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President Shelly Welcomes 2012 IIFR Contestants



ALBUQUERQUE—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly addressed the cowboys and cowgirls at the 2012 International Indian National Finals Rodeo (IIFR) welcome reception yesterday evening.

“I support the sport of rodeo because it perseveres our Native culture and tradition. Horses are sacred animals. They are in our songs and prayers and we need to take care of them. Rodeo teaches us that responsibility,” President Shelly stated.

The IIFR begins today with an evening performance at 6:30 p.m. and runs through Sunday afternoon.

With over 200 contestants and guests attending the welcome reception and banquet, hosted by the Indian Pueblo Culture Center, President Shelly encouraged the contestants.

“Every time you go out there to compete, say a prayer. Be safe and keep thinking positive. Do your best and give your all.” Shelly stated.

“We learn from the elders and rodeo legends that we need to continue to show good sportsmanship.”

President Shelly handed out awards to wildcard event winners of the Navajo Nation Fair & Rodeo.