



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

[joshualavarbutler@navajo.org](mailto:joshualavarbutler@navajo.org)

[joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com](mailto:joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com)

[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

September 11, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Navajo Council approves compact with state of Arizona to secure needed dollars for Diné College

*Signing ceremony to be held Saturday, Sept. 12, between Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer and Navajo tribal leaders*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The persistence and hard work of Navajo Council members, staff from the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation and Diné College has paid off as the Navajo Nation Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee passed Legislation No. 0507-09 to amend a resolution approving a revised version of a funding compact between the Navajo Nation, the state of Arizona and Diné College by a vote of 11-0 today.

The Council through the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, chaired by Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, has authorized Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. to carry out the compact on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

To commemorate the occasion and the passage of the legislation, Navajo leaders will join Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer on Saturday, Sept. 12, immediately after the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair's parade for a signing ceremony at the fairgrounds to renew the ten-year compact between the state of Arizona and the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Council Delegate Thomas Walker Jr. (Birdsprings/Leupp/Tolani Lake) will represent Speaker Morgan and the Navajo Council along with staff from Speaker Morgan's office.

"It is an honor to represent the Navajo Nation Council, particularly knowing that the Council's Task Force on State Affairs and the Speaker's Office has contributed greatly to this agreement," said Walker.

On April 28, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee approved and recommended approval of the renewal of the compact for an additional ten years for fiscal years 2011 to 2020. The compact was initially created ten years ago between then-Arizona Gov. Jan Dee Hull and Navajo President Kelsey Begaye on Oct. 19, 1999. In that year on May 6, 1999, the state of Arizona's Tax Code through H.B. 2676 was amended to allow the distribution of Transaction Privilege Tax Revenues to be collected on the Navajo Nation to go to Diné College.

As a result, the revenue retained from this agreement was appropriated to the Navajo Nation at \$1.75 million per year for the length of the compact—for fiscal years 2001 to 2010—and it was designed to support the maintenance, renewal and capital expenses of Diné College.

###