



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2021

**Crownpoint Chapter and summer youth
workers celebrate the delivery of new heavy equipment**



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish, and Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Crownpoint Chapter officials, and summer youth employees celebrate the delivery of new heavy equipment in Crownpoint, N.M. on July 13, 2021.

CROWNPOINT, N.M. – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish, and Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman joined Crownpoint Chapter officials and summer youth employees to celebrate the arrival of new heavy equipment that will be used to assist local Navajo residents and to complete community-based projects. Crownpoint Chapter received a new backhoe and flatbed truck, while additional equipment is expected to arrive in the coming days.

On Jan. 30, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer approved over \$24 million from the Síhasin Fund through Resolution CJA-01-21, which passed by the 24th Navajo Nation Council to purchase heavy equipment for Navajo Nation chapters. During Tuesday's event, President Nez had the opportunity to speak to a group of high school students who are working at Crownpoint Chapter to earn funds for their educational expenses.

"This is a part of local empowerment. With this new heavy equipment, the chapters will not have to rely on Window Rock or the central government to assist community members when they need help. T'áá Hwó Ají Téego, or self-reliance and self-determination, is one of the great teachings of our elders that we have to continue to pass down to our young people. It's great to see so many of our young people working and earning money for their education and giving back to their community. We need all of you to continue with your education and return home to help our Navajo people one day," said President Nez.

Crownpoint Chapter President Rita Capitan, Vice President Leonard Perry, Secretary/Treasurer Helen Murphy, Accounts Maintenance Specialist Felicia Singer, and Community Services Coordinator Aaron Edsitty also shared their personal experiences and offered encouragement for the summer youth employees. They also recognized and thanked President Nez, Dr. Yellowman, and Council Delegate Mark Freeland for their support of the Crownpoint community.

Dr. Yellowman also spoke to the students and encouraged them to enjoy their work experience and urged them to be respectful and helpful to elders who visit the chapter to request assistance with services. She told the students that it is an opportunity to help elderly people, and to improve the perception of all chapters across the Navajo Nation.

Chapter President Rita Capitan said local officials have long advocated for new heavy equipment to meet the needs of Crownpoint residents, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that the chapter will no longer have to rely on other nearby chapters to assist Crownpoint residents with services that require heavy equipment. She also spoke to the students and encouraged them to continue pursuing their educational goals before marriage and before starting a family.

Under the leadership of Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman and Program and Projects Specialist Elmer Johnson, 88 heavy equipment items have been delivered to chapters and more will be delivered in the next several weeks, in accordance with Resolution CJA-01-21. The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the Crownpoint Chapter for the invitation to the event.

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