



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 19, 2014

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## **Budget and Finance Committee approves amending the Arizona Funding Compact to benefit Navajo Technical University**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Tuesday, the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3-0 to approve Legislation No. 0038-14, amending the funding compact between the Navajo Nation and the State of Arizona to allow Navajo Technical University to receive a portion of Transaction Privilege Tax revenues collected on the Navajo Nation.

In his address to BFC members, legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) explained that pursuant to Arizona House Bill 2009, the state’s TPT Code was amended to allow \$875,000 to be used by NTU on an annual basis for the remaining term of the current compact which expires in 2020.

The funding is in addition to the \$1.75 million that the Navajo Nation currently receives annually for Diné College from TPT revenues.

According to the compact, the \$850,000 tax revenue is designated to support the maintenance, renewal, and capital expenses of NTU.

Delegate Witherspoon was joined by NTU President Elmer Guy, who said he along with Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) testified before the Arizona State Legislature to explain to lawmakers that the funding will be used for capital outlay projects at NTU’s smaller sites in the communities of Chinle and Teecnospos.

President Guy also thanked members of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Rep. Albert Hale D-St. Michaels (District 7), and former Sen. Jack Jackson Jr. D-Ganado (District 7) for their support and assistance in securing the additional funding.

The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee also considered the legislation during a special meeting held earlier in the morning, and referred it to the Budget and Finance Committee with a “do pass” recommendation with no amendments.

The Budget and Finance Committee serves as the final authority for the legislation.

The compact will take effect when signed by Gov. Jan Brewer which was initially scheduled to take place on Feb. 27; however, the signing may take place in March, according to President Guy.

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