

Contact: Karen Francis, Public Information Officer  
Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker  
(928) 871-7160  
karenfrancis@navajo.org  
[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: Wednesday, June 7, 2006

## **COUNCIL DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT**

Navajo Nation Council delegate Pete Ken Atcitty was honored with a Special Recognition Award during the Navajo Nation Small Business Awards ceremony held at the Economic Development Summit on June 7, 2006.

“Aside to his duties and commitments, Councilman Atcitty always manages to make time to listen to his community constituents and issues concerning the Shiprock community, as well as the Navajo Nation, and stopping by our office for an update,” the Shiprock Regional Business Development Office stated.

Atcitty, one of three delegates representing Shiprock Chapter, was 26 years old when he was elected to the 20<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration management from New Mexico Highlands University.

Atcitty currently serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, the Northern Agency Caucus Whip, and is a member of the Navajo Engineering Construction Authority Board of Directors.

Others that received awards include:

- New Business Start Up – Enchantment Physical Therapy, Gallup, New Mexico
- Business of the Year – Thompson’s Station and Market, Churchrock, New Mexico
- 2006 Successful Business Person – Michael Nelson, owner of True Value and Church’s Chicken in Dilkon, Arizona
- Business Person of the Year – Jeffrey S. Manning, owner of That’s A Burger, Manning’s car wash and The Rock storage company in Shiprock, N.M.

Earlier in the day, about 100 participants heard welcome remarks from Economic Development Committee Chairperson Lawrence Platero (Tohajilee) and Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale).

Platero provided an update on Business Site Leasing Act that was passed by the Economic Development Committee and submitted to the federal government. The amendments would eliminate the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the process in obtaining a business site lease on the Navajo Nation.

“Our committee has been moving forward in getting these regulations in place. I think we’ve finally got things squared away,” Platero said adding that the regulations would benefit the Navajo people by streamlining the process and cutting down on the time it took to obtain a lease.

Speaker Morgan relayed the message that the Navajo Nation needs to utilize the skills and education that Navajo people have but often use off the reservation. He noted that in the past, Navajo people traveled far for jobs in the agricultural and railroad industries. When they returned home, there was no way to apply their skills.

It is the same situation today, the speaker said. He encouraged the attendees to find innovative ways to employ the resources available.

###