



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Health, Education, and Human Services Committee receives report on NTEC's education and community assistance outreach initiatives

WINDOW ROCK – On Wednesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received a progress report regarding the Navajo Transitional Energy Company's educational and community assistance initiatives that include a scholarship program, school supply drive, teacher workshops, Community Benefit Fund, public awareness road signs, and a Veterans Pinning Ceremony.

According to the report, when the Navajo Transitional Energy Company was created and assumed ownership of Navajo Mine, they hired a community coordinator and education coordinator that would provide outreach to Navajo communities and local schools to form partnerships and provide assistance through scholarships and funding STEM programs.

The report goes on to state that their education assistance initiative awarded 30 Navajo college students with a \$1,000 scholarship each, sponsored teacher workshops in collaboration with San Juan College regarding energy and coal production, and held STEM-sation Day for students at Crownpoint High School and Kirtland Central High School. The company also held school supply drives for the communities of Dennehotso, Kinteel, Teec Nos Pos, and Tonalea.

HEHSC member Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé alnáoz't'í) commended the Navajo Transitional Energy Company for increasing their efforts to reach out to Navajo students to provide STEM, or Science Technology Engineering Mathematics events, for high school students and most recently for Navajo Nation Girl Scouts.

"I want to thank NTEC for also sponsoring the Girl Scout's STEM Camp we had in Tsaile, Ariz. in which over 100 Girl Scouts attended and received their badges in engineering and research. We should encourage our chapters to apply for the NTEC funding because it also aided initiatives such as suicide prevention and the Navajo wellness model," said Delegate Crotty.

Delegate Crotty added that her chapters are now looking at how solar energy can be used to light up parking lots around the chapter houses and said it was important for the Nation to look at innovative and cost-effective ways to encourage renewable energy use. She recommended to

committee members that they inform their chapters of the Navajo Transitional Energy Company's assistance programs and to apply as soon as possible.

The report went on to state that Navajo Transitional Energy Company also developed a Community Benefit Fund that can financially assist small community projects, such as solar installs and purchasing shoes and clothes for the local Boys and Girls Club. The company is also scheduled to put up two billboard signs on Indian Service Route N36 advising drivers not to drink and drive as a part of their public awareness campaign.

Most recently, Navajo Transitional Energy Company and Arizona Public Service Electric Company sponsored a Pinning Ceremony for Navajo veterans in October, in which more than 300 veterans received medals for the recognition of their military service.

HEHCS chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) thanked Navajo Transitional Energy Company for giving back to Navajo communities and said it was promising to see a Navajo enterprise collaboratively working directly with schools and chapters.

"The Navajo Nation has several enterprises and not many work directly with our Navajo communities like this, and I want to thank them for the incredible work they have carried out as well as contributing back to our Nation. I hope to see all our enterprises interacting and working with Navajo communities like this in the future," said Delegate Hale, adding that, "these are not only economic development ventures, but an opportunity to give back to our Navajo people."

HEHSC members voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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