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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie Continues Work on the
Internet-to-the-Hogan-Project with Premiere Navajo Language
Digital Broadcast from Ramah Navajo TV Station**

*Internet-to- the-Hogan partners have demonstrated a
Genuine and concerted commitment to ending the digital divide in New Mexico*

PINEHILL, N.M. – Council delegate Leonard Tsosie (Whitehorse Lake/Pueblo Pintado/Torreon) and Internet-to-the-Hogan project colleagues and partners watch a historic Navajo-language digital broadcast on a digital television at the Ramah Navajo School Dormitory during the latest ITTH meeting last Friday, May 18.

Tsosie who spearheaded the project observed Jim Gale of KNME-TV, Bernie Bustos, the Division Director for Community Services for the Ramah Navajo School Board, and KNME-TV Engineer Dan Zillich organize the transmission of the first digital television signal broadcast in the Navajo language.

“This is making history,” said Tsosie who began the project initiative when he was a New Mexico State Senator. “The Ramah Navajo television station at Pinehill is the first television station to broadcast in the Navajo language through a digital television signal. It makes a lot of things possible that were not possible before.”

The premier broadcast of a children’s program featured Navajo language speakers, Jeanne Whitehorse of the New Mexico Tribal Libraries Program and Kee Long of the Office of Navajo Nation Broadcast Services that was broadcasted from a Ramah Navajo television station.

“Why can’t PBS’s Big Bird learn Navajo?” Tsosie asked. “We could teach him. Our children are always watching television, if they could watch Big Bird and learn Navajo as they eat their cereal in the morning, they could become fluent in both Navajo and English.”

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During the digital broadcast, Whitehorse also explained that she teaches elders how to use computers at the chapter houses. She explained that technical words to them that may not have a Navajo language translation.

Long, Manager of the Office of Navajo Broadcast Services, talked about the history of television on the Navajo Nation. He developed the first television station, NNTV5 that began during the 1970s.

The meeting that included numerous professional colleagues who each have a vested interest in the project ended with words of appreciation and encouragement to the group from Tsosie. "Nizhoni," he said. "Beautiful! We're not just talking, we are doing something."

"I believe everyone who attended enjoyed the meeting and the unveiling of our Digital TV station," Bustos said. "I really appreciate the partnership we have with KNME-TV. They are the ones who really made this possible and it will be a great service to the Ramah Community."

Tsosie will convene the next meeting of the ITTH project in Crownpoint, N.M. during mid-August. The meeting will showcase a high-speed wireless system at the hogan level designed and implemented by Navajo Technical College. As one way to demonstrate this, a student living in a remote community will receive communication via voice, video and data from a Native American mentor at a college campus.

"This way young people living in remote areas will have a college mentor and learn about opportunities they wouldn't otherwise know about," Tsosie said.

Internet to the Hogan Initiative meeting participants are AT&T, Navajo Technical College, Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology, Cellular One, Cisco Systems, Diné College, Diné Department of Education, Educational Funding Group, Edgenet Technologies, Gallup-McKinley County Schools, Hans-Werner Braun, IBM, Indigenous Institute for Native Arts, Internetwork Experts, KNME-TV, KTDB-FM Ramah Navajo School Board, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, National Network of Digital Schools, Native American Television Network, Navajo Educational Technology Consortium, Navajo Nation Broadcast Service, NNTV5, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, Navajo Nation Indian Health Service, Navajo Nation Smith Lake Chapter, Navajo Nation White Rock Chapter, Navajo School Board Association, Navajo Nation Community Development Department, Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology, Navajo Technical College, Navajo Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, New Mexico Indian Education Division, New Mexico Public Education Department, New Mexico State Library, New Mexico Tribal Libraries Program, Nizhoni Smiles Inc, Northern Arizona University, Sacred Wind Communication, Inc. Sandia National Laboratories, UNM Center for Native American Health, UNM Center for Telehealth, UNM Extended University, UNM Gallup Branch, UNM Information Technology Services, UNM Institute for American Indian Education, UNM Center for High Performance Computing and the University of San Diego Super Computing Center and Western New Mexico University.