



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2020

**Nez-Lizer honor and thank all educators with
Navajo Nation Teacher Appreciation Week proclamation**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation declaring May 6 – 8, 2020 as “Navajo Nation Teachers Appreciation Week” to honor and recognize all teachers, including parents, who dedicate their time and work to provide a long-lasting positive impact on the lives of students.

“Across the country, including the Navajo Nation, teachers have stepped up in many ways to be there for their students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work of educators changes the world for the better each day. We commend of all teachers for going above and beyond during this pandemic to continue educating our students through online coursework. We know that many of you spent many late nights making adjustments to their curriculum and schedules so that our students wouldn’t fall behind. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you,” said President Nez.

They also extend their heartfelt appreciation to all parents, those who homeschool their children and those who have taken on the daunting task of assuming the role of classroom teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also recognize and appreciate Navajo elders who continue to instill their teachings in students and families to this day.

“As parents, we are the first teachers in the lives of our children. COVID-19 has fundamentally changed our daily lives, and many parents now have the responsibility of making sure their children continue their education at home. We commend all of the parents who work at home and find time to teach English, math, and science to their children. To our elders, our grandmothers and grandfathers, thank you for passing along the teachings that make us a strong and prosperous people to this day. T’áá hwó’ ajít’éego, self-reliance or self-determination, is the teaching of our elders that our administration strives to instill in all of our Navajo people,” added President Nez.

The proclamation states, “Our Navajo Nation’s teachers fill many important roles as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators, and mentors, and they instill the teachings of our great leaders and ancestors who emphasized the importance of education as a means to creating a better future for our Diné People and communities.”

“When the COVID-19 outbreak hit the Navajo Nation, teachers immediately changed their entire lesson plans to work from distance learning overnight. As many teachers are sheltering in place, their hard work goes unnoticed in many ways. We know that many in-person commencement ceremonies will be canceled due to the ongoing pandemic, but we want to reassure all teachers that all of the students who are graduating are the products of your hard work and dedication. You, as teachers, are the answers to our prayers for the future,” said Vice President Lizer.

National Teachers Week is also recognized across the country this week in conjunction with “Navajo Nation Teachers Appreciation Week” from May 4 – 8, 2020.

###

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.



THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING MAY 4 - 8, 2020 AS

“NAVAJO NATION TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK”

WE owe an eternal gratitude to our first teachers, our parents. We owe special recognition to our school teachers who work tirelessly to give our children a view of our world, both modern and traditional. To our parents and our school teachers we give thank you and offer this special recognition.

WHEREAS, our Navajo Nation’s teachers work hard to make a lasting positive impact on the lives of Diné students, so they may achieve the highest levels, academically, and professionally; and

WHEREAS, our Nation’s teachers fill many important roles as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators, and mentors; and

WHEREAS, our Nation’s teachers instill the teachings of our great leaders and ancestors who emphasized the importance of education as a means to creating a better future for our Diné People and communities; and

WHEREAS, our Nation’s teachers help our Diné people to revitalize and preserve traditional, cultural teachings, and our sacred Diné language in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, our Nation’s teachers have the tremendous responsibility of caring and having compassion for students at every level of academics to foster their success in the classroom and in their personal lives; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim May 4 – 8, 2020 as “Navajo Nation Teachers Appreciation Week” throughout the Navajo Nation.

ORDERED THIS 6th DAY OF MAY 2020


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION