



2011 Mid-Year Conference Worley, Idaho

RESOLUTION #11-27

“IN SUPPORT OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER FROM PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ON BEHALF OF THE TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES”

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, Northwest Indian College is a tribally-chartered higher education institution established by the Lummi Nation to provide post-secondary education for Native students throughout the Pacific Northwest including the states of Washington, Idaho and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the education of American Indians students is a unique environment requiring the collaboration of Tribal Nations, States and the U.S. government to ensure sufficient

financial resources for educational and outreach programs in all areas including post-secondary; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government and the U.S. government have chartered 36 tribal colleges and universities to ensure high quality, culturally-based higher education is accessible to American Indian people; and

WHEREAS, these 36 colleges operate more than 75 campuses in 15 states within whose majority of geographic boundaries lie within American Indian reservations and Indian trust lands; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Colleges and Universities prepare and educate more than 61,000 American Indian and Alaska Natives in academic and community education programs; and these students represent more than 250 federally recognized Indian tribal nations, including the 10 largest federally recognized Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Colleges and Universities fulfill a fundamental role in maintaining, preserving and revitalizing irreplaceable American Indian and Alaska Native languages and cultural traditions and strengthening Indigenous peoples worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing accredited postsecondary education and technical/career education to American Indians and Alaska Natives, Tribal Colleges and Universities also provide a wide variety of community-based economic and workforce development programs; community based support services, programs and collaborative partnerships with tribes, K-12 education systems and schools, and other stakeholders; and important aquaculture, agriculture and natural resources/land management programs and services, all on extremely limited budgets; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Tribal Colleges and Universities are the most poorly funded institutions of higher education in the country, and overall, their funding lags behind that of other institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, in the historical recognition of tribal sovereignty and tribal control of Indian education, President William J. Clinton established the first White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) by Executive Order in 1996, which substantially improved the commitment among federal agencies to work with our institutions; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the “integral and essential” role that Tribal Colleges and Universities have in their communities, President George W. Bush signed a new TCU Executive Order within 18 months of taking office and maintained it throughout his presidency; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability of Tribal Colleges and Universities, which the previous executive orders strengthened, is threatened because the TCU’s remain unable to fully participate in many of this nation’s higher education and research programs and are often excluded from new federal education initiatives; and

WHEREAS, an Executive Order on Historically Black Colleges and Universities was signed by President Barack Obama in February 2010; and

WHEREAS, a unique and legal relationship exists between the United States and Indian tribes, recognized in the U.S. Constitution and established by more than 400 treaties, several Supreme Court decisions, Congressional action, and the ceding of more than one billion acres of land to the federal government; and


WHEREAS, the goal of the President of the United States is to provide universal access to a complete and competitive education, including the hope and promise of higher education opportunities, as well as the nation's goal to lead the world in graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Indian College (NWIC) Board of Trustees adopted NWIC Resolution 2011-01 on May 4, 2011 in support of the request for a separate TCU Executive Order; now

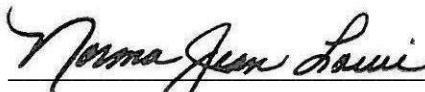
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the development of a separate Executive Order for Tribal Colleges and Universities in affirmation of their unique population and needs including recognition of the distinctive relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes which charter Tribal Colleges and Universities; and

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Coeur d'Alene Casino and Resort in Worley, Idaho, May 16-19, 2011 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary