



NAVAJO PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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\$20 million to build Navajo Code Talker Museum at Navajo Preparatory School

FARMINGTON, N.M. – The Navajo Code Talker Museum moves forward with nearly \$20 million in state funding.

The museum will be built on the Navajo Preparatory School's campus, on Navajo Nation land in Farmington. Funding will cover the museum construction and development of exhibits on the language and legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers.

"The United States owes the Navajo Code Talkers a tremendous debt — for their language, their courage and their heroic service to our state and nation," said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. "With two Code Talkers still living, there is no time to waste. New Mexico is proud of their legacy, and we are committed to sharing their story for generations to come."

In May, the Navajo Preparatory School Governing Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the state to build and operate the museum. Partners include the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, General Services Department, Department of Cultural Affairs, Higher Education Department and Department of Finance and Administration. The Navajo Preparatory school will manage the museum.

"The partnership marks a milestone in what will become a significant tribally led cultural project to honor Navajo Code Talkers," said **Head of School Shawna**

Allison Becenti. “The Navajo Code Talkers saved countless lives and helped turn the tide of World War II. Their legacy deserves to be honored in a place that is rooted in Diné culture, led by our community.”

“Navajo Preparatory School is excited about this collaboration and eager to honor this important part of our Diné culture,” said **Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President of the Navajo Preparatory School Governing Board of Trust.**

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Since 2003 the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) has implemented groundbreaking state-tribal policies intended to improve the quality of life for the state's Native citizens. Our initiatives are designed to strengthen Tribal and state relations and address the challenges we face in our communities: economic development, infrastructure improvement, the protection of our cultures and languages, health care accessibility, and educational opportunities for our most precious resource— our children. Learn more at www.iad.nm.gov.