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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Navajo Agricultural Products Industry Presents \$500,000  
Dividend to Economic Development Committee and Navajo  
Scholarship Office for Navajo Students**

FARMINGTON, N.M. – Council delegate Tom LaPahe (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whipporwill) said his economic development committee members should celebrate and recognize a historic moment for the Navajo Nation's Navajo Agricultural Products Industry during the recent committee meeting on Wednesday, June 6 at the NAPI headquarters.

The committee approved by a vote of 6-0 to accept a \$500,000 dividend from NAPI.

The NAPI administration and five-member board presented the dividend to the EDC and the Navajo Nation Scholarship Office intended specifically for academic scholarships.

"We've received money for our children," LaPahe said in Navajo. "This is history in the making for NAPI. Aó, áhééhé ('Yes, thank you.')

Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) said when he learned of the dividend return of a quarter million dollars he felt "jubilant about the return of goods on the national and international levels to the Navajo Nation."

He extended accolades and gratitude to the Honorable Speaker Edward T. Begay, a NAPI board member, who was in attendance during the EDC meeting.

"NAPI is going to be touching many young lives, students' lives so that each of them will further his/her formal education," Speaker Morgan added.

Lawrence Platero (Tóhajiilee), EDC chairperson, praised each of the committee members by saying, "Pat yourself on the back. We have this historic moment."

Erin Chavez, NAPI Board Chairperson, and Tsosie Lewis, NAPI Chief Executive Officer, presented the \$500,000 check and credited the Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the Speaker for NAPI's success of funding surplus.

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## **Page 2-2-2/Begay/ED\_Approves\_\$500,000**

“We want to give money back to the Navajo Nation,” Chavez said, adding that he gives credit to the NAPI workers for their hard work that made NAPI produce a profit. “On behalf of the NAPI employee, we wish to share our profit with the Navajo Nation to help our children pursue their higher education endeavors. We are grateful for your leadership and support of the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry.”

Colaine Curtis, NAP Chief Financial Officer, and Rose Graham, Navajo Scholarship Office Director, presented a memorandum of understanding that the Navajo Scholarship Office will provide a detail report of accounting of funds, number of students served and each student’s course of studies.

The Navajo Scholarship office will help NAPI with recruitment for summer internships and long-term employment and that each student will be informed that fund they are receiving are provided by NAPI.

The NAPI board members are chairperson Chavez; Gary Nelson, vice-chairperson; Jeannie Y. Benally, secretary; Lyndon Chee, member and Edward T. Begay, member.

The Navajo Nation Scholarship full-time application deadline for fall 2007 is scheduled for 5 p.m. June 25, 2007. Application requirements can be found at [www.onnsfa.org](http://www.onnsfa.org)