



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

MEDIA CONTACTS

Alray Nelson, Communications Director
Kyrn Hardy, Public Information Officer
Koltan Nephew, Legislative Staff Writer
E-mail: nnlb.communications@gmail.com
Phone: (928) 530-8329

The Navajo Nation Council Congratulates Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge in her New Role as Goodwill Ambassador

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 11, 2021

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 24th Navajo Nation Council congratulated Niagara Rockbridge on her crowning today as Miss Navajo Nation 2021-2022 during a virtual coronation ceremony at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz.

“We thank the family and the communities that raised Niagara to be the resilient young woman she is today,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Łichíí’, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh). “As an advocate for our people, her leadership will impact many lives and inspire the younger generation to serve one day. We believe in her.”

Rockbridge is Kinyaa’áanii (Towering House), born for Hashk’aa hadzohi (Yucca Fruit-Strung-Out-In-A-Line), her maternal grandparents are Naakai dine’é (Mexican Clan), and her paternal grandparents are Tó’áhani (Near the Water Clan). Her parents are Deborah and Gary Rockbridge from the Tselani/Cottonwood and Piñon communities.

“Ms. Rockbridge has led her peers championing the issues of our youth to the Navajo Nation Council and before the United Nations as a member of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council,” said Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain) “She brings people together. The communities we both represent are proud to recognize her as the goodwill ambassador of the Navajo people.”

Following COVID-19 safety guidelines, contestants wore face masks while participating in a week-long pageant that included a sheep butchering contest, professional interviews, and a traditional and contemporary skills talent competition.

“The role of Miss Navajo Nation is to be an ambassador of the largest sovereign nation in the United States and through her leadership, embody the beauty, strength, and compassion of our matriarchs,” said Speaker Seth Damon. “Former Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish is a representation of this and we thank her for two years of service that uplifted the voices of Indigenous women across Indian Country.”

Parrish served an unprecedented term as Miss Navajo Nation from 2019 to 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Enrolled at Arizona State University in a master’s degree program with the W.P. Carey School of Business, she plans to graduate in the spring. Parrish advocated for elders and young people while also leading distribution drives that provided water, food, and essential items to families across the Navajo Nation.

###