



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly urges strong tribal-state relationship in meeting with Arizona Governor Jan Brewer

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly emphasized stronger state-tribal partnerships and collaboration during a meeting with Arizona Governor Jan Brewer last week.

“Government-to-government relationships are important to the Navajo Nation and I know as partners, the Navajo Nation and the State of Arizona can create jobs and businesses to move beyond these hard economic times,” the Vice President said. “We can accomplish many things and work together by maintaining open dialogue and communicating effectively through meaningful consultation efforts.”

Since taking office as Arizona’s new governor, Governor Brewer and the state legislature were forced to streamline state spending to meet Arizona’s \$1.6 billion deficit this year.

“My job as governor is to create jobs and turn around the economy,” Governor Brewer said in her meeting with Vice President Shelly. “I look to tribes to partner with me so that we can work together and turn this economy around.”

In his remarks, Vice President Shelly asked the Governor to keep the needs of students and elders in mind when reviewing state spending.

“We must keep our young ones and older ones in mind when we look at state funding,” he said. “Education is the key to all success and we must ensure that our children continue to attain a quality education.”

Governor Brewer said her first priority is to stabilize state government spending and “turn around the economy.”

This year, Governor Brewer said tribes will be eligible for federal stimulus funds that will flow through the state. The funding “will bridge some budget gaps,” she said.

Vice President Shelly emphasized public works projects and asked the Governor to partner with the Navajo Nation on roads, health, and renewable energy projects.

“Much of our work depends on open communication and I know through collaborative efforts, we can work through tough economic times,” he said.

Issue papers and Navajo Nation Council Intergovernmental Relations resolutions seeking state-tribal collaboration and full state funding for higher education, elders, and people with disabilities were provided to the governor.

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Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly and Arizona Governor Jan Brewer