



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-082

TITLE: Supporting Collaboration on the Establishment of a National American Indian University

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, American Indian and Alaska native tribal governments have chartered 33 Tribal Colleges and Universities and the Federal government has established or chartered three institutions of higher education to ensure that high quality, culturally-based higher education is accessible to Indian people who were largely excluded from state-supported higher education programs; and

WHEREAS, these 36 Tribal Colleges and Universities operate 78 campuses in the 15 states within whose geographic boundaries the majority of American Indian reservations and federal Indian trust land lie; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Colleges and Universities prepare and educate more than 61,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives in academic and community education programs, and these students represent more than 250 federally recognized Indian tribal nations, including the 10 of the largest federally recognized Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing accredited postsecondary education and technical/career education to thousands of Indian people, Tribal Colleges and Universities also provide a wide variety of community-based economic and workforce development programs; community-based support services, programs, and collaborative partnerships with tribes, K-12 education systems and schools, and others; and through their status as 1994 Land Grant Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities provide a variety of agriculture, land management and use programs and services; and

WHEREAS, education is a high priority for all tribal nations and tribal citizens; and

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WHEREAS, United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has stated his support of the prospect of establishing an American Indian University; and

WHEREAS, Senator Inouye has requested that Indian Country and American Indian University stakeholders present him with a proposal to create an American Indian University; and

WHEREAS, this nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities, which collectively are the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, have been informed of this effort and have approved a resolution consistent with this measure.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support collaboration to study and consider the development of a National American Indian University; and

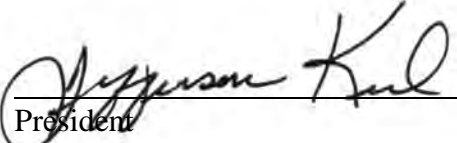
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby recommend that the governing body of a National American Indian University should be tribally controlled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support full and equitable funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities; and

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

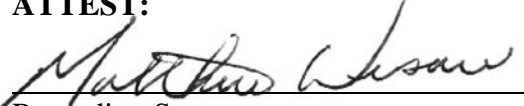
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary