



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**President Nez congratulates Navajo Technical University  
Master of Arts in Diné Culture, Language, and Leadership graduates**



PHOTO: Navajo Technical University Master of Arts graduates during the commencement ceremony in Crownpoint, N.M. on July 26, 2021.

**CROWNPOINT, N.M.** – On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez had the honor of speaking to graduates during Navajo Technical University’s Master of Arts degree commencement hooding ceremony, which was held on the NTU campus in Crownpoint, N.M. with family members, friends, NTU Board of Regents, and other supporters in attendance. Navajo Nation Division of Human Resources Executive Director Dr. Perphelia Fowler, who previously served as the head of Human Resources for NTU, was also in attendance to show her support.

President Nez congratulated the six graduates, who represent the largest masters level graduating class in NTU’s history, and encouraged them to continue embracing the teachings of their elders and NTU’s Diné educational philosophy based on Nitsáhákees, Nahat’á, liná, and Síhasin.

“The teachings of your parents, grandparents, and elders are what have led you to this accomplishment in your life. The knowledge and skills that you learned and developed at NTU

combined with the life lessons of your elders will take you far in life, so always remember the principles of Nitsáhákees, Nahat'á, Iiná, and Síhasin in everything that you pursue in life. As Navajo people, we have so much to be proud of and so many teachings to pass down to our younger generations so I encourage you to always love and support one another and our people. I congratulate you and please remember that we are always praying for you," said President Nez.

The six master's degree graduates include Angelita Darwin of Black Mesa, Ariz., Jennifer Gross of Mitten Rock, N.M., Ronda Joe of Rock Point, Ariz., Tyle Tinhorn of Dennehotso, Ariz., Leslie Tsosie of Standing Rock, N.M., and Myra Tuttle of Shonto, Ariz.

NTU President Dr. Elmer Guy provided the welcome address at the start of the commencement ceremony. Licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor and certified hataaíi and traditional counselor with the Diné Haataaíi Association provided the commencement address. The conferral of degrees was conducted by NTU Board of Regents member Dr. Delores Greyeyes, and NTU Provost Dr. Colleen Bowman and Interim Dean of Graduate Studies Dr. Jennifer Wheeler also provided congratulatory remarks.

In May, President Nez also attended the Navajo Technical University's commencement ceremonies for ABE/GED certificate and Associate and Bachelor Degree recipients. The commencement ceremony is available to watch online on NTU's YouTube channel at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMeEL5if\\_wQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMeEL5if_wQ)

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