



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Laphillda Tso, Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-6371

Cell: (928) 255-2942

Fax: (928) 871-7255

ltso@navajo.org

speaker_pio@yahoo.com

navajonationcouncil.org

June 24, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Census Regional Director Cathy Lacy visits with Speaker Morgan regarding 2010 Census Count

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - As the 2010 Census Count comes to a close, Census officials take notice of the obstacles and challenges as well as the successes of the campaign that have taken place over the last six months. For the Window Rock Local Census Office, the count was termed a success from Denver Regional Director Cathy Lacy.

Regional Director Lacy paid a visit to Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan to provide a brief update of the census count and expressed appreciation for his support.

"I want to say thank you, your office has been incredibly supportive of the local census office," remarked Lacy. "Everything went extremely well especially with recruiting and hiring."

According to Window Rock Census Office manager Jaime Gloshey, the local Census Office recruited 9,000 people and hired 2,900 locals, which is one of the largest offices in the nation.

Regional Director Lacy was also very proud of the fact that 75-80% of the enumerators were fluent in Navajo, a factor she felt provided a sense of ease for residents during the census count.

"An additional benefit of hiring local people was that their knowledge of the area was important in locating the housing units in the rural areas where roads are not marked," added Lacy.

Navajo Nation Community Development Director Arbin Mitchell said every effort was made to ensure an accurate count including trekking through muddy roads and even renting a helicopter to visit the rural areas in Navajo Mountain, Ariz.

"We were one of two offices in the entire U.S. that rented a helicopter to conduct the Census count," Mitchell stated.

Despite inclement weather and tough driving conditions, Regional Director Lacy said the local census employees represented the Navajo Nation very well, "This region has one of the toughest jobs but the staff made it look effortless."



Alex Montoya, Community Development; Arbin Mitchell, Director of Community Development; Speaker Morgan (back); Virginia Valdez (front); Cathy Lacy, Denver Regional Director; Jaime Gloshey, Window Rock Census Office Manager; Caroleta Manuelito, Assistant Manager Window Rock Census Office. (Photo courtesy of Alex Montoya)

-more-

Speaker Morgan replied, "The employment opportunities with the 2010 Census were good for our economy and that the information that was gathered would be important for our Navajo people as it would create a foundation for the Navajo Nation to capitalize on. Federal funding, grant funding, community development projects and even reapportionment are done with Census figures. We understand the importance of the Census Count and we're happy to provide any support we could from our office."

Although the count is completed the 2010 Census figures will not be ready for release until January 2011.

###