



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan congratulates Black Mesa Chapter, recipient of Leadership in Renewable Energy Award

Navajo Nation Council appropriated \$160,000 to assist the Black Mesa Chapter's project.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan congratulates the community of Black Mesa Chapter for receiving the Leadership in Renewable Energy Award from Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer recently.

Gov. Brewer joined the Arizona Department of Commerce and the Arizona Association for Economic Development in announcing the winners of the 2009 Excellence and Main Street Awards during the 35th Annual Governor's Regional and Rural Development Conference held Aug. 26-28 at the Wigman Resort in Litchfield Park near Phoenix, Ariz.

This past year, the Navajo Nation Council appropriated \$160,000 to assist the Black Mesa Chapter's Oak Ridge Community Solar Photovoltaic Power to Remote Homes Project.

The Excellence Awards honor partnerships, organizations and companies that have successfully created and implemented community and economic development strategies for their respective communities in the past year. The Main Street Awards recognize outstanding projects, activities and individuals in Arizona's Main Street communities.

In response to receiving the award, Michelle Redmond, a local Black Mesa resident and a consultant of the project, thanked the Council and the community for their vision and willingness to promote renewable energy projects.

Donald E. Cardon, director of the Arizona Department of Commerce explained, "These awards highlight best practice, collaboration and a focus on solutions for Arizona's regional economics. The tenacity of Arizona is apparent in each award recognizing successes in our Main Street corridors, innovation in energy efficiency and renewable energy and advancing infrastructure."

Amos Johnson, Council delegate for Black Mesa, Forest Lake and Rough Rock Chapters, agreed and he also thanked the Navajo Council and the community for their commitment in promoting renewable energy.

"I want to express my appreciation to the Navajo Nation Council in appropriating these funds and the Navajo Nation President in signing the legislation," Johnson said. "We promote this project as a model other communities can implement to address their energy needs."

Other Excellence Award winners included: Innovation Economic Development, TGen--ASU Biodesign Institute "Partnership for Personalized Medicine"; Coconino County "Sustainable Economic Development Initiative"; Leadership in Smart Growth--City of Chandler "Infill Incentive Plan-Commercial Reinvestment

Program"; Arizona Lottery Cultural and Preservation Projects--Wickenburg "Historical Walking Tour Brochure"; Leadership in Energy Efficiency--Flagstaff "Residential Energy Efficiency Program"; Leadership in Renewable Energy--Navajo Nation, Black Mesa Chapter "Solar Photovoltaic to Remote Homes"; Future Leaders--Cottonwood Middle School "Cottonwood Middle School Water Audit";

Main Street Award winners included: Best Small Scale Projects Sedona--"Sedona Trolley"; Best Medium Scale projects--Lake Havasu City "Pima Wash Bikeway"; Best Large Scale Projects--Sedona "Matterhorn Inn"; Best Economic Restructuring Projects--Sedona "Sedona Chamber Visitor Center"; Business Excellence Award--Florence "Desert Springs Water & Ice"; Best Promotional Material--Prescott "Shop Fabulous Friday"; Best Special Event--Florence "Florence Multicultural Festival"; Best Public/Private Partnership "Silver King Hotel"; Individual of the Year-- Pinetop-Lakeside "Gretchen Forbeck."

For more information, contact Navajo Council Delegate Amos F. Johnson at 928-637-3551.

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