

THE NAVAJO NATION



JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

Ya'at'eeh, On behalf of Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Welcome and Happy New Year!

We are grateful to have hosted the Navajo Nation Economic Summit for the past three years. Once again, we convene for the Fourth Annual 2019 Navajo Nation Economic Summit, "Partnership to Strengthen Opportunities", April 22 to 24, in Flagstaff to strategically develop solutions addressing challenges and maximizing untapped potential that will benefit our people.

Every challenge also presents an opportunity. Facing high unemployment rates in our tribal communities also means that we have an underutilized tribal workforce. We need to create and support new sustainable business development aligned with our cultural values that provides training, jobs and builds our economies.

To this end, we are continuing to explore all options. We foster opportunities and means to create strong innovative partnerships with our neighboring communities, such as our Canadian tribes. We call on companies that understand and respect the economic power and history of the Navajo Nation to meet our decision makers face-to-face, resulting in productive relationships.

Therefore, this year, we are excited to be the first US Tribe to partner with the Advanced Business Match (ABM) from Canada to bring this powerful business development event into Navajo territory and stimulate cross-border and inter-tribal trade.

The Navajo Nation President and Council is a strong advocate for local empowerment and mobilizing communities of the Navajo Nation to reinstate their inherent way of governance. Economic development is one way to reduce dependence on the central tribal government, upholding and enhancing the local inherent sovereignty of the chapter areas.

ABM will provide each chapter with a distinct voice to pursue their business priorities as they see fit. ABM combines a decade of experience in business development, market intelligence and the engagement of influential economic partners in the Indigenous business space north of the border. This creates a business matching forum like no other, and an event in tune with the opportunities and unique characteristics of our territory and region, for chapters and businesses alike. ABM will provide fertile ground to achieve unprecedented results for Navajo communities and businesses, including investment attraction, export, market entry or expansion.

We encourage all chapters and any company, from the US, Canada or internationally, to meet us at the Navajo Nation Economic Summit this April to create opportunities for business."

Thank you and Ahéhee'.

Elaine Young

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CC: Honorable Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation President
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SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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