



# Proclamation

## In Honor of the Graduating Class of 2011

*My grandchild, education is the ladder. Tell our people to take it.*

*~ Chief Manuelito, Hastiin Ch'ilhaajinii,*

**WHEREAS**, During this time of year our Navajo families and friends gather to honor the academic achievement of our students and share in celebration of their graduation. Through this special time, the Navajo Nation recognizes their accomplishments and remembers our elders whose wisdom has strengthened our Nation today; and

**WHEREAS**, The new found knowledge of our graduates will reinforce our shared commitment for positive change and move our Nation forward; and

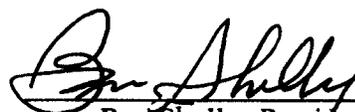
**WHEREAS**, It is our time and our responsibility to strengthen our sovereignty, uphold greater self-determination, and work toward individual independence as our Nation retakes its rightful place as a local, national and global leader; and

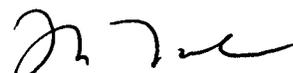
**WHEREAS**, Alongside our parents and grandparents, I encourage our students to seek every opportunity while preserving our sacred songs and ceremonies, learning our language and upholding our core values; and

**WHEREAS**, We gather together to honor our mentors and our educators, whose positive words have guided your journey to graduation. With your academic success, our people stand with you as you return to our homeland to help build a more prosperous Nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEN SHELLY**, President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby recognize the dedication and hard work of all our graduates in this year of 2011.

**ORDERED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2011**

  
Ben Shelly, *President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

  
Andrew M. Tah, *Superintendent of Schools*  
**DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION**