



CONTACT: Charmaine Jackson
Communications Director
Office: (928) 871-7884
Cell: (928) 637-5507
charmainejackson@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
June 14, 2011

President Ben Shelly To Receive IHS Award For Advocating To Ban Commercial Tobacco Use In Public Places on the Navajo Nation

Window Rock, AZ—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly has been nationally recognized for his momentous efforts to ban commercial tobacco use in public places on the Navajo Nation. He will receive the Indian Health Service (IHS) Director's Special Recognition Award for Public Health Leadership at a ceremony on June 29, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

“We are protecting the health of the Navajo people by working to ban commercial tobacco use in public areas on the Navajo Nation and protect workers from exposure to second hand smoke,” stated President Shelly. “This is an important issue many states and tribal nations are facing right now. The Shelly-Jim Administration is focusing on commercial tobacco free legislation to present to the Navajo Nation Council.”

On June 8, 2011 the director of IHS, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux announced the award for President Shelly during a listening session with the Navajo Nation Division of Health and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service in Window Rock at the museum.

In May, President Shelly also accepted a 2011 Smokefree Gaming Award at the National Smokefree Gaming Symposium in Las Vegas, Nevada for the same efforts.

The upcoming commercial tobacco free legislation will not restrict the fundamental traditional ceremony use of tobacco.



(L to R) Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Tсах Bii Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Olijato) Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim, Dr. Roubideaux, President Shelly, First Lady Martha Shelly and Navajo Nation Council Speaker Johnny Naize gathered to thank Dr. Roubideaux for her visit to the Navajo Nation and record the historic event.