



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## President Nez congratulates PNM Navajo Nation Workforce Training Initiative graduates at Navajo Technical University

**CROWNPOINT, N.M.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez had the honor of joining Navajo Technical University President Dr. Elmer Guy, PNM Senior Vice President of Public Policy Ron Darnell, and Council Delegate Mark Freeland to honor 14 scholarship recipients of the PNM-Navajo Nation Workforce Training Initiative who will be graduating on May 17 from Navajo Technical University, in Crownpoint, New Mexico.



**PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and First Lady Phefelia Nez with scholarship recipients of the PNM-Navajo Nation Workforce Training Initiative at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M. on May, 15, 2019.**

The PNM-Navajo Nation Workforce Training Initiative was established in 2013 when PNM and the Navajo Nation partnered with Navajo Technical University and San Juan College, to develop and administer the program on behalf of PNM and the Navajo Nation. The program is designed to ensure that New Mexico and the Four Corners area have the trained workforce needed for existing and emerging jobs, and that members of the Navajo Nation are well positioned to meet the need.

“On behalf of Vice President Myron Lizer and the Navajo people, we congratulate our Diné students for their great achievements and for taking their academic goals a step further,” stated President Nez. “We also thank PNM for creating the scholarship program that has benefitted many of our people over the years.”

PNM contributed \$1 million, which was distributed in the amount of \$200,000 annually over the past five years to Navajo student scholarship recipients. NTU receives \$77,000, San Juan College receives \$114,000; and PNM American Indian Engineering Program \$9,000. PNM is continuing its

commitment to the initiative beyond the planned five-year program schedule. During the 2018-19 School year, PNM provided an additional \$25,000 worth of scholarship funding to more than 30 Navajo Technical University students.

Wednesday's ceremony was held at the Navajo Technical University campus in Crownpoint to recognize 10 students including:

- Corwin R. Largo – BS, Industrial Engineering
- Adriane A. Tenequer – BS, Industrial Engineering
- Darreth R. Johnson – AAS, Automotive Technology
- Corey Long – AAS, Construction Technology
- Nolan R. Burnside – Certificate, Commercial Driver License
- Michael N. Bates, – Certificate, Commercial Driver License
- Brenton J. Biakaiddy – Certificate, Commercial Driver License
- Tyson F. Charley – Certificate, Commercial Driver License and Construction Technology
- Daniel J. Stevens – Certificate, Commercial Driver License
- Walter K. Francis, Jr. – Certificate, Welding

“These students have bright futures ahead of them and we are very proud of each of them. Our Nation has many intelligent and motivated young people who will make our Nation stronger and economically successful,” stated President Nez.

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