



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  
Timothy Benally, Public Information Officer  
(928) 871-7000  
[nnopvp.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nnopvp.communications@gmail.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 1, 2022

## Tico Charlee appointed to serve as the new Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer announced the appointment of Tico Charlee as the new Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NNTRC) Office. He replaces Christopher Becenti, who recently began a new role as the Broadband Program Specialist for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth.



**PHOTO: Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office Executive Director Tico Charlee (right) and Christopher Becenti (left).**

Charlee is from Crownpoint, N.M. He is Dził t'ahnii (Mountain Cove Clan) and born for Bit'ahnii (His Sheaves under His Cover Clan). His maternal grandfather is Tábaqhá (Water's Edge Clan), and his paternal grandfather is Tódich'ii'nii (Bitter Water Clan). Prior to his appointment, he served as the Tribal Policy Relations for Sacred Wind Communications since 2006, and previously as the Field Director and Executive Director. He also served in the U.S. Army for four years, from 1975 to 1979, as a Tactical Circuit Control.

"With his professional experience and military service, we are confident that Mr. Charlee will do a great job leading the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office. His vast experience provides perspective and guidance on many issues related to the need for broadband connectivity to meet the needs of our Navajo students, teachers, first responders, health care professionals, elders, and business owners. He's worked closely with the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission and the Office for years," said President Nez.

His previous professional experience also includes serving as President of Native Communications, Inc., former Vice President of the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, and an IT Director for Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

"I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Navajo Nation Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and to help expand broadband efforts in Navajo communities. Most importantly, to provide solutions and opportunities for telecommunication infrastructure in the Nation," said Charlee.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also expressed their appreciation for Christopher Becenti, who served as the NNTRC Office Executive Director from January 2019 to March 2022. Becenti's notable accomplishments include being a co-founding member of the Navajo Nation E-Rate Consortium, correcting gaps with Wireless Emergency Alerts, securing 2.5 GHz EBS Spectrum to help deploy fixed wireless as an initial and rapid deployment for broadband connections to the home, supporting efforts to establish a multi-service provider proposal, finalized the draft Telecom Regulations, collaborated with Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety and Division of Community Development to create a proposal for Rural Addressing and 911-(PSAP) Public Safety Answering Point, supported the deployment of AT&T/FirstNet on the Navajo Nation, among other accomplishments.

"I would like to thank President Nez, Vice President Lizer, and the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council for affording me this opportunity. We have prioritized many telecommunication projects to close the big gap within the digital divide, most notably fixing wireless emergency alerts in the Navajo Nation. We completed many projects to provide a better quality of life for the Navajo people. I am confident that Mr. Tico Charlee will carry the torch to accomplish more broadband priorities. My commitment will continue to support closing the digital divide across Indian Country," said Becenti.

"We congratulate Christopher Becenti on his new endeavors to strengthen broadband capacity across Indian Country and rural communities. We acknowledge your service and hard work in providing telecommunication opportunities and infrastructure on the Navajo Nation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for building a foundation to close the digital divide on the Nation," said Vice President Lizer.

###

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.