



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

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Navajo Nation partners with First Things First to recognize “Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child”

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, First Lady Phefelia Nez, and Second Lady Dottie Lizer signed a proclamation on Monday, recognizing the week of April 10 – 16, 2021, as the “Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child” to honor the Navajo Nation early childhood programs, who provide services and resources for Navajo children and families.

The Navajo Nation is partnering with First Things First - Navajo Nation Region, Project Indigenous LAUNCH and the Department of Diné Education, to raise awareness through radio messaging and a drive-thru event on Wednesday at the Department of Diné Education parking lot in Window Rock, Ariz. to distribute educational and development materials for children. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (MDT), in accordance with Navajo Nation public health orders and CDC guidelines.

“In partnership with First Things First, Project Indigenous LAUNCH and in coordination with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, we are celebrating the Week of the Young Child as to promote the needs of the young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that help meet those needs. This is the time also to recognize children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to remind ourselves that every child is important, loved, and supported,” said First Lady Nez.

Navajo Nation early childhood programs include Navajo Head Start, Child Care Development, First Things First, Women, Infant, Children (WIC), and other local organizations and public schools. Teachers, child care providers, kith and kin providers and others who make a difference in young children's lives on the Navajo Nation also deserve recognition and appreciation.

“We know that the first five years of a child’s life are the most important. I would like to acknowledge all providers, parents and families of children who helped to provide care and learning opportunities for young children in the past year. It was and continues to be a challenging time and we appreciate your role in Diné children’s lives,” said First Things First Regional Director Memarie Tsosie.

The proclamation states, "the Navajo Nation continues to persevere despite social ills that include substance abuse, alcoholism, child abuse, sexual assault, diabetes, suicide, and domestic violence which have been especially damaging to our children, relatives, and communities."

"All children have the right to equitable opportunities and development that help them achieve their full potential. We must continue to encourage, support, and pray for educators, social workers, parents, and care providers, who help to enrich children's lives," said Second Lady Lizer.

The Week of the Young Child also recognizes public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to young children's future and the propensity of our society.

"The administration continues to support children's and families' physical and emotional well-being. As leaders, we have to work together to ensure that there are sufficient resources accessible for children. Principles of equity across all aspects of education, family engagement, program design, and service delivery need to be acknowledged," said President Nez.

The proclamation encourages all citizens of the Navajo Nation, from all denominations and walks of life, to offer prayers for the health and well-being of all *Diné*, including children, so that we may restore balance and harmony in our homes and the lives of our people.

"This week, honor the children in our lives and spend time with them. Seize the opportunity to spend time with your children and grandchildren. Take the time to play with them, teach them something new, pray with them, and seek new opportunities together. Our homes and communities are stronger and healthier when parents, teachers, and care providers come together to ensure the best future for our children," said Vice President Lizer.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 10 - 16, 2021 AS "NAVAJO NATION WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD"

The Navajo Nation and the Department of Diné Education hereby recognizes April 10-16, 2021 as "Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child." We acknowledge the dedication and advocacy that our Navajo Nation Early Childhood Programs provide to our Diné children and families.

WHEREAS, Navajo Nations programs, such as Head Start, Child Care Development, First Things First, Women, Infant, Children (WIC) and other local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the Week of the Young Child™ as we continue to work to promote and inspire high quality early childhood experiences for our Navajo Nation's youngest citizens; and

WHEREAS, teachers, care providers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children on the Navajo Nation deserve recognition and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation continues to persevere despite social ills that include substance abuse, alcoholism, child abuse, sexual assault, diabetes, suicide, and domestic violence which have been especially damaging to our children, relatives, and communities; and

WHEREAS, we offer this proclamation to encourage all citizens of the Navajo Nation, from all denominations and walks of life, to offer prayers for the health and well-being of all *Diné*, so that we may restore balance and harmony in our homes and the lives of our people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim the week of April 10-16, 2021 as "Navajo Nation Week of the Young Child."

PROCLAIMED THIS 12th DAY OF APRIL 2021

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Phefelia Nez in black ink.

Phefelia Nez, *First Lady*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Myron Lizer in black ink.

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Dottie Lizer in black ink.

Dottie Lizer, *Second Lady*
THE NAVAJO NATION