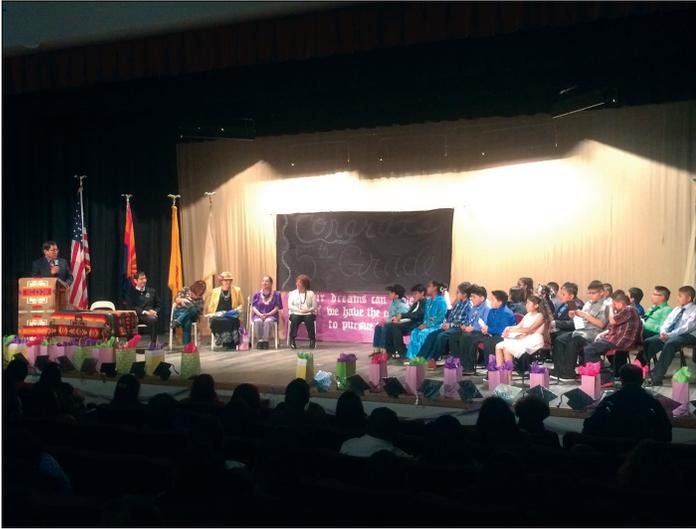




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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President Begaye, Vice President Nez issue message to Navajo graduates



President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez attended the Hunters Point Boarding School promotion ceremony on May 18. President Begaye encouraged the kids to continue their education. (Photo by Leo Hoskie)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Congratulations to the graduates of 2015!

That is the message from Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez. Education is a main pillar for the administration and their first round of cabinet appointments highlight that point.

“Congratulations to our high school graduates across the Navajo Nation. We are also very proud of all our graduates from the colleges and universities across the country,” said President Begaye. “Our administration is excited to bring you home to work for the Navajo people.”

On May 15, President Begaye spent the day in

Tempe to attend several meetings and convocation ceremonies. There were 368 graduates for the Arizona State University convocation ceremony and many of them were Navajo.

A unique partnership between ASU and the Navajo Nation provided an opportunity for three Navajo Head Start staff members to receive their master’s degrees in curriculum instruction and assessment, with an emphasis on early childhood education.

The partnership brought educators from ASU to the Navajo Nation to instruct the students on the weekends. More than 50 percent of Navajo Head Start staff have bachelor’s degrees.

Both leaders of the Navajo Nation view education as

the key to solve many of the challenges facing the tribe.

Vice President Jonathan Nez said, “I congratulate all of our Navajo students, from those being promoted to the next grade level, to our graduates from high school and college. I want to thank *shi nali*, President Begaye, for opening the doors to a lot of our educated folks coming back to the Navajo Nation.”

Vice President Nez attended convocation ceremonies last week and addressed the graduating students at Navajo Technical University and Northern Arizona University.

He also attended and spoke at the eighth grade promotion ceremony at Pueblo Pintado Community School, and the Red Valley-Cove High School graduation. He attended the Monument Valley High School graduation in Kayenta.

On May 21, Vice President Nez will be the commencement speaker for the Shonto Preparatory School promotion ceremony. The following day, he will be the commencement speaker at Monument Valley High School in Utah.

Both President Begaye and Vice President Nez attended the Hunters Point Boarding School promotion ceremony at the Navajo Nation Museum on May 18.

They thanked all of the schools, colleges and

universities for the invitations to speak at their events. Due to their busy schedule, they are not able to attend all ceremonies.

Dr. Peterson Zah, special advisor to the president, said, “This administration believes in education. For the thousand of students across the Navajo Nation, we want you to stay in school and do your homework every day. Help your school, local people, grandma and grandpa.

“And for you parents and grandparents, please support them. They’re coming home, just like Chief Manuelito said. Teachers and school boards, you too, must help us,” he added.

The Begaye-Nez administration appointed three Harvard educated appointees for cabinet positions in the administration and more appointments will be announced soon.

