



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

November 12, 2020

**NTUA expands broadband access for students
first responders, and residents using CARES Act funds**



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, NTUA officials and local leaders and representatives at the tower site in Chinle, Ariz. on Nov. 12, 2020.

CHINLE, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer joined members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office Executive Director Christopher Becenti, Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish, Chinle Chapter President Myron McLaughlin and Vice President David Yazzie, Jr., and Diné College officials on Thursday, as NTUA marked the completion of new equipment installation on existing

towers in the communities of Chinle and Tsaile/Wheatfields in Arizona, which will greatly enhance internet access for students, first responders, and residents in the area.

The projects 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. The funds are being used to construct several more towers on the Navajo Nation thanks to the efforts of NTUA and other partners to expedite the projects to meet the CARES Act deadline.

“These projects will provide long-term benefits to help families, students of all ages with online learning, first responders during emergency situations, businesses, and many others. When we work together from the local level on up, NTUA has shown that projects can be expedited and completed quickly. I commend the NTUA work crews and management for their tremendous work to make positive changes in our communities. Not only is NTUA working on broadband expansion projects, but they have also connected over 343 families to the electric grid and continue to work on developing more water resources and wastewater infrastructure during this COVID-19 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. The completed projects will also benefit many Navajo students who are enrolled with Diné College and Navajo Technical University, which have campuses located in Tsaile/Wheatfields and Chinle.

“I thank everyone who laid their hands to this great work so that our Nation can move forward and continue developing our communities, expanding more opportunities for the education of our students, and increasing communication capacity for first responders. The CARES Act funds are making a difference on the Navajo Nation and we will continue to support projects that create long-term benefits for our Navajo people,” Vice President Lizer stated.

Council Delegates Carl Slater and Eugene Tso also who represent the Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter and Chinle Chapter respectively as members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, also recognized and thanked NTUA, leadership, and others who supported funding and the implementation of the telecommunications initiatives.

Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office Executive Director Christopher Becenti said he is excited to celebrate another milestone for telecommunications infrastructure on the Navajo Nation. He thanked all of the entities involved including the Federal Communications Commission, for working with the Navajo Nation to allow more access to spectrum usage for communities on the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority continues to make progress on water projects, electricity connections for homes, and telecommunications infrastructure with CARES Act funds.

###

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.