



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director  
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer  
(928) 274-2758

[nnopvp.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nnopvp.communications@gmail.com)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2019

## Nez-Lizer moving forward with the development of housing manufacturing facilities

**TUBA CITY, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Acting Director of the Navajo Veterans Administration James D. Zwierlein met with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters on Tuesday, to continue the development of housing manufacturing facilities on the Navajo Nation. They also visited the site of the first potential housing manufacturing facility in the community of Tuba City, Ariz.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters is one of the country's largest building trades union with over a half-million members, including many members of the Navajo Nation. The union offers training and education through the Carpenters International Training Fund that is dedicated to job training and certification programs to increase the number of construction professionals with over 200 training facilities throughout the country.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer initially met with the union representatives on Aug. 22, to explore opportunities to bring exceptional carpentry training to the Navajo Nation, which would lead to increased construction and homebuilding.

The ultimate goal is to develop at least five housing manufacturing facilities on the Navajo Nation to build homes for veterans. President Nez and Vice President Lizer tasked Acting Director



**PHOTO: President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer with United Brotherhood of Carpenters representatives at a potential housing manufacturing site in Tuba City, Ariz. on Sept. 10, 2019.**

Zwierlein with establishing the housing manufacturing facilities, to provide high-quality homes that are built to last, in accordance with international building codes.

“This is an exciting opportunity to begin building homes for our people here on the Navajo Nation rather than relying on outside resources and companies. We can build our Navajo workforce using the thousands of skilled Navajo workers who are currently working off the Navajo Nation — we can bring our people home,” President Nez stated.

The group visited the site of a former housing construction facility that now houses staff with the Housing Improvement Program, to assess the feasibility of converting the office building to a housing manufacturing site.

President Nez said that for the housing initiative to succeed, it would require the support of the 24th Navajo Nation Council to provide funding to develop the manufacturing sites that can produce quality homes, including Navajo hogan-style designs with multiple rooms.

“We’re building a great partnership with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, and we’re very grateful for the guidance and expertise they’re providing to make this housing initiative effective to produce homes for veterans and Navajo families,” said Vice President Lizer.

Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office Executive Director Robert K. Black was also in attendance to discuss the possibility of producing homes for families in the communities commonly known as the former Bennet Freeze Area, where there remains a great need for housing and community development.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also spoke about the potential of partnering with Diné College and Tuba City Unified School District to support vocational training in carpentry, electrician, plumbing, welding and many more areas of workforce development.

“As we move forward with this initiative, we see more and more opportunities and greater potential to partner and to build a stronger Navajo workforce while providing essential housing needs for veterans and many others,” added President Nez.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.