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Chinle Superintendent Quincy Natay Elected Vice President of NAFIS Board

Washington, DC – March 27, 2023 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Quincy Natay, Superintendent of Chinle Unified School District #24 (Arizona), has been elected Vice President of the NAFIS Board of Directors. The election took place at the 2023 NAFIS Spring Conference.

As the Vice President of the NAFIS Board, Natay will serve as a national leader advocating for school districts that receive Impact Aid. He assumes the role after eight years on the Board, including the past two years as Secretary.

Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the loss of revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. It ensures students who attend schools on or near Federal property have access to a quality education.

A lifelong resident of Chinle, on the Navajo Nation, Natay was named Superintendent of Chinle Unified School District #24 in 2013 and is one of the longest tenured superintendents in the district's history. Prior to this role, he served for 23 years as Chinle's Assistant Superintendent of Business.

When he began as superintendent, Chinle was one of the lowest-performing reservation districts in Arizona. Today, it is the highest, outperforming many non-reservation districts as well. One of the longest tenured superintendents in Chinle's history, Natay completely overhauled the district's strategic plan and led a district-wide culture shift. He is also focused on upgrading academic and athletic facilities. He has been recognized as Arizona State Superintendent of the Year and as a finalist for National Superintendent of the Year.

"Impact Aid dollars acknowledge the contract that the United States made with the Navajo people in the Treaty of 1868. These funds are the lifeblood of our district, as they comprise approximately 50% of daily operations," said Natay. "Chinle Unified School District unlocks the doors of opportunity for 3,243 students by providing a quality education. We are a committed, essential partner in supporting our students, families, and the community. Without Impact Aid, it would have a detrimental effect on our ability to provide the necessary resources to our students."

"It is an honor to serve as the Vice President of the NAFIS Board of Directors. I look forward to working for the 1,100 federally impacted school districts that are providing instruction and support to over 10 million students," Natay continued. "These students are on tax-exempt lands, including tribal lands, military bases, and other federal property. The NAFIS organization will continue to work collaboratively as one family and one voice advocating for all students."

In addition to his work with NAFIS, Natay has sat for many years on the National Indian Impacted Schools Association (NIISA) Board of Directors and currently serves as its immediate Past President. He is also an

involved community member, responding to Chapter House invitations to participate in community and Navajo Nation planning.

“Quincy’s long history as an Impact Aid advocate combined with his deep understanding of the program and the role it plays in ensuring students have access to high-quality educational opportunities positions him well for this leadership role,” said NAFIS Executive Director Nicole Russell. “The NAFIS Board is critical to ensuring students in federally impacted school districts receive the resources that they deserve. Quincy brings important insight into the needs of these school districts and experience in transformational leadership as NAFIS adapts to a changing context. I look forward to working with him in his role as Vice President.”

Natay’s term will last for two years.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents the 1,100-plus federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than 10 million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit www.nafisd.org.