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President Ben Shelly Receives Honorary Doctorate For Humanities

Shiprock, NM—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly was presented an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humanities on July 2, from the United Graduate College and Seminary by Dr. Clyde Rivers and Dr. Robert Ornales for his national advocacy in tribal education and health. He was honored at the Indian Nations Gathering 2011, an Indian spiritual event representing 18 tribes, at the Shiprock Fairgrounds.

“I am privileged to receive this Honorary Doctorate from the United College & Seminary,” President Shelly told the audience of about 800 people. “I have experience many challenges in my life and learned many lessons. We will continue to work hard for the Navajo Nation and our people.”

Dr. Rivers, Chief Chancellor of Educational Development Worldwide for United Graduate College and Seminary stated, “President Ben Shelly is being honored with the Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humanities, for his strong stance as a national advocate for health and education for the tribal nations across the United States. All great leaders look out for the betterment of their people and do not focus on personal gain. President Shelly is a man of honor that demonstrates this excellent spirit of leadership. Because of his leadership the Navajo Nation is developing in major ways.”

Dr. Robert Ornelas, a member the leadership team for the college, nominated President Shelly for this honorable occasion. Former Navajo Nation President Kelsey A. Begaye and Ralph Dee of Solid Rock Outreach were also presented with honorary doctorate degrees.

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