23rd Navajo Nation Council
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2017

MEDIA CONTACTS
Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
Crystalyne Curley (928) 286-7918
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Delegate Brown encourages Navajo youth to learn about traditional teachings regarding solar eclipse

TSAILE, Ariz. – On Monday, Aug. 21 the United States will experience a total solar eclipse in which the moon will pass between the sun and the earth from approximately 9:00 a.m. (MDT) to 2:00 p.m. (MDT), and will be visible across the Navajo Nation.

In reverence for the upcoming solar eclipse, the Diné College campus in Tsaile, Ariz. will host a traditional teaching event, which will include traditional guidance and prayer from Navajo medicine people from 10:00 a.m. (MDT) to 2:00 p.m. (MDT).

Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) said due to cultural protocols, Navajo people must follow traditional procedures as the solar eclipse takes place, and encouraged Navajo citizens to participate in the traditional teaching event.

"We as Diné are going to experience something that rarely happens across our lands, and we can use this rare opportunity to teach our children and people about the significance of the solar eclipse. We are reminded of how our ancestors revered this natural phenomenon, so I encourage our people, especially our youth, to participate in the traditional teaching and prayer gathering at Diné College," said Delegate Brown.

Delegate Brown said that according to the Navajo medicine people, the traditional protocols and practices for Navajo people during the entirety of the solar eclipse includes:

- Staying inside your home or building, especially expecting parents (mother and father)
- Refrain from drinking water/beverages or eating (fasting)
- Abstain from napping, intimacy, or publicizing/broadcasting the eclipse

The Navajo Nation government and its offices will be closed on Aug. 21 to respect the solar eclipse occurrence. In a memo drafted by the Navajo Nation's three branch chiefs, the Navajo government must abide by Fundamental Law and respect natural, customary, traditional, and common laws, as it is recognized in Title I of the Navajo Nation Code. Please see attached flyer.

# # #

Diné College – Tsaile Campus – Tsaile, AZ

Shiprock Campus and Branch Sites

College Students, Community, Staff and Faculty

Total Solar Eclipse – Monday, August 21, 2017 – 9:30am to 2:00pm

Classes and Work will resume as scheduled

Eclipse Natural and Traditional Law for the purpose of Wellness

Be reverend · *Ádaa áháyą́*

Be respectful · *Ádaa xą́ą́hwiindzin*

Be reflective · *Ádaa ákohwiindzin*

<u>Common Traditional Protocol and Practices</u>

Stay inside and do not expose to sunlight

Refrain from drinking beverages – eating (fasting)

No restroom or cleansing

No Napping

Expecting parents – stay inside to prevent prenatal infection

Avoid intimacy

Avoid public media and any broadcasting

Avoid scientific demonstration and presentations

Delay Lunch – cafeteria will accommodate

During the Event at the Tsaile Campus

Traditional Teaching will be conducted at the Tsaile Campus

10:00 to 2:00pm - *Bee ahił hane' dooleeł*

NHC Room 199 Dr. Wilson Aronilth	Student Union Building Avery Denny	North Hogan Roger Benally & Thomas Littleben Jr
Topic: Sun Eclipse related to natural law and wellness	Topic Astronomy Ceremonial: Holistic Healing education, sharing Do's and don'ts	Topic: *Diné Bináłch'ihjí* – knowledge from the Ceremonial perspective

If a session becomes filled a fourth presentation will be made available

ITV from Tsaile to Campus Branch and Sites may be available

Any one who will not be participating · Please find a place inside