



**For Immediate Release**

**August 24, 2018**

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## **NTUA, NTU, and Microsoft create an enhanced technology platform for Five Navajo chapters and for community residents**

**FORT DEFIANCE, AZ** – A Pilot Project between the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), Choice NTUA Wireless (NTUAW), Navajo Technical University (NTU), and Microsoft has evolved into a computer training program with easier Internet access for residents at five Navajo Nation chapters.

Last fall, NTUA and NTUAW initiated a Pilot Project at five Navajo Nation Chapter Houses in Kinlichee, Fort Defiance, Chinle, Mexican Water, and Shiprock. The primary purpose of the pilot project was to help chapters better understand and witness the many potential benefits of broadband connectivity.

“We are committed to expand our fiber network to reach underserved and unserved areas of the Navajo Nation. We are just as committed to work with communities to advance broadband usage and applications,” said Monroe Keedo, business development engineer for NTUA. “This pilot project allowed the chapter administration to see the telecommunications value which will help them facilitate economic development, healthcare, education and public safety for their communities.”

The Pilot Project began with NTUA covering the installation expense, and Choice NTUA Wireless providing the Internet access. The project then expanded with the support Microsoft and Navajo Technical University. After the connectivity/internet platform was launched, Microsoft committed to donating computers for the five chapters and providing basic computer training for community residents.

NTU agreed to assist with further develop computer training and technical support by working closely with the chapter administrations. The project will also serve as a foundation to strengthen the educational background of NTU computer technology students.

“Navajo Technical University can help with the Microsoft project primarily by training technicians through its associate and baccalaureate degrees in Information Technology so that all the chapter houses that receive a technology grant can install and maintain the technology,” stated Dr. Elmer J. Guy, president at NTU. “NTU has had a robust Information Technology degree program for well over a decade, and funding can enable highly trained Navajo IT technicians to do what is useful fat any chapter house on the Nation.”

On Monday, August 20, the Microsoft and NTU technical teams began a week-long installation of computers at the five chapters, bringing the purpose of the Pilot Project to a full circle – providing connectivity and internet access to rural communities, complete with technology tools. They started at Kinlichee and ended with Mexican Water.