

Certiport Explores Synergies with State of Utah and UVSC to Boost Education and Relevant Skills of Navajo Youth

Navajo Nation President Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr. and Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. meet to discuss objectives for providing new opportunities to Navajo youth

SALT LAKE CITY – July 13, 2006

Certiport today announced a partnership with the Navajo Nation and Utah Valley State College (UVSC) to develop a program designed to assist Navajo youth who have dropped out of high school to obtain a fresh start in learning vital career skills and a second chance to earn a high school diploma. The initiative available through 110 Navajo Nations Chapters (community centers) will include personal development to achieve a digital literacy certification, high school diploma, college credit and new career direction.

In a meeting held today at the Utah State Capitol, Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Lieutenant Governor Gary Herbert, Certiport CEO David Saedi and UVSC President Bill Sederburg joined Navajo Nation President Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr. to discuss the alignment of this public-private partnership.

"The Navajo family possesses a timeless wisdom that produced a culture sustainable for hundreds of years," President Shirley said. "This partnership, combining knowledge with my people's wisdom, will provide a pattern of true opportunity and future sustainability."

The long-term goal of this effort will be to raise the overall graduation rate of Navajo students and prepare them with the current and relevant skills required to enter the digital economy without leaving Navajo lands to seek meaningful employment.

"Supporting the growth and culture of the Native American population is an investment in our future," said Governor Huntsman. "This collaboration among Utah's public and private sectors and the Navajo Nation is a commitment that will yield wonderful results for America's youth, particularly the Navajo youth."

"Digital literacy empowers individuals from all cultures to secure career and life opportunities previously unavailable to them," Saedi said. "When individuals of a community find inclusion into the digital world, there is no limit to what they can achieve, individually and collectively."

This new initiative will integrate with the Navajo Nation's existing Web Warriors program provided at Navajo Nation Community Chapters. Combined, these programs will help Navajo youth leverage computers and access to Internet services to raise scholarship funds, while learning and certifying skills vital for competing in the global market place. Based on Certiport's Skilled2Succeed workforce development model, Certiport and partners will provide globally recognized assessments, courseware, certifications and job placement services. Additionally, UVSC's Multicultural Center will evaluate the feasibility of providing distance learning toward earning a high school diploma, college degrees and other career development programs for Navajo students.

More information on the Navajo Nation can be located at www.opvp.org and <http://dinewebwarriors.org>. For information regarding the Skilled2Succeed program and UVSC, please visit www.skilled2succeed.org and www.uvsc.edu, respectively.

About Certiport

Certiport provides industry-leading training, assessment and certification solutions that enable individuals to develop the skills necessary to achieve more, distinguish themselves and advance in today's academic and business environments. These solutions include Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®), the Microsoft® Office Specialist certification program and Microsoft IT Academy delivered through a channel of more than 10,000 Certiport Centers worldwide. For more information about Certiport, visit www.certiport.com.

Certiport and IC³ are registered trademarks of Certiport, Inc. in the United States and other countries. Microsoft and PowerPoint are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corp. in the United States and other countries; and the Microsoft Office Specialist logo is used under license from owner. The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

Press Contact:

John Pilmer

PilmerPR

801-369-7535

mediarelations@certiport.com