



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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## **25th Navajo Nation Council welcomes ASU Decision Theater to explore data-driven solutions for community and policy advancement**



**Speaker Crystalyne Curley attended ASU's Decision Theater presentation joined by Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Shaandiin Parrish.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Friday, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council welcomed Arizona State University's (ASU) "Decision Theater" team to explore ways to strengthen data gathering, analysis, and strategic decision-making for communities across the Navajo Nation.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley, joined by Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Shaandiin Parrish, alongside leadership from Diné College, Navajo Technical University, Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety leadership, and other honored guests, attended the presentation.

Decision Theater is an advanced visualization and collaboration environment that combines data analytics, high-performance computing, and interactive modeling to help leaders, policymakers, and researchers address complex, real-world challenges.

According to ASU officials, by translating large data sets into visual, simulation-based scenarios, the platform enables more informed and effective decision-making in areas such as population growth, public health, education, environmental factors, and other policy areas.

Speaker Curley said the Navajo Nation is open to considering ways of better equipping leaders and communities with innovative tools to better understand challenges and identify solutions grounded in data.

“This is a new way of moving forward, and I’m very grateful to ASU for being here and sharing the technology and expertise they can bring to the Navajo Nation,” said Speaker Curley. “The Navajo Nation makes up a third of Arizona, and strengthening this connection gives us a real opportunity to close the data gap and better serve our communities.”

In February, Speaker Curley visited the ASU campus to learn more about the Decision Theater and invited the team to visit the Navajo Nation and present to the Council and Executive Branch directors.

Diné Action Plan (DAP) Chair Michael Henderson stated that the initial conversations from the DAP’s four Task Forces emphasized the critical need to collect data for the Navajo Nation to create meaningful prevention and outreach that works for the Navajo people.

Working with Dr. Ferlin Clark with the Department of Diné Education, Speaker Curley supported the efforts to bring various entities together. The presentations and discussions focused on exploring how to advance data modeling and visualization tools to support long-term planning, improve service delivery, and enhance community goals.

Delegate Crotty spoke about the importance of ensuring that data initiatives respect tribal sovereignty, community input, and sensitive information. She also made an official request to President Nygren for his commitment to help the Missing and Murdered Diné Relative Task Force’s initiatives to finalize the MMDR Database with Navajo Technical University.

“Data is critical to making sure we are taking meaningful action on the issues impacting our communities across the Navajo Nation,” said Delegate Crotty. “I’ve asked President Nygren to commit his office to dedicating \$1 million to complete and finalize the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives database, which will be hosted at Navajo Technical University. This effort is about ensuring we have accurate information to support our families, strengthen accountability, and guide real solutions.”

President Nygren’s response to this request includes solid confirmation that his office will assist in completing the MMDR Database with NTU, commit \$1 million to ensuring the database is completed, and that the Navajo Division Public Safety will work with NTU to finalize the data.

The Navajo Nation Council looks forward to continued discussions with Arizona State University to identify opportunities for collaboration that empower communities, support leadership, and improve the quality of life for Navajo citizens.

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