106 students funded by Navajo Nation scholarships graduate this spring; Chief Manuelito Awards Banquet scheduled for July 25 at Rehobeth High

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Scholarship Office has announced that 106 Navajo students funded by the Navajo Nation graduated from college during spring 2008 graduation ceremonies.

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., said the entire Navajo Nation joins with individual families in pride and to congratulate these graduates for their hard work and perseverance in reaching their educational goals.

“Continuing your education throughout your life is the most important thing you can do – for yourself and your family,” the President said. “The level of your education will determine how much you can help yourself, your family and your community. These students are among the first generation that will create hundreds of Navajo professionals that include doctors, nurses, lawyers, educators, engineers, scientists, and artists. And at the center of that personal and academic achievement is who you are as a Navajo person.”

The Scholarship Office reports that among the graduates are:

- 26 doctoral degrees, which include one doctorate of veterinary medicine, 12 education doctorates, five juris doctorates, five medical doctors, and four Ph.Ds.

- 50 master degrees, which include 28 masters of art degrees, 22 masters of science degrees,

- 17 bachelors of art and 30 bachelor degrees

These numbers do not include the more than 100 students who earned their associate degrees

Arizona State University had the most graduates with 29, followed by Northern Arizona University with 24 graduates and the University of New Mexico with 16 graduates (Graph 2). New Mexico State University and University of Arizona both have 4 graduates.

These numbers represent only those students funded through Navajo Nation scholarship. There are many more students at both the undergraduate and graduate level that attend colleges and universities throughout the country that are funded by other funding sources.

###