



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-03-013

Title: In Support of the Tribal Education Department National Association, a New, Non-Profit, National Organization for Tribal Education Departments

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Tex G. Hall
Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Joe A. Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)

RECORDING SECRETARY
Juana Majel
Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission Indians

TREASURER
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
Edward K. Thomas
Tlingit and Haida Tribes

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Harold Frazier
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

MIDWEST
Norman Adams, Jr.
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians

NORTHEAST
Kevin Seneca
Seneca Nation

NORTHWEST
Ernie Stensgar
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

PACIFIC
Leslie Lohse
Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Geri Small
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

SOUTHEAST
Eddie Tullis
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Zach Pahmahmie
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

SOUTHWEST
John F. Gonzales
San Ildefonso Pueblo

WESTERN
Arlan Melendez
Reno Sparks Indian Colony

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

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, 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, while NCAI recognizes the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) as the primary umbrella organization representing national Indian and Native education issues generally, NCAI also recognizes, encourages, and supports the creation of other national Indian education organizations that focus on specific levels or types of education, schools, and programs; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their being an exercise of tribal sovereignty and of their importance to tribal students, NCAI in partnership with NIEA has actively supported Tribal Education Departments (TEDs), including their roles and responsibilities in the national arena and in local communities; and

WHEREAS, NCAI is aware that over 110 American Indian tribes today have TEDs, and that the respect for and needs of TEDs among tribes and non-tribe stakeholders in education are growing; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Indian Education has provided a seed grant to the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) on behalf of TEDs to help them form a national organization that would best serve their interests and would allow them access to new resources to help tribal students; and

WHEREAS, with NARF's assistance, the TEDs have formed the Tribal Education Departments National Association (TEDNA), a non-profit organization to be composed of TEDs.

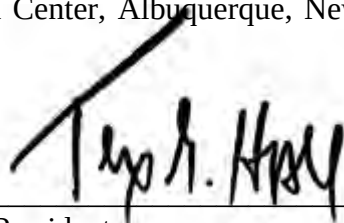
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians does hereby support the creation of the new Tribal Education Departments National Association (TEDNA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians pledges to work in partnership with TEDNA to improve the educational opportunities and outcomes for tribal students.

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

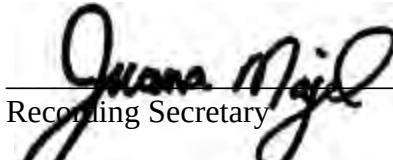
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.