



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Pearl Yellowman appointed to the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund board

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer congratulate Dr. Pearl Yellowman, who serves as the executive director of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, for her recent appointment to represent the Navajo Nation on the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) board. Dr. Yellowman was one of several candidates recommended by President Nez and Vice President Lizer to serve on the board.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Executive Director, Dr. Pearl Yellowman.

“We congratulate Dr. Yellowman and we also thank New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and Indian Affairs Secretary Lynn Trujillo for the selection. We’re very confident that Dr. Yellowman will do a great job,” stated President Nez.

New Mexico’s Tribal Infrastructure Act aims to ensure adequate financial resources for infrastructure development in tribal communities, provide for the planning and development of infrastructure in an efficient and cost-effective manner, and develop infrastructure in tribal communities to improve the quality of life and encourage economic development.

The Navajo Nation is awarded funds each year through the Tribal Infrastructure Fund. In addition to TIF, the Navajo Nation is awarded funds through the Capital Outlay Fund process, which is decided upon by the state legislature and the governor. This year, the Navajo Nation successfully secured over \$28 million in Capital Outlay Funds from the state of New Mexico for various projects for chapters.

On May 24, President Nez and Vice President Lizer along with Council Delegates Rickie Nez, Edmund Yazzie, Amber Kanazbah Crotty, and Jamie Henio of the 24th Navajo Nation Council held a signing ceremony to finalize documents to officially accept the \$28 million in funds. Each of the

delegates represents communities in New Mexico and each played a vital role in advocating for the funds during the most recent state legislative session.

“The successful outcome is due to the combined advocacy efforts of the Office of the President and Vice President and the 24th Navajo Nation Council. Working together, we were able to meet with legislators and the Governor on several occasions to explain how these funds will benefit our communities,” stated Vice President Lizer.

Included in the \$28 million allocation is \$2 million for renewable energy development, which will be used for a solar project at Paragon Ranch on the Navajo Nation, in accordance with the Nez-Lizer Administration’s renewable energy priorities.

The Nation will also receive over \$1 million to assist with the design and construction of a Navajo Code Talker museum and veterans center – a project that was of great importance and priority for the late New Mexico State Sen. John Pinto, who passed away on May 24.



PHOTO: President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council during a signing ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Ariz. on May 24, 2019.

“Sen. Pinto fought hard to fund the Navajo Code Talker museum and veterans center. Every time Vice President Lizer and I met with him, we discussed this project and now it’s in our hands to make sure it’s completed to honor his work and his great legacy,” President Nez added.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer thank Gov. Lujan Grisham, the state legislators, and the 24th Navajo Nation Council for their tremendous support.

“On behalf of the Navajo people, we offer our appreciation and gratitude to Governor Lujan Grisham and the members of the New Mexico State Legislature for supporting these much-needed infrastructure development projects,” said Vice President Lizer. “This represents one of the largest investments of Capital Outlay Funds for the Navajo Nation in recent history.”

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