



2017 Annual Convention Spokane, WA

RESOLUTION #17 - 42

“NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH SCIENCES DIRECTOR POSITION AT WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY-SPOKANE”

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, the Washington State University (WSU) campuses are land grant institutions located on ceded tribal lands, formally belonging to several ATNI affiliated tribal nations that states WSU wishes to strengthen relationships, improve the access to educational services and opportunities for Native American achievements; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 1997, WSU-Pullman entered into a Memorandum of Understanding committed to increasing educational opportunities for Native Americans with twelve (12) tribes that hold membership in ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the position of the WSU-Spokane Director of Native American Health Sciences was created in 2007 to establish and maintain important and respectful relationships with tribes in the region and increase the number of Native American students earning higher education degrees and entering into Health Science careers; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Health Sciences program, made significant strides towards advancing the goals of increasing the number of Native American students entering into the Health Sciences, including:

- creation of Na-ha-shnee (Native American Health Science Institute for High School Students), which has served over 450 students since its creation in 1996;
- procurement of numerous grants related to research and outreach for Native Americans;
- assembly of the Native American Health Science Advisory Board to the Chancellor in 2007;
- facilitated support for the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine from ATNI through Resolution #14-49, "Improving Access to Health Care" in 2014;
- directly facilitating the recruitment, retention, and graduation of Native Americans with the following degrees, 62 Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 8 Masters of Nursing, 2 Doctor of Nurse Practitioner, and 1 PhD in Nursing; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recognizes the value and necessity of the WSU-Spokane Director of Native American Health Sciences position to address the epidemic need for Native Americans to serve in healthcare careers for the benefit of improving health outcomes for Indian Country; and

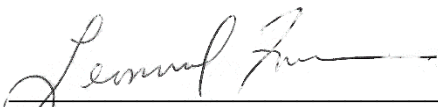
WHEREAS, the WSU-Spokane Director of Native American Health Sciences position has now been vacant for nearly a year without any public notice or indication or intent to fill this position; now

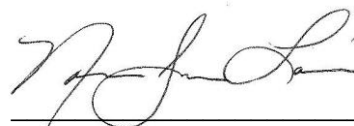
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI does hereby request that the Native American Health Sciences Director position not be eliminated or left vacant, and that it be filled with a culturally competent individual who can carry forward this very important work for the WSU-Spokane Health Sciences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI hereby request that the Native American Health Science Advisory Board continue to be maintained by the new Chancellor and the Deans of the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane, Washington on September 18-21, 2017, with a quorum present.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary