



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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**Navajo Preparatory School celebrates
30 years of culture, leadership, and innovation**



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez with Navajo Preparatory School students at the school's campus in Farmington, N.M. on May 12, 2022.

FARMINGTON, N.M. — On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council had the honor of joining students, teachers, faculty, and alumni of Navajo Preparatory School to celebrate the school's 30th Anniversary. The school, located in Farmington, N.M., was established in 1991 as a college-preparatory school for Native Americans.

Navajo Prep recruits some of the brightest students from the Navajo Nation to offer a challenging, innovative curriculum in science, math, computers, and other traditional academic subjects with a focus on Navajo language, culture, and history. The school aims to graduate students with the skills to succeed in college and an understanding of the world around them.

President Nez was invited by Navajo Prep Head of School Shawna Becenti to serve as a keynote speaker for the event, which brought together the Navajo Prep community to honor their past, present, and future service as a college preparatory institution committed to sustaining the Diné

language and culture. The celebration also included student performances, school founders, and recognition of state and tribal leaders for their support.

“This week, the U.S. Department of the Interior released an initial report on the federal boarding school era, a time when many of our Navajo children were forced from their homes into a system of assimilation by the federal government. Many children were mistreated, and sadly, many lost their lives. The impacts of that era are still with us to this day, but through the resilience and determination of our young people like all of the students here today we remain prosperous and continue to heal from that era. Navajo Preparatory School is a major part of that healing process and I commend all of the teachers, staff, and faculty here to continue to provide our students with the knowledge and teachings to help them throughout their lives,” said President Nez.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez speaking at Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, N.M. on May 12, 2022.

During the keynote address, President Nez also spoke about the importance of showing support for one another to help the Navajo Nation heal from the COVID-19 pandemic. Navajo Prep Head of School Shawna Becenti presented an honorary blanket to President Nez and several other leaders in attendance.

New Mexico State Sen. Shannon Pinto and State Reps. D. Wonda Johnson and Anthony Allison also offered their appreciation and support for Navajo Prep and former Navajo Nation Chairman Peter MacDonald delivered a virtual address to the students during the event.

“Congratulations to Navajo Preparatory School, their board, alumni, students, and all of the hard-working staff! We appreciate everything that you do for our students and we look forward to seeing many more graduates in the years to come,” President Nez stated.

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