NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

STATE OF THE NAVAJO NATION ADDRESS

2019 Winter Session | 24th Navajo Nation Council

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
GREAT SEAL OF THE NAVAJO NATION

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Message from the President and Vice President

On behalf of our Administration, we congratulate the 24th Navajo Nation Council and we look forward to building a positive and productive working relationship with each of you for the benefit of our people and the Navajo Nation. We also congratulate all of the elected officials from local, county, state, and federal levels for being elected or re-elected to serve in office.

Most importantly, we thank our Diné citizens. Without you, we would not be in the position to lead our Nation and help our Diné people today. We have met many people with unique perspectives who brought a wide variety of matters to our attention, but on the campaign trail it was apparent that they had one common notion in mind when it came to our Nation's government – the need for change. We visited over 70 communities, including those represented by the members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council. To our colleagues on the Council, the call for change is what got each of us elected and we must work together to fulfill the mandate of the Navajo People.

We were very grateful to receive over 65-percent of the votes from Navajo voters in the General Election. This high percentage signifies a mandate from the Navajo People, a mandate to create positive change and in our view, change presents opportunity – the opportunity to work together to strengthen and empower our people and our communities.

We want the Navajo people to reinforce that teaching known as "T'áá hwó' ajít'éego," especially within our youth. We need to believe in ourselves individually, collectively, and at the government level to become self-reliant and determine our own future.

Working with the 24th Navajo Nation Council and the Judicial Branch, we need to look at our overall government structure and determine how we can become more efficient with our employees, our spending, and by eliminating the duplication of services. There is a likelihood that our Nation will have decreased revenues, so it is in the hands of us as leaders to work together to address these issues.

As a Nation, we also need to focus on the social issues that impact so many of our people. If we want change in our communities and throughout our Nation, it has to start from within ourselves as individuals, but some of our people need help doing that. Alcohol and substance abuse, depression, suicides, and mental illnesses are only a few of the problems that too many of our Navajo people face each day, especially among the young people in our society. We need to instill a greater sense of hope and let them know that we care about them.

Our people can have running water and electricity in every home, we can have a strong economy where everyone has a job and is doing well financially, but if we do not address the underlying problems that are affecting our people, our families, and within our homes, then those material things will not mean much in terms of improving the quality of life for our people.

In this State of the Navajo Nation Address, we will provide you with an overview of our Administration and an outline of our priorities – the priorities of the Navajo People. We strongly believe that our faith in our Creator has guided us to this point and that we have assembled a great team that will work together to advance the priorities of the Navajo Nation.

We also take this opportunity to thank our past leaders former President Russell Begaye, Speaker LoRenzo Bates, and the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for their leadership and service to our Nation. We thank each of you and wish you well moving forward.

In closing, we once again congratulate the 24th Navajo Nation Council. Thank you for taking on the challenge of serving your people and your communities. I assure you that the Nez-Lizer administration will work with you to create a better future for all of our people.

God bless each of you, and God bless our great Navajo Nation!

Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President Jonathan Nez and Myron Lizer Administration

Statement from President and Vice President:

The day after we were elected into office, we established a strong and diverse transition team to evaluate and assess potential candidates to serve in the highest positions for the Navajo Nation. We had approximately 200 applicants across the country, many of which wanted to come home and serve our Nation.

We assessed their academic and professional accomplishments and experience, but most importantly we examined their character and their passion to help our people and our Nation. We are truly grateful to everyone who showed interest in working for our administration.

The following appointees will serve the Nez-Lizer Administration. We are proud to say that we have our team in place, and that we are ready to get to work to bring change to the Navajo Nation!

Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, Chief of Staff – Paulson Chaco

Paulson Chaco will serve as the Chief of Staff for the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President for the Nez-Lizer Administration. Mr. Chaco previously served the Navajo Nation as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation. We are confident that Mr. Chaco will serve the Navajo People well.

Navajo Nation Attorney General – Doreen Nanibaa McPaul

With 18 years of experience practicing Indian law, we are pleased to be bringing home one of our own, Doreen Nanibaa McPaul, whose hometown is Chinle. She is a graduate of Princeton University and earned her Juris Doctorate from ASU College of Law, where she also received a Certificate in Federal Indian Law and served as a staff writer for the ASU Law Journal.

After law school, Ms. McPaul clerked at the Arizona Court of Appeals, and then worked as a staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, as an associate attorney at the Nordhaus Law Firm in Albuquerque, and as a visiting clinical law professor and Interim Director of the Indian Legal Clinic at ASU.

Since 2008, Ms. McPaul has worked as an in-house tribal government attorney for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. In that capacity, Mrs. McPaul advised tribal departments, councils, leaders, boards, entities, etc. She is admitted to practice law in Arizona, New Mexico, the Navajo Nation, as well as before several other tribal and federal courts.

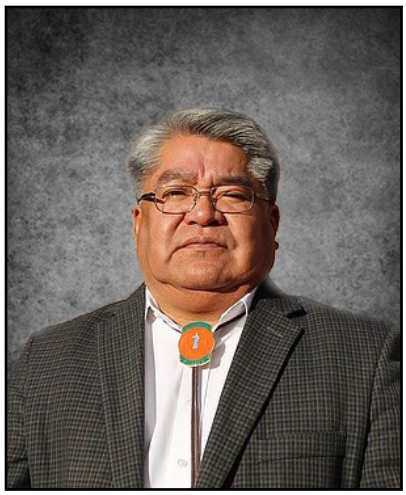
Navajo Nation Department of Health – Dr. Jill Jim

Dr. Jill Jim, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and fluent Navajo speaker, will be coming home to the Navajo Nation from Albuquerque, N.M. to serve as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Department of Health.

Dr. Jim has a Doctorate in Public Health, a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration, a second Master's in Public Health from the University of Utah. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Health Promotion and Community Health Education from Northern Arizona University.

Some of her work experience includes serving as a Health Care Analyst for HealthInsight in Albuquerque, N.M., consultant for Navajo Area Indian Health Service, and Epidemiologist for the Utah Department of Health.

Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety – Jesse Delmar



Jesse Delmar, fluent Navajo speaker, will continue building on the success that he and many others have worked hard for in the last several years, as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety.

He is a recent appointee by President Donald Trump to serve on the "Commission on Native American Children." He was recognized by the National Native American Law Enforcement Association to receive an award for "Director of the Year" by this association. He served as Vice-Chairman for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for many terms and served as President for the "Indian Country Intelligence Network" (ICIN) of Arizona for many terms. He served on the Executive Board of the Arizona Counterintelligence Information Center (ACTIC) in Arizona.

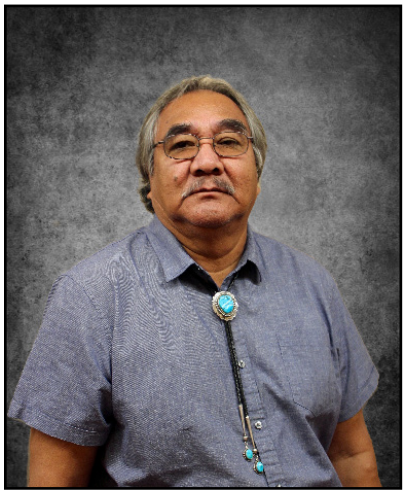
He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy. Delmar has a Bachelor's Degree in Administration of Criminal Justice with a Minor in Psychology from Northern Arizona University. He previously served as the Chief of Police for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and offers a vast knowledge and extensive public safety experience.

Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development – JT Willie

JT Willie, a fluent Navajo speaker, will serve the Nez-Lizer Administration as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development. Mr. Willie earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 2014 and Bachelors of Business Administration in 2008, from the University of New Mexico.

He has extensive marketing experiencing as the former Director of Marketing for the Navajo Arts and Crafts Enterprise and as the Director of Marketing for the Tséhootsooi Medical Center in Fort Defiance, Arizona. Mr. Willie is a young, enthusiastic person who will serve the division well.

Navajo Nation Division of General Services – Lomardo Aseret



Lomardo Aseret, a fluent Navajo speaker, brings many years of experience as the new Director of the Navajo Nation Division of General Services. He has Master's Degree in Public Administration from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelors of Science in Business Management.

For many years, Mr. Aseret has worked with Salt River Project in various capacities including management and supervisor positions. We look forward to having Mr. Aseret return home to the Navajo Nation to serve our Diné people.

Navajo Nation Washington Office – Santee Lewis

We welcome back another one of our own, as Santee Lewis will take on the role as Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. She has a Master of Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico.

She has exceptional experience working with the federal government as the previous Deputy Superintendent for the Eastern Navajo Agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior and as a Senior Advisor for the Federal Land Buy Back Program.

We are confident that Ms. Lewis will provide professional and expert knowledge and experience at the federal level to the Navajo Nation Washington Office for the benefit of the entire Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development – Dr. Pearl Yellowman

Dr. Pearl Yellowman will serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. She resides in Tuba City and is the co-owner of Yellowman Maho & Associates – a Diné women owned research and evaluation consulting company.

Dr. Yellowman has 20 years of experience serving tribal communities in the areas of implementation, funding source requirements, supervision, data collection, trainings and compliance. In addition, her experience is supplemented with extensive education. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, a Master's in Education, a second Master's in Counseling and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Montana.

Navajo Nation Division of Human Resources – Dr. Perphelia Fowler

Dr. Perphelia Fowler, a fluent Navajo speaker, will join the administration to serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Human Resources. Dr. Fowler has extensive human resources expertise and serves as the Human Resources Director at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M. She previously served in various human resources positions with the Red Mesa Unified School District and Diné College.

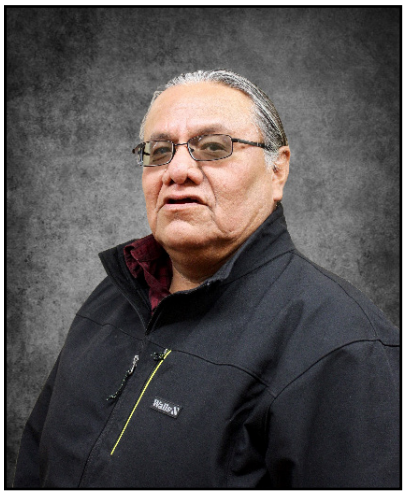
She earned a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership for Change from Fielding Graduate University, in Santa Barbara, CA., Master's Degree in Human Resources-Business Administration, and Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources-Business Administration.

Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency – Oliver Whaley

Oliver Whaley will serve as the Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. He has a Juris Doctorate from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, a Masters of Public Administration from Southern Utah University, and a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Wellness from BYU.

He serves as an Attorney with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice's Natural Resources Unit. Prior to joining the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, he served as a lawyer with Hadley-Whaley law firm and gained valuable experience with the Utah Court of Appeals.

Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office – Robert K. Black, Jr.



Robert K. Black, Jr., a fluent Navajo speaker and longtime resident of the Western Navajo Agency, will take on the task of Executive Director of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office. He serves as the Governance Manager for the Shonto Community Governance/Chapter and offers 14 years of experience in working with Din People at the grassroots level.

Among his previous leadership roles includes serving as a County Supervisor for the Navajo County Board of Supervisors – District 1, former Executive Board Member for Diné Bi Ołta School Board Association, and the Secretary/Treasurer for the Shonto Community Governance.

Navajo Nation Division of Transportation – Garret Silversmith

Garret Silversmith, a Navajo speaker, will continue building on the success that he and many others have worked hard for in the last several years, as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation. He has served in this role since 2016, and offers extensive knowledge in the Nation's transportation priorities, goals, and plans.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from New Mexico State University, and many years of engineering experience with private engineering firms and with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We look forward to supporting Mr. Silversmith and the Division of Transportation in the years to come.

Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources – Dr. Rudy R. Shebala

Dr. Rudy R. Shebala will serve as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. He has an extensive academic background, which includes a Master's Degree and Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho, and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science.

Navajo Nation Veterans Administration – John King

John King, a fluent Navajo speaker, served in the U.S. Navy beginning in September 1972 before receiving an honorable discharge in August 1975. He has served as the Commander for the Iyanbito Chapter, providing leadership and guidance for over 50 Navajo Veterans in the community.

Mr. King has a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico. He offers extensive knowledge and experience at the federal government level working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs in several management positions.

We are excited to have Mr. King on board. He is very passionate about helping Navajo Veterans and we look forward to supporting him and his office in the coming years.

Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President Priorities Statement

PRIORITIES STATEMENT

The Office of the President and Vice President is pleased to present the priorities listing for the Nez/Lizer Administration, which were developed based upon many conversations and dialogues with the Navajo People over the course of several months. We view the priorities as mandates set forth by the Navajo people.
During our campaign, we visited over 70 chapters/communities and the resounding call for change was overwhelming. Together, we have to work collaboratively to create solutions and positive change for our people.
This mandate by the Navajo people cannot be done by one branch of government alone, but rather through a cooperative working relationship in the coming years. We look forward to working with Navajo Nation Legislative and Judicial Branches as we address these issues for our great Navajo Nation.

Family

- *Early Childhood/Senior Centers in the same building or in the same vicinity*
- *Out of School or After School Youth centers with elder participation*
- *Battered family shelters*
- *Inter-Generational Teaching, Diné Way of Life teachings (Is just as important as mainstream education; Education begins at home)*
- *Parenting: fostering healthy relationships to ensure stability*
- *Office of Urban Relations, Diné Urban Support and Advocacy and constituent services*

Behavioral and Mental Health

- *Establish Detoxification Centers*
- *Research Transitional Housing, i.e. the homeless, DV.*
- *Sexual Assault Task Force*
- *Missing and Murdered Persons*
- *Building Communities of Hope (BCOH) – Suicide Prevention*
- *Trauma Care – Community listening Sessions with a referral process to help those in need, i.e. Veterans, PTSD, DV*

Housing

- *Sweat Equity/Volunteerism*
- *Re-evaluate the International Building Codes (IBC)*
- *Reconsider Navajo Building Codes*
- *Coordinate a Housing Summit and involve all partners*

Economic Development/Tourism

- *Create a "Sovereignty Day/Week (Buy Navajo, Buy Local)"*
- *Business & Contractor Training; i.e. board development, customer service, finance, investment, loans, others.*
- *Develop a Diné Travel Agency*
- *RBDO - Diné Chamber of Commerce*
- *Review marketing strategy (i.e. "Discover Navajo")*

- *Diversified businesses (Small, government, internet, etc.)*
- *Research "Rights of Way" (Ownership and infrastructure)*
- *Focus on policy change, i.e. government and environment*
- *Create and economic stimulus approach to business.*
- *Evaluate the loans given to businesses.*
- *Coordinate "round table" discussions with Navajo businesses.*
- *Diné Visitor Centers*
- *Support for Navajo Nation Enterprises*

Budget & Finance

- *Work with OOC to address the payment processes and bolster work force*
- *Track 638, HHS/IHS and BIA funding*
- *Understand the Super Circular*
- *Re-evaluate the 164 process*
- *Work with OMB and the departments/programs to better address the contracts, i.e. internal/external, 638, cost reimbursement, and multi-year contracts.*

Education & Cultural Language Preservation

- *Navajo Language Commission*
- *Make Navajo the official language of the Navajo Nation*
- *Need to fill all board/commissions vacancies*
- *UNDRIP - United Nation Declaration of Indigenous People/Antiquities Act and Repretriation Act*
- *Re-evaluate Title 10*
- *Work session on Head Start*
- *Scholarships; re-evaluate to include: Technical/vocational/trade institutions, years of service, how is freshman year funding appropriated, remediation courses, Loan forgiveness programs, and academic renewal*
- *Assess school boards (i.e. accountability and compliance)*
- *Boys & Girls Club of America*
- *Home school registry*
- *Financial Literacy (ie. Home insurance, life insurance, etc.)*
- *Adult education (GED)*
- *Drop-out prevention*
- *Truancy Policy*

Governmental Affairs & Policy

- *Bennett Freeze/ONHIR*
- *Water Rights – Utah, Little Colorado, Colorado Main stem, others*
- *Arizona Gaming Compact*
- *New Mexico Capital Outlay-Tribal Infrastructure Fund*
- *New Mexico & Arizona Surplus*
- *Utah Navajo*
- *AZ/NM Elder Appropriation*
- *Education: Impact Aid, JOM*
- *Energy Development/Initiatives: Renewables, Current Resources*
- *Transportation: Road infrastructure, Highway Trust Fund Reauthorization*
- *Federal Government Shutdown – Contingency Planning*

- *638, BIA, BIE, DHHS, OJP – Policy and Funding*
- *Antiquities Act 1902 Public Lands – Bears Ears*
- *Land Exchange*
- *Economic Development (i.e. Federal Policy, Stimulus Policy Change)*
- *Medicinal Marijuana*
- *Hemp production – Farm Bill*
- *RECA Amendments*
- *TRONOX/Uranium Mine Clean-Up*
- *ICWA – Indian Child Welfare Act*
- *United Nations – Human Rights*
- *Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women*
- *Re-evaluate Personnel Policies*

Public Safety

- *More Police Officers and Sub-Offices*
- *911*
- *First Net*
- *Officer Visibility, Community Policing Services*
- *NDPS Regional Training Academy*
- *Police Officer Recruitment Policy Change*
- *Justice Centers (Judicial, Police, Corrections)*
- *VAWA – Violence Against Women Act*
- *Missing Persons Unit*
- *Crisis Response Teams*
- *Regional Dispatch Centers*
- *Cross Commissioning Agreements*
- *Diné Action Plan (DAP)*
- *Expungement Code, (i.e. Criminal Records)*
- *Public Safety System: Prosecutors, Public Defenders, Judges*
- *Restorative Justice, i.e. Peacemaking program*
- *School/Office Safety*
- *Firearm/Gun Safety policy*
- *Title 17 Amendments*

Infrastructure

- *Roads*
- *Water*
- *Housing: Veterans, Elders, Employees,*
- *Transportation (i.e. transit)*
- *Office Complexes/Convention Centers*
- *$100 Million CPMD Síhasin Funding for Chapter Projects*
- *Bond Financing*
- *Water Treatment Plants*

Agriculture and Land Issues

- *Wind Mills/Earthen Dams*

- *Wind Farms*
- *Large Scale Farms, i.e. NAPI II*
- *Food Processing Centers*
- *Livestock Management*
- *Range, land Management and restoration*
- *Feral Horses*
- *Domestic Pet Control*
- *Drought Insurance Funding*
- *Grazing Regulations & Homesite Lease*
- *Waste Management/Recycling/Illegal Dumping*

Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President
First Lady Phefelia Herbert-Nez
Second Lady Dottie Lizer

PRIORITIES STATEMENT

Over the last several months, we had the honor of meeting thousands of Navajo families, parents, grandparents, and children across the Navajo Nation and beyond. As parents, we recognize and understand the challenges that Navajo families are facing everyday, but we remind you that through faith and the power of prayer we can overcome and prevail in many ways.

We have many areas of focus that require our attention including single parenting, foster parenting, reducing childhood trauma, behavioral and mental health issues, overcoming learning disabilities, and many others.
To all of the Navajo women and young ladies, we encourage you to pursue your educational goals as a means to becoming self-sufficient and to maintain your faith in our Creator to help you along the way. As Navajo women, we have many obstacles and challenges that test our faith everyday so it's important that we support one another and work together.

The following priorities for the First Lady and Second Lady are reflective of many meaningful discussions and conversations that we had with many of our Navajo People over the last several months. Together, we can strengthen our families by praying for each other and having love and compassion for everyone.

Priorities of the First Lady and Second Lady

- *Cooperative Extension Education*
- *Outdoor education centers*
- *Education, i.e. life-long learning*
- *Arts - Music, Drama, Dance, Cultural Art, Visual Art, Fiber Art.*
- *Literacy, i.e. Navajo Nation Library/Children's library*
- *Non- Profit partnerships and resources, i.e. United Way, employee giving, philanthropic opportunities*
- *Volunteerism*
- *Faith based initiatives*
- *Domestic Violence*
- *Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women*
- *Human Trafficking*
- *Financial Literacy*
- *Support Groups, i.e. suicide prevention, domestic violence, cancer survivors*
- *Women Entrepreneurs*

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