

# Fossil Gen News

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APS makes  
donation to  
Navajo Prep

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## Donation helps leaders of the future



**Roderick Denetso, in red, and Sandra Westbrook show Schiavoni and Trujillo around the campus including the new gymnasium.**

Navajo Prep in Farmington traces its roots to 1891 when the United Methodist Church opened Navajo Mission. In those 120 years, ownership of the private school has changed hands several times. Its focus on developing young Navajo students into leaders of the future, however, has stayed the same.

In support of the company's focus on education, **Mark Schiavoni**, Senior Vice President, Fossil Operations, presented the school with a \$10,000 donation on Friday, May 13.

"From what I have seen of the campus, it's very impressive," Schiavoni said. "I drive by here all the time on the way from the airport to the power plant and it stands out. It's a lovely campus and I applaud your efforts."

"We at APS support education. We need people to operate our power plants. We need technical people for the future," he added. "These students are our future. They will be leaders of the Navajo Nation."

Schiavoni made the check presentation at the school along with APS representatives **Stephanie Aurora**, Corrective Action Program/Human Performance Manager, Fossil Oversight/Standards; **Larry Francis**, Site Manager, Four Corners; and **Arvin Trujillo**, Manager, Government Relations, Four Corners. (*Editor's note: Trujillo is a former teacher at the school and girls basketball assistant coach in the 1980s. Francis is a former boys and girls*

*basketball head coach in the late 1990s/early 2000s.)*

As stated on a Navajo Prep news release, the donation will be used toward capital outlay projects to improve the campus development projects currently in progress.

"Looking at our kids today, you notice there's a big change in their education because of people like you who care," said Edison Wauneka, Navajo Prep board member. "This donation shows us there are people out there who care and want to make a difference. I really appreciate the help from APS."



**Schiavoni looks at a student's science project. Water samples were taken from Morgan Lake, San Juan River and the tap. The lake water was the most prolific with fish in the tank flourishing.**

For the past 20 years, Betty Ojaye, Executive Director, has been working on improving the campus, especially the historic buildings which were built between 1925 and 1968. Since 1995, she has helped raise more than \$10 million for the renovation of the historic buildings, and construction of four dormitories, gymnasium, sports complex and student center.

"We have a long history of educational excellence," Ojaye said. "We pride ourselves of being keepers of that tradition. We have power in our history."

Graduates of the campus include many professionals in the judicial, medical and political fields like the late Taylor McKenzie who was the first Navajo surgeon and former Navajo Nation Vice President.

There are 187 students currently enrolled with which nearly 95 percent of all graduates attend college. The campus sits on 83 acres in west Farmington.