



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2018

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Navajo students to benefit from Summer Youth Employment funding

WINDOW ROCK – During a special session held on May 17, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council unanimously voted in support of resolution CMY-51-18, which was signed into law on Thursday and provides \$2 million for the 110 chapters to hire high school and college students this summer.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh), who sponsored the bill, said the funds benefit the communities as well as Navajo students by allowing them to earn income to assist with academic and cost-of-living expenses.

“Now that the funds are approved, we look to the Office of the Controller and OMB to expedite the funds to the chapters so they can begin hiring as quickly as possible. We need all of the 110 chapters to be aware of the funding that will be available and to begin hiring students immediately,” said Delegate Damon.

The funding will be distributed to the 110 chapters based on the 50/50 formula, which requires that half of the \$2 million be distributed evenly among the 110 chapters, the other half would be distributed to the chapters based on the number of registered voters in each of the 110 chapters.

Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai'Bii'To, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake) said the bill may also help low-income families that are struggling to help their children pursue higher education.

“We have many parents out there who are supporting their children’s efforts to reach higher educational goals, so this funding will help those students and their parents financially,” Delegate Slim stated. “We want all of our Navajo students to succeed at every level of education.”

CMY-51-18 directs the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the Controller, and the Division of Community Development to update the chapter summer youth employment balances within seven calendar days to allow chapters to begin hiring students as soon as possible.

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