



Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown attends Walking with Dinétah opening ceremony

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PHOTO: Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown and members of the Nááts'íilid Initiative stand with dancers after a performance was held at one of the Walking with Dinétah trails in Dennehotso, Ariz.

DENNEHOTSO, Ariz. — Over the weekend, Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown attended the immersive community art and walking trail project in his delegate region – Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, and Kayenta. The Nááts'íilid Initiative hosted the free community event which showcased art, dance, and weaving.

“Our funders got to experience our Dinè way of life, they expressed their appreciation for new knowledge of our Dinè and our way of life. They got to witness all the good work our people fight to keep alive,” said Delegate Brown. “We will continue to ‘think outside of the box’ while leading our three chapters of Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso and Kayenta and our Navajo Nation.”

In the morning, hikers and community members met at the Chilchinbeto Chapter House for introductory remarks and an opening prayer before hiking the Baby Camel Trail and concluding with dance performances.

During the afternoon session, community members gathered at Dennehotso Convenience store to hike the Naałhoozh Haaz'diih'ii Trail. A weaving workshop after the hike was also held to highlight the beautiful artistry of the Navajo people.

Sunday morning began with a sheep butchering demonstration before members hiked the newly marked Wahi Trail and Átsi Community Trail while viewing various art installations highlighting several Diné artists. All Walking with Dinétah trails are of easy to moderate difficulty and they encourage the Navajo people to exercise and live healthier lifestyles.

“It is in our teachings to run and walk every morning and I hope with these new trails, my people will continue to uphold our traditions,” added Brown. “When our communities come together, we create a place of healing and peace which is the true meaning of Ké. I pray other Navajo communities will follow suit to bring our elders and youth together to share stories and create memories that will last a lifetime.”

The Nááts’íilid Initiative, a non-profit organization, is an Indigenous-led and coalition-driven Community Development Collaborative aimed at addressing the housing and infrastructure needs of Dinétah. The University of Utah’s School of Engineering and School of Architecture also play a vital role in the non-profit’s success in the Chapters of Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, and Kayenta on the Navajo Nation

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