Albuquerque GigaPoP (ABQG) has expanded network services to two Navajo Nation educational institutions in the state of New Mexico. Navajo Preparatory School, also known as Navajo Prep, and Navajo Technical College (NTC) have acquired telecommunication services and Internet access to advance education and research. Both schools serve a diverse population of American Indian students who travel from areas located in and around the Four Corners region of the state and from other American Indian tribal communities.

Both schools are now members of ABQG’s List of Collaborators and have access to commodity internet. NTC and Navajo Prep are now equipped with reliable, efficient, and affordable technology to create new tools to deliver education, enhance curriculums, and extend networks to the un-served and underserved in their areas, continuing the mission of ABQG—to enhance education and research.

New Mexico remains a mostly rural state with major population centers in seven separate areas spread throughout the state. The ABQG vision includes support the Wire New Mexico initiative bringing Internet connectivity to all of New Mexico with the help of ABQG participants. State-wide networking reduces the amount of “hops” (routers determining traffic flow) around the nation on the Internet by keeping the network traffic in-state. By developing these types of collaborations, leveraging technological assets, reducing duplication and sharing large bandwidth access, ABQG is assisting in “unleashing new waves of innovation” to encourage network access to rural locations throughout the State of New Mexico.

Formerly known as Crownpoint Institute of Technology (CIT), Navajo Technical College (NTC) is a two-year tribal technical college located in a quiet rural area in Crownpoint, NM on the Navajo Nation. With campuses in Crownpoint, NM and Chinle, AZ, NTC offers a variety of courses, programs, and services to meet an individual’s needs to earn a certificate or associate degree. Recently, NTC received approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NLC-NCA) to provide two (2) four-year degree programs: Applied Science degree in Information Technology and Registered Nursing. These new bachelor degree programs will meet the demands for jobs involving the computer sciences, information technology, digital media and registered nursing.

About the Albuquerque GigaPoP: ABQG is a state-of-the-art interconnection facility established by the Information Technologies group at the University of New Mexico in collaboration with New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Council for Higher Education Computing Communication Services (CHECS) and the New Mexico State Agency of IT. It is designed to serve research and education programs in New Mexico. ABQG is the on-ramp for high speed National Networks. These high speed networks are the National Lambda Rail and Internet2. Additionally, access is available to commodity Internet and peering to keep in-state traffic local.

Photo Credit: American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)