

## Choice NTUA Wireless Delivers Big during Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had dramatic impacts across the globe. Schools, entire industries, office spaces, and hospitals are just some examples of forced, rapid sea change. In-person office interactions have moved to video conferences, doctors began performing initial diagnostics through a smartphone, and students downloaded and uploaded their final test of the semester through the cloud. This rapid technological shift created new levels of bandwidth demand not yet seen by even the largest of service providers.

The Navajo Nation's experience did not prove to be any different than the rest of the world or elsewhere in the United States. Students developed a need for educational connectivity, parents developed a need to connect to the workplace, hospitals developed a need for mobile connectivity from patients' homes, and families found a need to bond through entertainment connectivity while quarantined at home. For many, proximity to connectivity or the means to pay for connectivity became a large challenge to overcome.

Clyde Casciato (*GM Choice NTUA Wireless*) and John Champagne (*VP Business Development*), along with the dedication of the entire Choice NTUA Wireless team, began to work diligently on providing a framework for solutions to these challenges on the Navajo Nation. The team engaged partners in NTUA, Tribal Chapter Houses, and local school districts to help devise and execute these solutions. Student plans were introduced at a discounted rate of \$29.99 per month, new broadband plans debuted with faster speeds and lower prices, mobile solutions were made available to the medical industry, spectrum expanded in strategic areas, and a plan to deploy WiFi Hotspots was developed.

Installation of these WiFi Hotspots began on May 4, 2020. The first 3 Hotspots were installed at NTUA Headquarters in Window Rock, AZ as well as NTUA district offices in Chinle and Dilkon. Over 20 WiFi Hotspots have been installed across the Nation thus far with an additional 10 locations identified as future sites. These sites have provided access to students to complete their academic school year and critical internet access to other members of the community. Ongoing uncertainty about education and workspaces in the fall makes these Hotspots even more important.

"Many of our employees, students, and community members do not have adequate access to Wi-Fi at their homes or in their communities," said Dr. Risha VanderWey, TCUSD Superintendent. "NTUA/NTUA Wireless has provided our district with two locations that people can access Wi-Fi at our high school in Tuba City and our elementary school in Cameron. This generous support from NTUA/NTUA Wireless during the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic enables our students to complete online-learning, continue their education, and support parent engagement in their learning."

~ Dax McDonald, Director of Marketing



*Pictured (left to right): Michael Prior, Jonah Charley, Chaves Lincoln, Jacob Lincoln and Brent Jones*



*Pictured: Chaves Lincoln, and an NTUA Representative who provided roof access.*

*".....generous support from NTUA/NTUA Wireless during Coronavirus....."*