

Russell Begaye Bio

Russell Begaye is the Navajo Nation President, sworn into office on May 12, 2015. Russell Begaye founded his leadership on 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 on the 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.

Russell Begaye holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California Los Angeles and taught for several years in the UCLA Department of Linguistics.

The Navajo Nation is a federally recognized sovereign tribal nation with more than 350,000 citizens located on 27,000 square-miles of the largest tribal land base in the US in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.