



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PDX-20-047

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**TITLE:** Support Substantial Increases in Funding for the Tribally Controlled College – University Endowment Program

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) provides access to high-quality postsecondary educational opportunities for— (1) American Indians; (2) Alaska Natives; and (3) non-Native individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribally Controlled College Or University Endowment Program established under the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act (TCCUAA) of 1978 is grossly underfunded; and

**WHEREAS**, the Endowment Program use of funds in the TCCUAA under 25 U.S.C § 1833 are to; “defray any expenses associated with the operation of such college or university, including expense of operations and maintenance, administration, academic and support personnel, community and student services programs, and technical assistance;” and

**WHEREAS**, under 25 U.S.C § 1832, in order for a TCU to establish an Endowment Program they are required to provide “a capital contribution...in an amount (or of a value) equal to half of the amount of each Federal capital contribution;” and

**WHEREAS**, tribal nations have identified matching requirements as a structural barrier that severely limits the benefits of federal programs to Indian Country.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby urge the U.S. Federal Government to provide an additional substantial increase in funding to the Endowment Program of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act (TCCUAA) to support long term growth and sustainability of Tribal Colleges; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby urge waiver of the matching requirement of the Endowment Program of the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act (TCCUAA) to support long term growth and sustainability of Tribal Colleges and Universities; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2020 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held Nov 8, 2020 - Nov 13, 2020, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President

**ATTEST:**



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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary