



2021 Virtual Mid-Year Convention

RESOLUTION #2021 – 15

“SUPPORT FOR A DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION INDIAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM”

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 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, through its unique relationship with Native nations, the U.S. Federal Government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be a tremendous need for well-trained Native school administrators in tribal communities and for University professors or in state education offices all across the United States, including rural, urban, and reservation communities; and

WHEREAS, although significant progress has been made in preparing Native administrators at the master's level for school administration or university faculty positions, there is a need for preparing Native administrators at the doctoral level, primarily to serve in the role of superintendents of schools or as university faculties as well in other fields; and

WHEREAS, there are too many school superintendent positions in Indian-serving schools, university faculty, and state education offices in administrative positions that are filled by non-Indians who do not speak the language, do not know the values and traditions, and tend not to stay on the job for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, the turnover rate of superintendents in some of these schools is 60%, and over 50% of the individuals serving as superintendents are doing so with emergency or temporary certification; and

WHEREAS, tribes also critically need highly trained American Indians and Alaska Natives to serve as directors of their tribal education departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, there is a trust responsibility to tribal people, which includes supporting educational attainment and the need to provide educational services; now

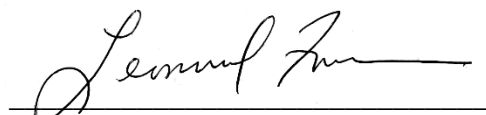
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the U.S. Congress and the Department of Education to include and support a Doctoral program within the Office of Indian Education's Indian Professional Development Grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges Congress to increase funding for the Indian Professional Development Grant program to meet the tremendous need in Indian Country and, to include a Doctoral Program; and

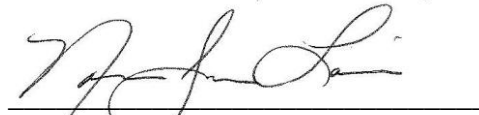
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2021 Virtual Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on May 24 – May 27, 2021, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary