



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly joins students, parents at opening of new Shiprock Career Prep School Building

SHIPROCK, N.M. – Navajo Nation Vice President Shelly joined high school students, parents and elders at Central Consolidated Schools here Monday to open the new Shiprock Career Prep High School building.

Vice President Shelly thanked student representatives Aryana Horsechief and Patrick McDonald for serving as prime examples for Navajo high school students in continuing with their education.

The Vice President told the students to squeeze all the use out of the new building as they possibly could.

“Career Prep was created to empower students to learn and graduate with a high school diploma, as well as gain important job skills, like business marketing,” he said.

“Today’s challenges are far greater than the challenges we faced years ago. I challenge you – the bright Navajo student – to do it yourself. Depend on yourself. You can only do it for yourself.”

The \$7 million, 36,000-square-foot building is geared toward non-traditional students such as young parents and students who face difficulties in conventional high schools.

The new facility can accommodate 200 students and incorporates a career center, childcare center and school-based health care center.

“This school took a lot of planning and hard work to get off the ground,” the Vice President said. “There was a good reason for it. The students of the Shiprock Career Prep High School deserve and need this new facility. It takes a lot of courage and commitment to choose to stay in school.”



Navajo Nation Vice President Shelly signs the guestbook at the opening of the new \$7 million Shiprock Career Prep High School building on Monday. He told students that the challenges they face today are greater than his generation faced but that the new school will help them to succeed.

“They succeeded in doing what they wanted to do, and they have done that,” he said.

He encouraged the students to incorporate Navajo traditional philosophy and the concept of self-determination into their lives by getting an education, planning, working, and maintaining the Navajo language and traditional Navajo teachings.

“Learn everything you can, and put it into your thinking,” he said.

Principal Tim Kienitz said the building opens new doors for students in Shiprock.

“Our new building gives the teachers and students in Shiprock a fantastic opportunity,” he said. “It showcases the fact that Career Prep High School is an excellent place for students. It really is a cutting-edge building, unique in that its design is focused on career pathways.”

Funding for the building came in part from the New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority and New Mexico Department of Health.

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