



2021 Virtual Winter Convention

RESOLUTION #2021 – 02

SUPPORT OF COAST SALISH STYLE LONGHOUSE AT WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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 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 (AI/AN) 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has historically supported the improvement of the Northwest regional Universities and Colleges to strengthen their support of AI/AN students on campus and programs; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University (WWU) is located on the ancestral homelands of the Lhaq'temish Lummi Nation and Nuxwsa7aq, Nooksack Nation, as well as other Coast Salish Nations; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University in partnership and close collaboration with Coast Salish tribal nations and the WWU Native American Student Union seek to build a traditional Coast Salish Style Longhouse in honor of the historic importance of the place that WWU occupies and in acknowledgement of the University's responsibility to promote educational opportunities for AI/AN students; and

WHEREAS, the Western Washington University, in partnership and with support from the Indian Nations, is requesting the Washington State Legislature for funds to build a Coast Salish Style Longhouse on campus and create specific initiatives to support AI/AN students, as follows:

- Increase representation of AI/AN students and enhance student recruitment, retention and graduation rates;
- Pursue justice and equity in policies, practices and impacts for advancing a deeper understanding and appreciation for the sense of place;
- Improve academia, personal and professional success of AIAN students, faculty and staff;
- Build and sustain a mutual working relationship with the Coast Salish people and expand WWU's strength in academia to serve the current and future needs of tribal communities; and


WHEREAS, the Coast Salish Style Longhouse is intended to serve as a "house of healing" to acknowledge the past traumas and distress affecting Native peoples, as well as grief and suffering caused by the global pandemic, long-standing racial injustices, and ensuing economic crisis, now

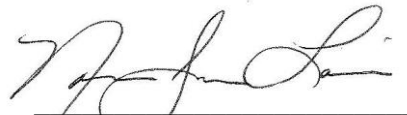
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby fully endorse and support the Western Washington University's vision to provide a quality education for American Indian/Alaska Native students at the undergraduate and graduate levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI endorses and supports Western Washington University in its financial request to the Washington State Legislature for \$4.9 million for the 2021-23 biennium to fund construction costs of a Coast Salish Style Longhouse on its' campus.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2021 Virtual Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on January 25-28, 2021, with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary