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President Shelly Delivers Message of Unity During Mescalero Inauguration

MESCALERO, N.M.—Navajo Nation President Shelly stated a message of unity among Native American people during a speech at Mescalero Apache Tribe presidential inauguration Friday afternoon.

“Unity is heard often especially during inaugurations, but what ends up happening is divide and conquer. We need to unite together for our people.” President Shelly stated before nearly 200 people who attended the inauguration of Mescalero President Frederick Chino Sr.

Chino’s inaugural speech regarded the importance of culture for the young people.

“Don’t ever forget where you came from. Don’t forget who you are and don’t forget your language and culture,” Chino said.

Sandra Platero was inaugurated as Mescalero Vice President.

During the inauguration master of ceremony Freddie Kaydahzinne read letters from fifth grade students addressed to President Chino about improvements that needed to be made in the Mescalero community. Most of the letters addressed domestic violence, alcohol and hunger.

“As he read those letters, it made me emotional. I don’t want our children to feel that way or go through those situations. Our young ones are looking for love. Our words are powerful. The positive spoken word is what the children want.” President Shelly added.



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly delivers his message of unity during the Mescalero presidential inauguration on Friday, Jan. 13, in Mescalero, N.M.

Some of the tribal dignitaries in attendance included Apache leaders from the Jicarilla, Fort Still and San Carlos bands. U. S. Congressman Steve Pierce provided the inaugural address.

Also four Mescalero council member were sworn in during the inauguration; Vernon Scott, Alfred La Paz, Alice Diaz and June Shaw. Other council members serving out their term include Duane Duffy, Pete Kazhe and Ira Sago.

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