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## Navajo President and Vice President Offer Gratitude for Teachers

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim offered a statement of gratitude for teachers and educators for National Teachers Day.

“Ahe’hee’ to all our teachers and educators who help lead our Navajo children down the educational path to enhance our Navajo Nation’s future.

Our educators work tirelessly to broaden our children’s perspective. Our teachers are often underpaid and work beyond their scope because they believe in the potential of our children. Thank you for instilling a base of knowledge that will help our children climb the ladder of education.

Thank to parents as well, who are the first teachers of our children.

But, we all must keep in mind that our Navajo traditions and culture must also be taught and respected. During the past few weeks, I observed our children being disrespectful to our elders. That saddened my heart because as Navajo people, we are taught to respect our elders.

We need to continue implementing the teachings from our Navajo way of life. That is the basis by which we exist as Diné People.

So teachers please remember our Nation has entrusted you with our most precious resource- our children.

We extend our gratitude to our teachers for their dedication and perseverance in brightening the future of our Navajo Nation.”

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