



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Navajo leaders sign 10-year compact with Gov. Jan Brewer, Diné College will continue receiving \$1.75 million per year

*Compact made possible by persistence, hard work of Navajo Council, Office of the Speaker*

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Diné College, the first of 30 tribal colleges in the country, will continue receiving \$1.75 million per year for the next 10 years, thanks to an agreement signed Sept. 12, between the Navajo Nation, the state of Arizona and Diné College.

The compact was made possible through the diligent and hard work of staff from the Office of the Speaker, members of the Council's Task Force on State Affairs, the Navajo Council members, the Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee and staff from Diné College.

The compact amends a resolution approving a revised version of a funding compact between the Navajo Nation, the state of Arizona and Diné College.

On Sept. 11, the Council through the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, chaired by Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, authorized Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. to carry out the compact on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

Dr. Ferlin Clark, president of Diné College, gave welcoming remarks to attendees of the signing ceremony and he provided a brief background of the compact's history.

"Before the compact expired, it needed to be reviewed and approved by the state legislators," Clark said. "We went before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee of the house and senate and they passed it."

Clark referred to the April 28 approval of the 10-year renewal of the compact by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, a term that will last from 2011 to 2020.

The need to renew the compact was due to three important factors: funding was accountable, it was transferable and the audits performed came out clean, according to Clark.

Clark thanked the Navajo leadership for their guidance and their support.



The Navajo Nation signs 10-year compact with the state of Arizona to continue receiving \$1.75 million annually for Diné College. Left to right: Diné College President Ferlin Clark; Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr.; Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer; Katosha Nakai, policy advisor on Tribal Affairs to Gov. Brewer; and Natasha Johnson, legislative staff assistant to Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan. (Photos by Joshua Lavar Butler)

"Thanks to Kee Allen Begay Jr., Leonard Chee and Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly for advocating for education as one through the leadership of Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan and the Intergovernmental Relations Committee," Clark added. "Now, this legislation has come back to the Navajo Nation and we are here today to sign it."

Navajo Council Delegate Larry Noble (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain) was on hand as well representing Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan and the Navajo Nation Council, along with staff from the Office of the Speaker.

"I am honored to represent the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council and the Speaker's Office as I know there were many of my colleagues who contributed greatly to bringing this signing to fruition," Noble said. "It is very fitting that this signing occurs today at the Navajo Nation Fair and parade, because it is amongst our Navajo people. The doors of educational opportunity will be opened even wider today and you will be invited to walk through those doors and have an opportunity to become our next leaders."

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer appreciated the warm welcome and she thanked the Navajo people for their continued fight for education.

"Too often, people talk a good game about how they value education, but when it comes to protecting and advancing it, that's always a different story," Brewer said. "I am here to tell you that I believe in creating education for our children."

Gov. Brewer thanked the Navajo leadership and the Arizona State Legislature for their diligent work in making this compact possible.

"Earlier this year, legislative leaders from the Joint Budget Legislative Committee recommended to me that the state renew the 10 year compact with Diné College," Brewer added. "Today, it is my distinct honor and privilege to be here to follow up with that bold effort that my fellow Republicans began a decade ago. Please join me in our ongoing fight for education. If we continue to all work together for a common goal, we will have beauty above us, beauty below us and beauty all around us -- thank you all so very much."

The compact was initially created 10 years ago between then-Arizona Gov. Jane 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, a college that serves residents of the 26,000 square-mile Navajo Nation which encompasses a vast area spread over the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.



Navajo Nation Council Delegate Larry Noble speaks on behalf of Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan and the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council.