



2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho

RESOLUTION #2023 – 22

“Support The Center For Native American Health, At Washington State University, Serving Rural And Urban Tribal Communities”

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 (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 the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, as a land grant institution located on ancestral tribal lands, Washington State University (WSU) wishes to strengthen relationships and improve the access to educational services and opportunities for AI/AN achievement; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with support of the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine by ATNI Resolution #14-49, “Improving Access to Health Care,” ATNI urged the Washington State Legislature to authorize said legislation; and

WHEREAS, the WSU Native American Health Sciences (NAHS) has been in existence since 2007, and respectfully receives guidance by the WSU NAHS Tribal Advisory Board made up of tribal government officials, health and educational leadership, and community members who commit to advising WSU NAHS program, health colleges, and leadership upon the needs of AI/AN students and tribal communities most pressing health and health education needs, and

WHEREAS, the number of AI/AN physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals still make up less than 1% of all healthcare professionals in the United States; and more AI/AN healthcare professionals are needed to culturally align and respond to the healthcare needs of their people and the lack of AI/AN health care workers in both rural and urban tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, a recent report by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) (2019) found that culturally responsive academic enrichment programs, access to information, academic support, connection with mentors, and availability of financial support, including federal programs, have been shown to influence the number of AI/AN students who apply, enroll, and succeed in medical school and other health and allied health disciplines; and

WHEREAS, the WSU NAHS program in collaboration with WSU colleges of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine provides over a dozen health sciences pathway and support programs meant to recruit, matriculate, and help graduate AI/AN students to succeed who are entering into health care fields of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, nutrition and exercise physiology, speech and hearing sciences, clinical psychology, veterinary medicine, and other allied health sciences from youth through adult programming; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Native American Health (CNAH) at Washington State University Health Sciences supports students who identify as AI/AN or as First Nations Indigenous, non-native students at WSU, and collaborates and develops Native health programming with other institutional faculty and staff colleagues at OHSU, UC-Davis, UW, and on national Native health pathways with over twenty universities and tribal colleges, several WA state and PNW tribal health and educational partners, and local community, state, regional, and national health and partner organizations; and

WHEREAS, the CNAH was created to meet the mission of WSU NAHS and increase the AI/AN healthcare workforce, culturally embed and educate both native and non-native current and future healthcare workforce to help eliminate health disparities and enhance the response with better health equity and care for tribal communities, and strengthen and sustain tribal health community partnerships, and

WHEREAS, the CNAH provides a culturally safe space for students to study, engages native and non-native students to build capacity on both the parallels between western medicine and traditional knowledge in the healthcare field and increase health equity for AI/AN people,

provide personal and professional development, seek and receive guidance, and build leadership skills and a place for community, and

WHEREAS, the CNAH provides, and will expand, the nation's first culturally centered Indigenous developed and instructed clinical simulation center with telehealth and educational opportunities that balance clinical knowledge with Indigenous perspectives of holistic and traditional care intended to decrease provider perpetuated biased harms, increase health equity and outcomes for AI/AN people and communities, decolonize simulation and clinical spaces, and implement an approach that strives to eliminate racism in the health care field, and

WHEREAS, the CNAH utilizes their Tribal Community Room with local tribal communities, local and neighboring entities, and other various programs and departments to strengthen relationships between WSU, the WSU NAHS program, tribal communities, and partners from in and around the northwest region to support and enhance the tribal health priorities and outcomes of tribes, and

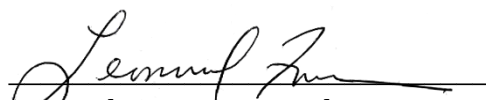
WHEREAS, the NAHS continues to expand their educational efforts on Indigenous healing perspectives for WSU students and staff, tribal communities, local healthcare entities, and current service providers and is committed to decreasing healthcare disparities in Indian country, increasing the quality of care AI/AN people, strengthening and sustaining relationships with tribal partners, and increasing the amount of AI/AN medical professionals in the healthcare field; now

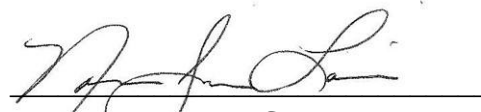
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI to call on the United States (US Federal Government) to recognize the health disparities in Indian country, and to request the support of the Congressional Directed Spending Request submitted to Senator Murray's office in late February of 2023 by WSU NAHS, in the amount of \$1.47 Million for the WSU Indigenous Health Simulation Center that will help support the implementation and future sustainability of the ongoing and expanding efforts by WSU NAHS program and the CNAH that serve AI/AN populations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ATNI request from US Federal Government to review, consider, concur, support, and agree to support WSU's Native American Health Sciences in Spokane and commit to financially supporting to sustainability of services that the NAHS, help support the retention AI/AN students pursuing careers in the healthcare field, support the CNAH which provides a space for native and non-native students and the current healthcare workforce to learn and grow in congruence with the traditional healing methods of AI/AN and western medicine within a newly expanded Indigenous Clinical Health Simulation center, and support the recruitment and retention efforts provided by the multiple NAHS Pathway Programs for AI/AN students.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort – Hotel, Worley, Idaho, on May 8-11, 2023, with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary