



2010 Annual Conference Spokane, Washington

RESOLUTION #10 - 48

"RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT LEWIS COLLEGE"

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 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, Fort Lewis College (FLC), located in Durango, Colorado, was created in an Agreement in which the southwest regions' tribes ceded lands to the U.S. Federal Government, which transferred the lands to the State of Colorado in 1911 "*to be maintained as an institution of learning to which Indian students will be admitted free of tuition and on an equality with white students*" in perpetuity (Act of 61st Congress, 1911); and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Fort Lewis College will commemorate its 100th Anniversary as an institution of higher education and Native American Serving Non-Tribal College; and

WHEREAS, currently Fort Lewis College enrolls over 750 Native American students, free of tuition, representing 120 Tribes and Alaska Native entities which are highlighted by the following:

- Fort Lewis College ranks first in the nation among institutions of higher education in the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to Native American students;
- Fort Lewis College ranks first in the nation in the number of Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math (STEM) baccalaureate degrees awarded to Native American students;
- According to the American Indian Science & Engineering Society, Fort Lewis College ranks in the top five in the nation among institutions of higher education in percent of full time Native American undergraduate students enrolled in college.

; and

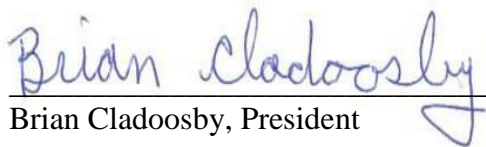
WHEREAS, numerous Northwest and Alaska Native tribal students have pursued their college degrees at Fort Lewis College and have returned to their homelands to support their tribal communities; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI recognizes and supports the 100th Anniversary of Fort Lewis College as a Native American Serving Non-Tribal College; and

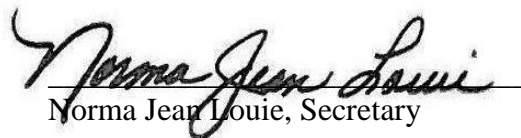
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ATNI urges the President of Fort Lewis College, the State of Colorado, and the U.S. Federal government to continue its' Native American student outreach, recruitment, and retention; American Indian Studies curriculum; and American Indian research initiatives for the next 100 years and in perpetuity in support of our tribal students.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Spokane, Washington, September 20-23, 2010 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary