representatives for passing HR 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 on April 4th. The Violence Against Women Act expired in February, and we now look to the Senate to consider the bill as well.

The bill, which passed by a voice vote of 263-158, includes tribal justice jurisdiction provisions, protections for survivors of domestic violence, sharing of criminal database information and extends protections to Native American children and tribal officers.

Diné women and children are sacred. We thank the House of Representatives for taking a stand to protect all women and children from domestic violence, as well as our tribal officers who respond to domestic violence calls. Domestic violence is one of the highest categories for reported calls on the Navajo Nation, and this legislation would help close the gap. We urge the Senate to move forward on a bipartisan basis and pass this important bill.

Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez and Second Lady Dottie Lizer also welcome the passage of this measure by the House. We need to do all we can to protect the victims of domestic violence. We thank those who advocated vigorously on this critical piece of legislation.

Priorities for the First Lady and Second lady include combating domestic violence, addressing missing and murdered Indigenous women, and advocating for the reauthorization of VAWA. We urge Senate lawmakers to take up this important legislation for reauthorization. Protections for our women and children cannot wait.

Diné bi beeso baa'á'hálya' – Task Force

Among the priorities of the Nez-Lizer Administration are the issues and concerns related to our financial system, such as accounts payable, contract accountability, management of budgets, and other processes within the Navajo Nation finance system.

To address these systemic concerns, this administration has created a task force to focus on the financial processes and budget matters. The Navajo people have spoken about making improvements to the Navajo government in these areas. The task force includes representatives from the Office of the Controller, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Justice, Department of Personnel Management, Navajo Tax Commission, Division of Natural Resources, and the Office of the President and Vice President.

This task force has the responsibility of reviewing current processes and developing ways to improve the system to produce vendor payments and to develop financial training for staff to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of processes, including those within the Financial Management and Information System (FMIS) and external funds.

Another initiative is to develop solutions to allow chapters to process and issue payments for veterans benefits, to reduce the overhead expenses of processing these checks and to make it easier for veterans to receive benefits locally.

The task force will also review the FY2020 revenues and develop plans to address funding shortfalls. This may include re-distribution of funds to maximize use and results and include options to reduce governmental costs and expenses.



Call for a Navajo Food Policy

On March 29th, we attended the annual Diné Bich'iiya' Summit at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona, and spoke about the importance of healthy living, strengthening the Navajo Nation's food sovereignty, revitalizing farming among families, and the need to develop and implement a Navajo food policy.

The three-day summit, which was open to the public, was presented by Diné College in collaboration with the Office of the President and Vice President and included presentations and hands-on demonstrations on several topics including backyard gardening, soap making, the four traditional foods, traditional horse harvesting, Hopi organic slow foods, and beekeeping.

We spoke about several issues that included the need for the Nation to develop its own food policy, to establish a food regulatory office, which would allow more local Navajo farmers and ranchers to sell their products on the Navajo Nation while having their products inspected in accordance with the policy.

If the Navajo Nation creates a food industry on the Navajo Nation that feeds all of our people then we could even expand to provide foods around the country and maybe even to other countries around the world – that would be true sovereignty at the highest level.

More Diné people and families need to begin growing their own healthy foods through farming, and we as a Nation need to increase our overall capacity to farm our own lands. Doing so would allow the Nation to become less dependent on outside food sources and further strengthen the Nation's sovereignty.

This winter season we were blessed with vast amounts of snow and rain, so our lands are ready for farming. Our people have a great opportunity to grow our own foods, healthy fruits and vegetables, to help fight diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other health problems that affect our Diné people.

Through the Healthy Diné Nation Act, which implemented a two-percent sales tax on unhealthy foods and beverages and eliminated the overall sales tax on healthy fruits and vegetables on the Navajo Nation, local chapters are empowered through the tax revenue to develop more running/walking trails, basketball courts, and other outdoor facilities that enable our people to become more active.

As our Nation increases its food sovereignty it will enable individuals and families to become more self-sufficient and less dependent on border towns for food products. Every family should have their own greenhouse to grow their own food for themselves and to increase the number of farmers' markets in our own communities.

We thank Diné College administrators, students, and all participants that made this year's summit a great success.

2019 Navajo Nation Spelling Bee Champion

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks all of our Diné youth from across the Navajo Nation who competed in the Navajo Nation Spelling Bee on March 14th. After 106 rounds of tough competition, Kelly Haven of Tséhootsooí Middle School won the 2019 Navajo Nation Spelling Bee.

This marks her third consecutive Navajo Nation Spelling Bee Championship. She will now move on to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. in May. The Nez-Lizer Administration also congratulates Maria Macaraig of Tuba City Junior High who competed hard and came in second place and will be the Navajo Nation's alternate for the National Spelling Bee.

During the Spelling Bee, we offered words of encouragement to the students and had the honor of presenting each participant with a certificate of recognition for their outstanding achievements.

The Office of the President and Vice President wishes Kelly Haven the best as she moves on to the National Spelling Bee. Thank you to all of the students, parents, staff, and Navajo Times for coordinating and sponsoring the event for our youth!



NEZ-LIZER ADMINISTRATION



Doreen Nanibaa McPaul
Navajo Nation Attorney General

With 18 years of experience practicing Indian law, we are pleased to be bringing home one of our own, Doreen Nanibaa McPaul, whose hometown is Chinle. She is a graduate of Princeton University and earned her Juris Doctorate from ASU College of Law, where she also received a Certificate in Federal Indian Law and served as a staff writer for the ASU Law Journal.

After law school, Ms. McPaul clerked at the Arizona Court of Appeals, and then worked as a staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, as an associate attorney at the Nordhaus Law Firm in Albuquerque, and as a visiting clinical law professor and Interim Director of the Indian Legal Clinic at ASU.

Since 2008, Ms. McPaul has worked as an in-house tribal government attorney for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. In that capacity, Mrs. McPaul advised tribal departments, councils, leaders, boards, entities, etc. She is admitted to practice law in Arizona, New Mexico, the Navajo Nation, as well as before several other tribal and federal courts.



Kimberly A. Dutcher
Deputy Attorney General

Kimberly A. Dutcher is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, and grew up in the Navajo community of Fort Defiance, Arizona. After graduating from Window Rock High School, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, a Master's in Education from George Washington University, and a Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Ms. Dutcher has been licensed to practice law in the state and federal courts of the State of Arizona for 17 years.

Prior to her appointment as Deputy Attorney General for the Navajo Nation, she served as the acting Court Solicitor for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC). Her career also includes serving as the Executive Director of the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA), the nation's oldest American Indian advocacy organization. Ms. Dutcher also served the Gila River Indian Community for 10 years as a Prosecutor, Senior Assistant General Counsel, and as Division Manager providing visionary leadership, direction, and guidance to elected leadership as well as seven administrative departments.



Dr. Jill Jim
Navajo Nation Department of Health

Dr. Jill Jim, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and fluent Navajo speaker, will be coming home to the Navajo Nation from Albuquerque, N.M. to serve as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Department of Health.

Dr. Jim has a Doctorate in Public Health, a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration, a second Master's in Public Health from the University of Utah. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Health Promotion and Community Health Education from Northern Arizona University.

Some of her work experience includes serving as a Health Care Analyst for HealthInsight in Albuquerque, N.M., consultant for Navajo Area Indian Health Service, and Epidemiologist for the Utah Department of Health.



JT Willie
Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development

JT Willie, a fluent Navajo speaker, will serve the Nez-Lizer Administration as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development. Mr. Willie earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 2014 and Bachelors of Business Administration in 2008, from the University of New Mexico.

He has extensive marketing experiencing as the former Director of Marketing for the Navajo Arts and Crafts Enterprise and as the Director of Marketing for the Tséhootsooi Medical Center in Fort Defiance, Arizona. Mr. Willie is a young, enthusiastic person who will serve the division well.



Jesse Delmar

Navajo Nation Division of
Public Safety

Jesse Delmar will continue building on the success that he and many others have worked hard for in the last several years, as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety.

He is a recent appointee by President Donald Trump to serve on the "Commission on Native American Children." He was recognized by the National Native American Law Enforcement Association to receive an award for "Director of the Year" by this association. He served as Vice-Chairman for the International Association of Chiefs of Police for many terms and served as President for the "Indian Country Intelligence Network" of Arizona for many terms. He served on the Executive Board of the Arizona Counterintelligence Information Center in AZ.

He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy. Delmar has a Bachelor's Degree in Administration of Criminal Justice with a Minor in Psychology from Northern Arizona University. He previously served as the Chief of Police for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and offers a vast knowledge and extensive public safety experience.



Santee Lewis

Navajo Nation Washington
Office

We welcome back another one of our own, as Santee Lewis will take on the role as Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. She has a Master of Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico.

She has exceptional experience working with the federal government as the previous Deputy Superintendent for the Eastern Navajo Agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior and as a Senior Advisor for the Federal Land Buy Back Program.

We are confident that Ms. Lewis will provide professional and expert knowledge and experience at the federal level to the Navajo Nation Washington Office for the benefit of the entire Navajo Nation.



Dr. Pearl Yellowman

Navajo Nation Division of
Community Development

Dr. Pearl Yellowman will serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. She resides in Tuba City and is the co-owner of Yellowman Maho & Associates – a Diné women owned research and evaluation consulting company.

Dr. Yellowman has 20 years of experience serving tribal communities in the areas of implementation, funding source requirements, supervision, data collection, trainings and compliance. In addition, her experience is supplemented with extensive education. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, a Master's in Education, a second Master's in Counseling and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Montana.



Dr. Perphelia Fowler

Navajo Nation Division of
Human Resources

Dr. Perphelia Fowler, a fluent Navajo speaker, will join the administration to serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Human Resources. Dr. Fowler has extensive human resources expertise and serves as the Human Resources Director at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M. She previously served in various human resources positions with the Red Mesa Unified School District and Diné College.

She earned a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership for Change from Fielding Graduate University, in Santa Barbara, CA., Master's Degree in Human Resources-Business Administration, and Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources-Business Administration.



Oliver Whaley

Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

Oliver Whaley will serve as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. He has a Juris Doctorate from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, a Masters of Public Administration from Southern Utah University, and a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Wellness from BYU.

He serves as an Attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice's Natural Resources Unit. Prior to joining the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, he served as a lawyer with Hadley-Whaley law firm and gained valuable experience with the Utah Court of Appeals.



Robert K. Black, Jr.

Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office

Robert K. Black, Jr., a fluent Navajo speaker and longtime resident of the Western Navajo Agency, will take on the task of Executive Director of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office. He serves as the Governance Manager for the Shonto Community Governance/Chapter and offers 14 years of experience in working with Din People at the grassroots level.

Among his previous leadership roles includes serving as a County Supervisor for the Navajo County Board of Supervisors – District 1, former Executive Board Member for Diné Bi Ołta School Board Association, and the Secretary/Treasurer for the Shonto Community Governance.



Garret Silversmith

Navajo Nation Division of Transportation

Garret Silversmith, a Navajo speaker, will continue building on the success that he and many others have worked hard for in the last several years, as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation. He has served in this role since 2016, and offers extensive knowledge in the Nation's transportation priorities, goals, and plans.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from New Mexico State University, and many years of engineering experience with private engineering firms and with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We look forward to supporting Mr. Silversmith and the Division of Transportation in the years to come.



Dr. Rudy R. Shebala

Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources

Dr. Rudy R. Shebala will serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. He has an extensive academic background, which includes a Master's Degree and Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho, and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science.



John King

Navajo Nation Veterans
Administration

John King, a fluent Navajo speaker, served in the U.S. Navy beginning in September 1972 before receiving an honorable discharge in August 1975. He has served as the Commander for the Iyanbito Chapter, providing leadership and guidance for over 50 Navajo Veterans in the community.

Mr. King has a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico. He offers extensive knowledge and experience at the federal government level working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs in several management positions.

We are excited to have Mr. King on board. He is very passionate about helping Navajo Veterans and we look forward to supporting him and his office in the coming years.



Christopher Becenti

Navajo Nation Telecommunica-
tions Regulatory Commission
Office

We are pleased to bring home one of our own, Christopher Becenti, to serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office

We are confident he will serve our Nation well in overseeing telecommunications infrastructure development to provide much needed services for the Navajo people, as well as for our first responders. His years of experience working for AT&T makes him a valuable part in the Nation's efforts to implement FirstNet on the Navajo Nation, which would serve as a sole network dedicated to first responders. This is a very important initiative for our people and we confident that Mr. Becenti has the technical expertise to make it a success.



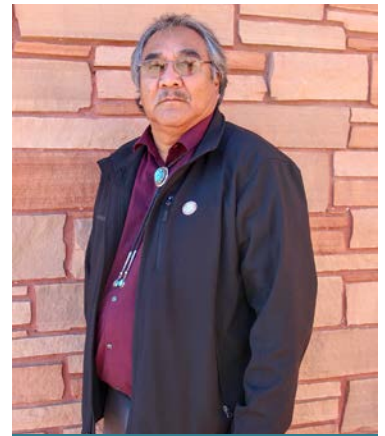
Deannah Neswood-Gishey

Navajo Nation Division of
Social Services

We are pleased to welcome Deannah Neswood-Gishey to the Nez-Lizer Administration to serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services.

Prior to her appointment, she served as the Program Manager for the Department of Self Reliance under the division and previously served as the director of Tribal Social Services with the Gila River Indian Community. Neswood-Gishey is a veteran of the U.S. Army and Arizona National Guard and was honorably discharged from both branches of military.

Her appointment is a prime example of a Navajo Nation employee who worked hard and worked her way up in the Division of Social Services. She began working with the division as a social worker in 1993.



Lomardo Aseret

Navajo Nation Division of
General Services

Lomardo Aseret, a fluent Navajo speaker, brings many years of experience as the new Director of the Navajo Nation Division of General Services. He has Master's Degree in Public Administration from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelors of Science in Business Management.

For many years, Mr. Aseret has worked with Salt River Project in various capacities including management and supervisor positions. We look forward to having Mr. Aseret return home to the Navajo Nation to serve our Diné people.



#UNITY
#HOPE
#RESILIENCE