



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2025

### Navajo Nation Council recognizes Navajo Preparatory School's Class of 2025 and Bilingual Seal recipients



The 25th Navajo Nation Council commends the graduates of Navajo Preparatory School for their academic achievements in cultural excellence and commitment to Diné values.

**FARMINGTON, N.M.** – On Saturday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council commends the graduating class of 2025 from Navajo Preparatory School, honoring their academic achievement, cultural excellence, and commitment to Diné values. During a heartfelt commencement ceremony, ten students were also recognized for earning the Navajo Nation Bilingual Seal, demonstrating fluency and literacy in the Navajo language through assessments administered by the Department of Diné Education (DODE).

Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, who has long championed educational and cultural initiatives, offered his congratulations to the graduates.

"Congratulations to the graduating class of 2025 – Navajo Prep, and to the ten students who passed the Navajo Nation bilingual seal assessment," said Dr. Nez. "The assessment is conducted by DODE and conducted all in Navajo. These students will be presented with more opportunities because of these skills, and I trust they'll accept them and provide back to our people. Nizhoni."

The ceremony included addresses by Miss Navajo Nation Ranisha Begay, Valedictorian Opal Mohs, and Salutatorian McKenzie Ashley-Willie. Students were recognized for their achievements in academics, athletics, and cultural leadership. Additional honors included the Louise M. Tah Scholarship and recognition from the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

Delegate Helena Nez Begay reflected on the importance of cultural pride in education.

"Our young people are strongest when they walk in both worlds—grounded in our language and culture, while pursuing academic success. Today's graduates carry the hopes of our ancestors and the strength of our future."

"When we support education that honors our identity, we empower a generation to lead with purpose. These students represent the promise of our Nation, and we believe in their ability to make lasting change," said Council Delegate George Tolth as he highlighted the significance of investing in Diné youth.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley extended her appreciation to the educators, families, and mentors who guided the graduates throughout their academic journeys.

"This milestone is a celebration of determination, identity, and excellence," said Speaker Curley. "To our graduates, remember that your education is a sacred tool. Use it to protect our language, uplift our people, and shape the future of the Navajo Nation."

.

###