



OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity Awards the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission for Outstanding Community Service.



Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission staff Left: Charlene Smith, Sr. Office Specialist, Lauren Bernally, Policy Analyst, Donna Damon, Office Assistant, Leonard Gorman, Executive Director, Rodney Tahe, Policy Analyst, and Tiffany Charley, Public Information Officer, not showed, Varvara Phillips, Human Rights Investigator.

St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (ARIZ) – On June 8, 2017, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) accepted the Edward M. Kennedy Community Service award from the American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity (“AAAED”). The Edward M. Kennedy Award is presented to individuals or an organization what demonstrates excellent community service. “Our effort always has been preservation, rejuvenation of our cultures and our language and traditions and values. That has been the basis of many of places we have been in the past nine years.” said Leonard Gorman, NNHRC Executive Director, while he accepted the award on the behalf the Commission.

Gorman continued to say “We have been advocates for Civil Rights in the voting rights actives; our office is champion in the State of Arizona in redistricting cases. We also have challenges and

continue to face challenges, we are advocating for recognitions of indigenous people of their governments in the United Nation systems.”

The Commission invited Arizona State Representative Eric Descheenie as a guest to attend the awards ceremony, also invited Patricia Ferguson of Sacks Tierney P.A. Attorneys. Sacks Tierney sponsored a table for Commission staff members to attend the ceremony.

The AAAED Award Honorees are: Drum Major for Justice Award: Dr. Shirley A. Jackson, President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Arthur A. Fletcher Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Rufus Glasper, President and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College, Cesar Estrada Chavez Award: Dr. Harvey Kesselman, President, Stockton University, Rosa Parks Award: Dr. Bryan Brayboy and Kenja Hassan, Arizona State University, Edward M. Kennedy Community Service Award: Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and Alan "AP" Powell, Chairman of the Checkered Flag Run Foundation, Roosevelt Thomas Champion of Diversity Award: Oklahoma State University and the Arizona Diamondbacks

For more information on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, contact the Commission at 928-871-7436.

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