



**CONTACT:** Charmaine Jackson  
Communications Director  
Office: (928) 871-7884  
Cell: (928) 637-5507  
charmainejackson@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release  
May 11, 2011

## President Shelly Appoints Clara Pratte as Navajo Nation Washington Office Executive Director

**Window Rock, AZ**—Today, President Ben Shelly appointed Clara Pratte (Navajo) of Lupton, Arizona to serve as the director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. She was the former National Director of the Office of Native American Affairs of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Ms. Pratte has extensive experience in small business development and took a leading role in Indian Country by helping small business owners and entrepreneurs secure financing, technical assistance, training and federal contracts.

“I appointed Clara Pratte for her demonstrated leadership and management skills in addition to her expertise in solving public policy issues,” stated President Shelly. “She understands the Navajo Nation’s priorities and will do an exceptional job as our new executive director.”

Prior to joining the Small Business Administration, Ms. Pratte worked for the Navajo Nation Washington Office as a policy analyst and legislative liaison focusing on economic and community development, housing, and education issues.

Ms. Pratte said, “I am honored and humbled to have been asked to serve the Shelly-Jim Administration in this capacity. I will build upon the foundations implemented by my predecessors to ensure that the Navajo Nation has a seat at the table in all federal matters. I will seek to build alliances and communicate the Nations' priorities and goals to our federal agencies, congressional members, and other critical stakeholders.”

Previous to Navajo Nation, she was a trade specialist in the U.S. Foreign and Commercial Service at the Department of Commerce in the International Trade Administration. She counseled various U.S. companies on exporting. She also worked for the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) where she oversaw IT projects for the U.S. Foreign and Commercial Service and the Import Administration.

Ms. Pratte has a Bachelor of Science degree in business from the University of Arizona, and a Master of Science degree from Carnegie Mellon University at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management. Her academic accolades include a H. John Heinz Tribal Affairs Fellow, Udall Foundation Congressional Fellow and a Presidential Management Fellow.

“In the short term I plan to implement a robust communications plan to ensure our leadership is informed on federal matters so that they can continue to make policy decisions in the best interest of the Navajo people,” she added.

###