



TABLED

2022 Mid-Year Convention Ferndale, WA

RESOLUTION #2022 – 16

Recognition of the Graduation Of Native American Students

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 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 the 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, the students of the Native Pathways Program (NPP) at The Evergreen State College (TESC) have brought to attention their experience concerning state law that precludes the usage of state funding to purchase items considered as “gifts” of non-nominal value rather than “awards.”

WHEREAS, the language of laws across Washington thus prevents Native American students from being awarded an item in recognition of their graduation from state institutions due to the misconstruing of awards such as blankets as barred gifts; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby contest the language of these laws as they misconstrue the meaning and intent behind the awarding of items of cultural significance in recognition of the graduation of Native American students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI passes this resolution to show support for Native American students graduating at state institutions across the northwest who are deserving of receiving culturally appropriate awards and urge states(s) to amend existing statutes to allow such awards to be authorized for native students.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2022 Mid Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Silver Reef Casino Resort, Ferndale, Washington, on May 16-19, 2022, with a quorum present.

Leonard Forsman, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary

