



## DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

“Land, Water, Power and Quality of Life”

P.O. Box 9000

Window Rock, Arizona

86515

Tel (928)871-6592

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 26, 2013**

Contact: Geri Hongeva  
Media Representative  
geri@navajonationparks.org

### The Future of Energy Resources Depends on the Innovative New Generation



September 7, 2013, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Director of Division of Natural Resources, Frederick H. White congratulates Tayshaun Dale for a job well done at the Energy Expo Youth Science Technology Competition at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock, Az. (Photo by Geri Hongeva)

WINDOW ROCK, AZ. – The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair brings a variety of family fun, including the Energy Expo and the Youth Science Technology Competition. Division of Natural Resources and its sponsors coordinate five days of educating the public about potential energy development and current operations on Navajo Nation.

The Energy Expo provides an opportunity for the public to learn from energy leaders around the Navajo Nation. It also brings energy awareness, to educate the public about potential energy development from local energy sources. The energy companies brought representatives to answer any inquiries about their organizations and expand on some energy solutions for Navajo.

Division of Natural Resources collaborated with Office of the President and Vice President to introduce the Energy Expo three years ago. Together, they hope to form enough interest for Navajo youth to learn more about traditional, renewable and sustainable energy resources. Launching new ideas and moving towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly industry for Navajo country.

“Our future lies within the young minds and hearts of the new generation, we want to inspire them to be proactive when it comes to preserving and managing Navajo’s Natural Resources,” explained

Frederick H. White, Director for Division of Natural Resources. My team works very hard to plan for the Energy Expo, I commend them for their positive spirit to make this happen, they have done an excellent job working closely with our sponsors, added White.

The Youth Science Competition includes four grade levels; 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. The project categories are: Science, Math & Statistics, Natural Resources (Energy), Technology/Engineering, and Computer Applications. There were 30 entries from schools including; Navajo Preparatory School, Tsehootsoi Intermediate Learning Center, Kirtland Middle School, Tsehootsoi Middle School, St. Michael Indian School, Tsehootsoi Dine Bi'Olta and Window Rock High School.

The Youth Science Competition Winners are:

Category 1 – Grades 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kaydee Watchman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Dine Bi'Olta
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Loxitawny Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Dine Bi'Olta
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tayshaun Dale, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, St. Michael Indian School

Category 2 – Grades 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jacob Harvey, N/A
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kylie Watchman, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Dine Bi'Olta
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Eli Yazzie, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Intermediate Learning Center

Category 3 – Grades 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Taylor Yazzie, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Kirtland Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jacob Martinez, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jaden Redhair, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Middle School

Category 4 – Grades 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Deshina Joe, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Navajo Preparatory School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tyler Bahe, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Navajo Preparatory School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Krystelle Boyd, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Navajo Preparatory School

The winners received Nikon Coolpix S3500 digital cameras, \$250 Best Buy Gift Cards, Samsung Galaxy Note 10.3 and the Grand Prize Winner received a MacBook Pro. These prizes would not have been possible without the Energy Expo Sponsors: Navajo Generating Station, Resolute, Peabody Energy, Arizona Public Service, Abandon Mine Lands (AML), NTUA, Navajo Nation Oil & Gas, Public Service of New Mexico, Water Management, Nova Corporation, NTUA /NTUA Wireless, Navajo Technical Energy Co, Department of Water Resources, Forestry Department and Navajo Land Department.

The overall winner, Brayden Watchman, 5th grader of St. Michaels School won the MacBook Pro by scientifically explaining “the Life Cycle of a Duck.” The ten-year old scientist did an outstanding job displaying his observation and did a remarkable job verbally explaining the life cycle of a duck to the judges. He showed enthusiasm and demonstrated confidence throughout the competition.



Brayden Watchman, 10 years old with his father and aunt at the Navajo Nation Fair Energy Expo, September 7, 2013. (Photo by Geri Hongeva)

“It was exciting to see the students bringing in their projects, this competition has grown since our first year with only three entries. We look forward to next year’s competition at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair in September 2014,” stated Michelle Henry, Division of Natural Resources Energy Expo Coordinator. Special appreciation to Energy Expo Committee members: Irma Roanhorse,

Hope Wilson, Charlene Roanhorse, Everytt Begay, Mike Halona and Alyssa Roanhorse.

On Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Energy Expo highlighted the ‘Faces of Navajo Achievers.’ The Faces of Achievers are Navajo Professionals who have contribute their services in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Natural Resources for demonstrating leadership, authenticity and innovation to lead their colleagues and programs by achieving excellence in moving the Navajo Nation forward, one step at a time.

Navajo Achievers for this year’s Energy Expo are: Stephen Etsitty from Navajo Nation EPA, Virgil Coriz from Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative Inc., Keith Keetso from Red Gap Engineering, Ryan James from Navajo Nation Land Department, Rita Whitehorse-Larsen from Navajo Nation EPA, Robert Kirk from Navajo Nation Water Management, Darryl Bradley from Navajo Division of Transportation, Eugenia Quintana from Navajo Nation EPA, Howard Draper from Navajo Land Department, Pam Kyselka from Navajo Fish & Wildlife, and Harrison Tsosie from Navajo Department of Justice.

During the event, we had two guest speakers that shared their knowledge and experiences in the areas of Science, Engineering, Technology and Natural Resources. Guest speakers were: Steve Gundersen with Tallsalt Advisors and Navajo Transitional Energy Company Managing Chair, and Theresa Becenti-Aguilar with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.

The Energy Expo brings innovative ideas together and promotes an energy conscious society and initiates effective networks for students, educators, businesses, government and community leaders to plan for energy development here on Navajo Nation. Division of Natural Resources is one of the largest divisions within the Navajo tribe, managing and supervising twelve departments which strives to preserve and protect the natural resources of Navajo Nation is an immense duty.

For more information visit Division of Natural Resources website at: [www.dnrnavajo.org](http://www.dnrnavajo.org) or call (928) 871-6592.

###