



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Navajo Nation finalizes the amended Arizona Funding Compact to provide \$875,000 annually for Navajo Technical University



Photo: Speaker Johnny Naize, Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon, Navajo Technical University President Dr. Elmer Guy, Dr. Maggie George, and Diné College President and former Council Delegate Andy Ayze look on as President Ben Shelly and Gov. Jan Brewer sign the amended Compact.

PHOENIX – On Wednesday, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) and Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) were in attendance at a signing ceremony for the recently amended Arizona Funding Compact between the Navajo Nation and the State of Arizona.

Delegate Witherspoon sponsored Legislation No. 0038-14, which was unanimously approved by the Budget and Finance Committee on Feb. 19, allowing Navajo Technical University to receive a portion of Transaction Privilege Tax revenues collected on the Navajo Nation.

“I fully support the purpose of educational capital projects for both of our Navajo Nation higher education institutions. The easiest way to raise the quality of life for individuals, families, and extended families is through education,” said Delegate Witherspoon following the signing

ceremony. "Education provides the opportunity for more choices in life. Greater choices provides for enhanced quality of life."

Gov. Jan Brewer and Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed off on the amended compact which will provide approximately \$875,000 on an annual basis to support maintenance, renewal, and capital expenses for NTU.

The funding was made possible by Arizona H.B. 2009, which amended the state's TPT Code to allow for the allocation of tax revenues for NTU, in addition to the \$1.75 million that the Navajo Nation currently receives annually for Diné College under the same compact.

Following the signing ceremony, Speaker Naize said the additional funding will help NTU to further expand educational opportunities for Navajo students living in remote areas of the Navajo Nation and thanked members of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council for their assistance in developing and approving the amended compact.

NTU President Dr. Elmer Guy was also in attendance and has previously stated that the funding will be used for capital outlay projects at NTU's smaller sites in the communities of Chinle and Teecnospos.

The compact will remain in effect until the year 2020, unless extended prior to its expiration.

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