



2020 Virtual Annual Convention

RESOLUTION #2020 – 27

“RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE S'G'WI G'WI ? ALTX^W LONGHOUSE AT THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest 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 rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has historically supported strengthening the region's Universities and Colleges to improve their campus and programs to support American Indian and Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS, the Evergreen State College is located on the ceded lands of the Medicine Creek Treaty Nations of the Squaxin Island Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe and Puyallup Tribe of Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Evergreen State College established the Native American Studies program within five (5) years of its inception (1967), under the leadership of the late Lummi elder Mary Ellen Hillaire; and

WHEREAS, the Evergreen State College partnered with the Indian Nations of Washington and the state Legislature to build the first Longhouse on a campus in the United States in 1995; and created specific initiatives to support students with the following:

- The Reservation-Based, Community-Determined Program, established in 1989, redesigned as the Native Pathways Program in 2017
- The Master of Public Administration Tribal Governance concentration, established in 2002
- The Indigenous Arts Campus (Longhouse, Fiber Arts Studio and Carving Studios), incorporated into the College's master plan by resolution of the Board of Trustees in 2014
- The Sen. John McCoy endowed scholarship, established in 2020 to provide support for students in the Master of Public Administration's Tribal Governance concentration
- The Enduring Legacies Native Cases Initiative, the largest collection of Native case studies on key issues in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the Evergreen State College has, over the decades, maintained consistently high enrollment, retention and graduation rates of Native students in the undergraduate and graduate programs; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby fully endorse and support the commitment of The Evergreen State College to provide a quality education for American Indian students at the undergraduate and graduate levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI recognizes the public service work of the Longhouse to promote Indigenous arts and cultures through education, cultural preservation, economic development and creative expression; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI commends the Evergreen State College for its work in Native education, arts, and Tribal Relations, and congratulates the s'g^{wi} g^{wi} ? altx^w "House of Welcome" Longhouse on its 25th Anniversary on September 22nd, 2020.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2020 Virtual Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on October 5 – 8, 2020, with a quorum present.

Leonard Forsman, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary