



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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NTUA Choice Wireless constructs two more towers dedicated to improving cell phone and internet access for families, students, and first responders using CARES Act funds



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and NTUA officials celebrate the completion of a new NTUA Choice Wireless tower in Summit East, Ariz. on Dec. 17, 2020.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate Vince James, Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office Executive Director Christopher Becenti, NTUA Choice Wireless Deputy Director Vena Tsosie, and NTUA officials marked the completion and installation of a new NTUA Choice Wireless tower in the summit east area located west of St. Michaels, Ariz., which will provide increased cell phone and internet access to Navajo families, students, and first responders. Another tower located in Woodsprings, near Sawmill, Ariz., has also been completed.

The new towers were funded with a \$32 million CARES Act allocation approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council and signed into law by President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer on Aug. 16, which funded several more towers projects on the Navajo Nation in Pinedale, Beclabito, Tsaile/Wheatfields, and Chinle. Once funds became available in late August, NTUA and other partners expedited the construction of the new tower to meet the federal CARES Act deadline.

“This is another great milestone for the Navajo Nation, NTUA Choice Wireless, and all of the residents, first responders, and many others who will benefit. When we many students and employees doing their school work and duties online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this provides another great tool to help many of them. We know there is a great need for these services in many other communities. On behalf of the Navajo people, I thank NTUA and many others for expediting these projects during this pandemic,” said President Nez.

On Oct. 9, the Nez-Lizer Administration approved an additional \$15 million in CARES Act funds to provide more internet access, which was part of a legislation that also approved \$90 million for the Nation’s 110 chapters to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“NTUA has built great momentum and they e been working around the clock to complete a variety of infrastructure projects. This week, they also reported that 528 homes have been connected to the electric grid using CARES Act funds. They are also working on water cistern projects, water stations, and other initiatives that provide benefits for many years to our people,” Vice President Lizer stated.

Council Delegate Vince James, who represents the summit east area as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, commended his Council colleagues, President Nez, and NTUA Choice Wireless, and community members for their support for the project that will provide long-term benefits for many.

NNTRC Office Executive Director Christopher Becenti was also in attendance and spoke about the Navajo Nation’s efforts to increase telecommunications infrastructure and to secure additional spectrum capacity in the near future through the Federal Communications Commission.

“This is a significant milestone for our community here in summit east. We have a major highway that goes through the summit. This tower will alleviate years of connectivity issues and struggles for local residents, who can now rely on it for work and communications,” said NTUA Choice Wireless Deputy Director Velen Tsosie.

NTUA Choice Wireless is also working with contractors to finish another tower in the community of Beclabito, N.M., which is scheduled to be completed soon. The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks all of the NTUA employees and contractors for their hard work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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