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Arizona Department of Education  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal  
and Sen. Jack Jackson Jr. to recognize accomplishments of Navajo  
students in career and technical education**

*Senate resolution will recognize the students; reception will follow*

(Phoenix, Ariz. – April 23, 2013) Tomorrow, Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal and Sen. Jack Jackson Jr. will recognize the accomplishments of five Navajo students in career and technical education (CTE) and celebrate as they continue their journey into higher education. At 10:30 a.m., Sen. Jack Jackson Jr. will introduce a resolution on the Senate floor to recognize “students and staff from Ganado and Monument Valley high schools who have worked to bring these examples of educational excellence to national and international prominence.” Superintendent Huppenthal will introduce the five students on the Senate floor.

Following the Senate appearance, the students, guests and lawmakers will convene in Senate Caucus room 2 for a reception honoring the students and staff at Ganado and Monument Valley high schools. The event is being sponsored by Sundt Construction and the luncheon will be catered by the Heard Museum Courtyard Café.

“I had the opportunity to visit these schools and see these students engaged in hands-on learning,” said Superintendent Huppenthal. “These are talented young students with bright futures ahead of them.”

Sen. Jackson acknowledged these students’ hard work and noted that there are many more talented young students following similar journeys. “We are aware that these five students

represent thousands of others - on and off the reservation - who have worked hard, taken advantage of their opportunities and leveraged them into promising careers,” said Sen. Jackson.

The students being recognized are:

- Sherill Thomas, a senior from Ganado High School who will be attending Northern Arizona University; she will study civil engineering.
- Karl Bedoni, a senior from Monument Valley High School who will be attending University of Arizona; he will study veterinarian sciences. Karl has been named a Gates Millennium Scholar.
- Jasmine Blackwater, a senior from Monument Valley High School who will be attending Stanford University; she will study tribal environmental law. Jasmine has been named a Gates Millennium Scholar.
- Racheal Holiday, a senior from Monument Valley High School who will be attending Utah State University; she will study to be a Registered Nurse. Racheal has been named a Gates Millennium Scholar.
- Dawnae James, a senior from Monument Valley High School who will be attending Northern Arizona University; she will study physical therapy or nursing.

In 2012, *Time* magazine sent a reporter to cover innovation and success in Arizona’s career and technical education programs. The resulting story featured some of Arizona’s best career-focused programs in two outstanding CTE schools—Monument Valley High School on Navajo tribal lands and East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) in Mesa. Several of these students and invited guests were featured in the article.

Prior to the appearance on the Senate floor, the students and staff from Ganado and Monument Valley high schools will be guests at the Phoenix Zoo. They will be visiting the clinic and meeting with Dr. Gary West from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

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