

Russell Begay  
Curriculum Vitae

Russell Begaye is the Navajo Nation President, sworn into office on May 12, 2015. Russell Begaye began his leadership with his vision of the four pillars of advancing services for veterans, youth and elders, infrastructure development and job creation.

Prior to his presidency, Russell Begaye began his service to the Navajo people in 2011 as a council delegate in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, representing his hometown of Shiprock, New Mexico. As a member of the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, he advocated for protecting women, children and the disabled against acts of violence. He spearheaded an effort with two Navajo tribal colleges - Diné College and Navajo Technical University - to establish a training program for Navajo Nation law enforcement officers. He continues the fight for water rights for the people and future generations by strengthening relationships with Congress, the federal government and the Navajo people. He fought for salary increases for Navajo Nation employees and will continue to fight for Navajo Nation employees by striving to set up competitive salary increases. Over the past four years, Russell Begaye has been developing a plan of action to address important issues the Nation faces and now as Navajo Nation president he has challenged his staff and administration to implement this plan and bring it to life.

Russell Begaye graduated with his bachelor's degree from the University of California Los Angeles and taught for several years as a faculty member in the UCLA's Department of Linguistics.

The Navajo Nation is a federally recognized sovereign tribal nation with more than 320,000 citizens located on 27,000 square-miles in northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico and southeastern Utah, the Navajo Nation is the largest land based tribal nation in the United States.