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Power Authority upgrades HVAC, water filtration at Tuscarora Nation School



From left: Tuscarora Elementary School Teacher Paul Beatty, NYPA Vice President of Environmental Justice Kaela Mainsah, Superintendent of Niagara Wheatfield Central School District Daniel Lijlanich, Principal of Tuscarora Nation School Elizabeth Corieri, NYPA President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll, Tuscarora Nation Chief Jonathan, Clanmother Lena Rickard, Clanmother Susan Schandreaux, Clanmother Linda Hill, Clanmother Angela Jonathan, Clanmother Dorothy Chew, Tuscarora Nation Council Representative Neil Patterson, and Gov. Kathy Hochul's Regional Director Bonnie Lockwood cut a celebratory ribbon and highlight the completion of a new water treatment system and heating units at the Tuscarora Nation School. (NYPA photo)

New York Power Authority Press Release

The New York Power Authority on Wednesday announced the completion of a new water treatment system and heating units at the Tuscarora Nation School. The energy efficiency projects at the school were made possible through an ongoing collaboration between the Tuscarora Nation, the Niagara Wheatfield Central School District and NYPA.

NYPA President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll joined school district administrators and Tuscarora Council leaders to celebrate the projects and to view students' energy advocacy work during an assembly at the school.

"The New York Power Authority is committed to sharing its expertise and resources in ways that are meaningful for local communities," NYPA Chairman John R. Koelmel said. "These no-cost energy solutions will provide a lasting benefit to students and families in the Tuscarora Nation and attest to the power of public-private partnerships that continue to strengthen the entire Western New York region."

The \$934,000 water treatment and heating unit system was funded and implemented by NYPA. The Niagara Wheatfield Central School District and the Tuscarora Nation are eligible en-



NYPA President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll (right), Tuscarora Elementary School Teacher Paul Beatty and an elementary school student admire student projects on display. (NYPA photo)

titles under the Power Authority's environmental justice program, which conducts customized programs for underserved communities near NYPA facilities – in this case, the Niagara Power Project in Lewiston.

"We are pleased to help the Tuscarora Nation School upgrade the infrastructure systems that serve the children and will make school facilities more energy efficient for years to come," Driscoll said. "The Tuscarora Nation shares a commitment with the Power Authority to address the impacts of a changing climate and focus on

energy use and sustainable living. Our partnership supports the next generation and brings us another step closer to achieving New York state's nation-leading clean energy goals."

NYPA's environmental justice team recently engaged the fifth and sixth graders within the Tuscarora Nation School in an environmental advocacy program. Students learned about the energy upgrades happening at their school and ways to work together to conserve energy. Students also developed their own conservation campaigns to share with their peers.

The Tuscarora Nation School, an elementary-level New York state public school, is on Tuscarora Nation land. It encourages students to become competent,

SEE COMMUNITY, on Page 15

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