



2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho

Resolution #2023 – 28

“Support for Nutrition and Dietetics Professionals”

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, culturally relevant nutrition services are an essential component of wellbeing and disease prevention, as an upstream approach to public health; and

WHEREAS, since 1917, Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) have been a profession serving clients’ nutrition needs. RDNs and Nutrition and Dietetics Technicians, Registered (NDTRs) are practitioners credentialed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR); and

WHEREAS, RDNs are food and nutrition experts with degrees from an accredited dietetics program, and who have completed a supervised practice requirement; passed a national exam; and continue their ongoing professional development, ensuring compliance with applicable regulatory state laws; and

WHEREAS, RDNs work in a variety of settings, including tribal communities; public health, including teaching, monitoring, and advising the public, to help to improve the quality of life through healthy eating habits and the redevelopment of traditional food systems; the Indian health care system, where they educate patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the healthcare team; and

WHEREAS, NDTRs screen, evaluate, and educate patients; manage and prevent diseases, such as diabetes and obesity; and monitor patients' and clients' progress. NDTRs work in settings such as tribal clinics and hospitals, extended care facilities, home health care programs, schools, prisons, restaurants, food companies, food service providers, public health agencies, government, and community-based programs and wellness centers; and

WHEREAS, tribes often have vacancies for nutrition professionals, recruitment for RDNs and NDTRs is often challenging, and additional professionals need to be trained to meet the needs of tribal communities; now

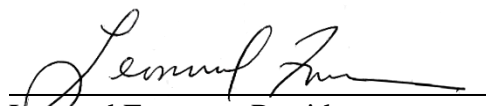
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that IHS make RDNs and NDTRs eligible for scholarships and adds NDTRs to its loan repayment program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that HRSA add RDNs to the NHSC Scholarship Program and that all tribes be eligible to recruit these professionals for service, regardless of their Health Professional Shortage Area score (HPSAs); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on local universities with nutrition programs, including: University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Oregon State University, Oregon Health & Science University, Central Washington University, Bastyr University, University of Washington, and Washington State University, Spokane to consider free or reduced tuition for tribal members pursuing their RDN credential, reserving at least one place per program for AI/AN students per year.

CERTIFICATION

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


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary