

Contact: Sara Hopkins (928)283-5555 or (928)283-6236

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“Rex Lee Jim aiming for Navajo President’s Chair in 2010”

ROCK POINT, Ariz. - Rex Lee Jim has decided to run for Navajo Nation president in the 2010 election.

"When you're serious about the Navajo Nation presidency, then you need to announce early and give people a chance to interact with you and ask questions," said Jim, 47. "And you can get feedback from the people."

He will make an official announcement 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Rock Point Chapter House.

Jim is Kinlich'i'nii (Red House Clan), born for Táchii'nii (Red Running into Water Clan). His chei is Kiyaa'áanii (Towering House Clan) and his nalí is Naakaii Dine'é (Mexican People Clan). His parents are Rock Point residents Emma Lee Jim and John Lee Jim Sr.

He is currently serving his second term as Rock Point's delegate to the Navajo Nation Council, where he chairs the Public Safety Committee.

A lifelong Rock Point resident, Jim is also an accomplished author, having published plays, short stories, poems and essays. His work has been published in Navajo, English and Irish. Jim has also directed plays put on by a Navajo ensemble.

"People say they want to preserve the language, and I've actually been published in Navajo," Jim said.

Jim graduated from Colorado Rocky Mountain High School and earned his bachelor's degree in English at Princeton University, according to this résumé. He went on to earn a master's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont.

Jim's personal hero is his cheí, maternal grandfather, Hosteen Yellowman, a Navajo medicine man who inspired Jim to strive to live the traditional Navajo way of life.

In addition to his work on the tribal council, Jim has worked extensively with the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

However, his chief focus remains the Navajo people.

"I decided to run because I believe we need a stronger and more responsive government for the people," Jim said.

Often people sit back and talk about what needs to be done, but Jim said he has always been the kind to roll up his sleeves and get to work.

"People who know me, know that I initiate things and take direct action," Jim said.

Jim, along with the Public Safety Committee members, have worked with public safety officials such as Dolores Greyeyes, director of the tribe's Department of Corrections, and her boss Samson Cowboy, director of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, to secure more than \$74 million for public safety improvements such as new jails and better police equipment.

"We are working together and are making progress, but we could do more," Jim said.

"We can always improve."

Among his campaign efforts, Jim plans to launch a Web site on his candidacy once he declares officially for Navajo Nation presidency.

For information: E-mail Jim at weks02@yahoo.com.