

1999

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NIEA 30TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
October 17-20, 1999

NOTE: The NIEA Board of Directors approved resolution #99-01 at its January 1999 meeting and #99-02 and #99-03 at its March 1999 meeting.

SUMMARY OF THE RESOLUTIONS:

#99-01. TITLE: To Support Improvement of Service Delivery to BIA-Funded Schools Through Amendments to Public Law 95-561 and Public Law 100-297. A resolution encouraging NIEA to consult with the Navajo Area School Board Association (NASBA), the Association of Navajo Community Controlled School Boards (ANCCSB), the Dakota Area Consortium of Tribal Schools (DACTS), Minneapolis Area Community Tribal Schools (MACTS), other such groups, and all tribal departments of education to improve service delivery to BIA-funded schools.

#99-02. TITLE: In Support of the United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) National Fitness Initiative for American Indians and Alaska Natives . A resolution to a National Fitness Initiative and to add an NIEA representative to the UNITY National Fitness Initiative for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

#99-03. TITLE: A resolution To endorse a pending proposal to the Administration for Native Americans for the monitoring of the Indian Education Executive Order. A resolution supporting NIEA's intention to submit a grant proposal monitoring the Indian Education Executive Order.

#99-04. TITLE: Support for Federal Native American Language Education Funding and Policy. A resolution whereby NIEA calls upon Congress to establish, as a priority, funding and policy support for Native American language development in public and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)-funded schools and in tribal/Native community-based programs, and sends copies of this resolution to the President and to Congress.

#99-05. TITLE: Support for Eliminating the Method B Fixed Base Funding Formula from the Johnson-O'Malley Program. A resolution whereby NIEA advocates for and works to eliminate the Method B Fixed Base Funding Formula from the Johnson-O'Malley Program (JOM), and collaborates with tribal governments, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and other organizations to request the federal government remove imposed requirements preventing the growth and expansion of the JOM Program.

#99-06. TITLE: Support for Full Funding for the BIA's Johnson-O'Malley Program and for Reinstating a \$400.00 Per Capita with 6% Annual Increases . A resolution whereby NIEA recommends funding levels for the Johnson-O'Malley Program (JOM) for FY2000; advocates for and works to reinstate a \$400.00 per capita for JOM with a 6%

annual increases with the funds to come from the projected federal budget surplus without affecting other Indian education programs; collaborates with tribal governments, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and other organizations to request the federal government remove imposed requirements preventing the growth and expansion of the JOM Program; and advocates for full funding for JOM at NIEA's recommended level for FY2000.

#99-07. TITLE: Support for Taking the Johnson-O'Malley Program out of the BIA's Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) Budget System. A resolution whereby NIEA advocates for and works toward removing the Johnson-O'Malley Program (JOM) from the BIA's Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) budget system, and collaborates with tribal governments, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and other organizations to request the federal government remove imposed requirements preventing the growth and expansion of the JOM Program.

#99-08. TITLE: Support for the Development of a Model K-12 Curriculum on Tribal Sovereignty, Contemporary and Historical Indian Life, and on the Unique Indian-U.S. Relationship. A resolution whereby NIEA supports the development of a model K-12 curriculum that accurately depicts the historical and contemporary legal and political rights of tribes and their legal and political relationships with non-tribal sovereigns; pledges to work with tribes and other national Indian organizations in the development of such curriculum; and calls on educators and educational organizations and institutions across the country, both public and private, to modernize their teaching curricula at all educational levels to include the legal and governmental rights, modern status, and contemporary circumstances of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

#99-09. TITLE: Support for a Statewide Indian Charter School Concept and for the NATIVE Charter School of California's Request to Become a Local Education Agency (LEA). A resolution whereby NIEA reaffirms the belief that American Indian children must not lose their sense of self or culture to succeed in school; supports the efforts of the NATIVE Charter School of Sacramento, California, to create a system to reduce drop out rates and improve academic achievement among resident American Indian and Alaska Native students; and supports similar efforts in other states to reduce drop out rates and improve academic achievement among their American Indian and Alaska Native students.

#99-10. TITLE: Resolution to Oppose State Anti-Affirmative Action Initiatives that Adversely Discriminate Against American Indian and Alaska Native Students in Higher Education, to Support Exemptions for these Students from Bans on Financial Aid and Admission to State Universities that Target Racial Minorities, and to Support Exemptions for American Indian Students from the Application of Initiative 200 (I-200) in Funding/Scholarships and Admission to Washington State Universities . A resolution whereby NIEA deplors and opposes any discrimination against American Indian and Alaska Native students at Washington State public universities under State Initiative 200 (I-200); urges Washington State and all other public universities to acknowledge American Indian and Alaska Natives students as

“unique political culturally distinct entit[ies],” and not solely racial minorities, by exempting them from the application of I-200 and other such anti-affirmative action initiatives; encourages public universities to form support and academic counseling service centers to meet the needs of their American Indian and Alaska Native students; and strongly opposes any and all efforts to repeal affirmative action programs, policies, and laws affecting state higher education institutions.

#99-11. TITLE: Oppose Efforts by the U.S. Department of Education to Repeal Laws Establishing Federal Indian Education Programs or to Put Indian Education Funds into State Block Grants, and to Support Full Funding for Such Programs . A resolution whereby NIEA opposes any and all efforts by the U.S. Department of Education and Congress to repeal laws establishing federal Indian education programs or to put such funds into block grants to the states, and to support full funding for all federal Indian education programs.

#99-12. TITLE: Support Continued Federal Funding for the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA). A resolution whereby NIEA supports continued funding for the Institute for American Indian Arts (IAIA) FY2000 at a level of \$4.25 million for core operations and \$2 million for construction with a 100 % matching provision, and urges the President and the Congress to continue funding IAIA and at the recommended levels.

#99-13. TITLE: Support Increased Funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Scholarship Program. A resolution whereby NIEA recommends that the BIA scholarship program be funded at a level of \$39 million in FY2000.

#99-14. TITLE: Support for Science and Technology Curricula and Facilities at the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute and at Other Tribal Colleges. A resolution whereby NIEA recognizes the need to develop science and technology curricula to train American Indian and Alaska Native students and to secure funding for science and technology facilities at tribal colleges; supports the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute’s (SIPI) request for \$9.3 million for a science building and for increased operational support; and urges Congress to fund SIPI’s request and other tribal colleges seeking support for science and technology curricula and facilities.

#99-15. TITLE: Support for Census 2000. A resolution whereby NIEA joins the U.S. Census Bureau in its goal of achieving a complete and accurate count in Census 2000, particularly among undercounted populations and groups; whereby NIEA will help publicize its endorsement of Census 2000 and urge its members to cooperate; and whereby NIEA will assist the Census Bureau with Census 2000 recruitment and promotion efforts.

RESOLUTION #99-01

TITLE: To Support Improvement of Service Delivery to BIA-Funded Schools Through Amendments to Public Law 95-561 and Public Law 100-297.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, NIEA has collaborated with other Indian organizations over the last 29 years; and

WHEREAS, NIEA has initiated many collaborative efforts including the Indian Education Executive Order of 1998, the White House Conference on Indian Education of 1992, and an annual Indian Education Legislative Impact Week; and

WHEREAS, NIEA has previously worked with the Association of Community Tribal Schools, Inc. (ACTS) since 1982 and has collaborated with the National Indian School Board Association (NISBA) and the Native American Grant School Association (NAGSA) since their inception, as well as with organizations such as the Navajo Area School Board Association (NASBA), the Association of Navajo Community Controlled School Boards (ANCCSB), and other such groups; and

WHEREAS, Public Laws 95-561 and 100-297 are the titles of the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act which directly authorize the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to provide specific education programs and services to American Indian and Alaska Native students in BIA-funded schools; and

WHEREAS, ACTS, NISBA, and NAGSA have been working together since the 1998 Indian Education Legislative Impact Week on legislative changes to ESEA, specifically amendments to Public Laws 95-561 and 100-297, that seek to improve the delivery of education services to BIA-funded school children; and

WHEREAS, the combined membership of ACTS, NISBA, and NAGSA represent the majority of students in BIA-funded schools; and

WHEREAS, NIEA agrees with ACTS, NISBA, and NAGSA that improvements are needed in the delivery of education services to BIA-funded school children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does hereby express its support for the collaborative effort of the Association of Community Tribal Schools, Inc. (ACTS), the National Indian School Board Association (NISBA), and the Native American Grant School Association (NAGSA) to improve service delivery to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)-funded schools through amendments to Public Laws 95-561 and 100-297 during the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does hereby join with ACTS, NISBA, and NAGSA, while urging them to include and consult with the Navajo Area School Board Association (NASBA), the Association of Navajo Community Controlled School Boards (ANCCSB), the Dakota

Area Consortium of Tribal Schools (DACTS), Minneapolis Area Community Tribal Schools (MACTS), other such groups, and all tribal departments of education, in the aforementioned collaborative effort to improve service delivery to BIA-funded schools.

SUBMITTED BY: Dr. Roger Bordeaux (*Sicangu Lakota*).

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its March 27-30, 1999 meeting in Washington, D.C., at which a quorum was present.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-02

TITLE: In Support of the United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) National Fitness Initiative for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, serves as a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the education needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved homelands; and **WHEREAS**, NIEA has a cooperative working agreement with the United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) organization for the betterment of American Indian and Alaska Native youth; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, in its mission and in its advocacy work, recognizes that health education is an important part of Indian education; and

WHEREAS, the major nutrition issue for American Indian and Alaska Native communities has changed from prevention and treatment of malnutrition in the 1960s to obesity and its health consequences today; and

WHEREAS, the current epidemic of child and adult obesity and associated obesity-related morbidities, such as type 2 diabetes mellitus and other chronic diseases, has implications for the immediate and long-term health of Native youth, with 43 percent of our youth being under age twenty of whom an average of 39 percent are overweight as measured by the Body Mass Index; and

WHEREAS, UNITY is launching a National Fitness Initiative to develop an awareness of the need for physical fitness and healthy lifestyles for all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION agrees, in principle, that such a National Fitness Initiative is an important step in addressing the major issue of obesity among our Native people, especially our youth, and declaring that an emergency exists among American Indians and Alaska Natives, regarding lack of exercise and proper diet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will appoint a representative to serve on UNITY's advisory board to the National Fitness Initiative for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

SUBMITTED BY: Greg Mendoza (*Akimel-Tohono O'odham/Yaqui*).

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its January 22-24, 1999 meeting in Oklahoma City, OK, at which a quorum was present.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-03

TITLE: To endorse a pending proposal to the Administration for Native Americans for the monitoring of the Indian Education Executive Order.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the education needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, since 1994, NIEA has worked cooperatively with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) to develop a Comprehensive Federal Indian Education Policy Statement (CFIEPS), the intent of which is to formulate a set of guidelines for the coordinated administration of all federal Indian education policies and programs which is applicable to all federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 1998, President William Jefferson Clinton issued Executive Order No. 13096, the American Indian and Alaska Native Education Executive Order, also known as the Indian Education Executive Order, which is a direct outgrowth of CFIEPS and NIEA's work on it; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order calls for the establishment of an Interagency Task Force to implement the goals contained in the Order and to do so in consultation with NIEA, NCAI, and the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE); and

WHEREAS, the Interagency Task Force is required to develop an interagency plan to support and implement the goals of the Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, NIEA is the only national organization that represents specifically the needs and concerns of Indian education nationwide; and

WHEREAS, NIEA is explicitly named in the Executive Order to provide expert consultation on Indian education issues in support of the implementation of the Order; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, in addition to providing expert consultation, will monitor the progress of implementing the Executive Order by designing a tracking and monitoring system and by submitting a proposal to the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) for financial support to develop such a system; and

WHEREAS, NIEA's mission and goals are consistent with the mission and goals of the Executive Order and are explicitly linked to the overall social and economic development of Indian and Alaska Native communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Board of Directors does hereby support the goals and objectives outlined in NIEA's proposal to the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) to monitor and track the progress of implementing the Indian Education Executive Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Board of Directors authorizes the NIEA staff to submit such a proposal to ANA.

SUBMITTED BY: The NIEA Board of Directors.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its January 22-24, 1999 meeting in Oklahoma City, OK, at which a quorum was present.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-04

TITLE: Support for Federal Native American Language Education Funding and Policy.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the historical policy of the United States was to eliminate the use and development of indigenous (Native American) languages as the language of the schools serving Native America; and

WHEREAS, the policy of prohibiting the use of Native Languages (American Indian, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian) as the language of the school has resulted in reducing over 300 original Native American languages, spoken at initial European contact, to a present 175 languages presently used by Native peoples in the United States (with only 20 still spoken by children); and

WHEREAS, many of the Native American languages are predicted to become extinct by the 21st century unless current trends are reversed (International Journal of the Sociology of Language #132, 1998); and

WHEREAS, the federal government has appropriated \$2,000,000 annually since 1992 to assist Native American tribes and communities with strengthening their languages and to reverse the damage done to Native language usage among children and adults (an amount equal to less than \$1.00 per person of Native American descent); and

WHEREAS, bilingual education, second language development and foreign language classes have provided important enrichment opportunities for students to use Native languages in the formal school setting, but are not designed to reverse the problem of extinction of Native languages generally; and

WHEREAS, the most successful programs to reverse language loss have been through schools taught and administered entirely through Native American languages with strong family and community involvement and that operate outside institutional barriers found in the standard systems of the public and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools; and

WHEREAS, the schools conducting strong Native language and cultural programs have found that their students do as well or better (academically, socially, linguistically, and culturally) than their peers in regular public or BIA schools; and

WHEREAS, adequate levels of federal funding and formal federal policy support for such language and cultural programs are needed, and would be consistent with the Presidential Executive Order on Indian Education dated August 6, 1998.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION calls upon the United States Congress to establish, as priority areas, specific funding and policy support for Native American language development in three areas: 1) Public schools that serve Native American students desiring a school context that promotes Native language development as a first, second, or bilingual curriculum approach to schooling in partnership with Native American communities served by the school; 2) BIA schools promoting Native language development as a first, second, or bilingual language curriculum approach to schooling; and 3) Tribal or Native community-based programs taught and administered through Native American languages offering a curriculum that promotes Native American languages as the primary language of communication;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to the members of the United States Congress.

SUBMITTED BY: Dr. William G. Demmert Jr. (Tlingit/Oglala), Bellingham, WA.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-05

TITLE: Support for Eliminating the Method B Fixed-Base Funding Formula From the Johnson-O'Malley Program.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native children receive supplemental Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) program services in public schools and tribal entities have had to reduce their programs by 75% due to funding losses; and

WHEREAS, local educational agencies (LEA's) with large American Indian and Alaska Native children school enrollment are supported by public, basic education funding through local, state, tribal, and federal sources; and

WHEREAS, the student count in October 1995 fixed, indefinitely, a base number to be used for all future nationwide formula distribution of JOM funds under the Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) budget system; and

WHEREAS, Indian student populations have been increasing for the past several years for which funding adjustments are not possible under this funding method; and

WHEREAS, no other education programs in any of the federal agencies has imposed a fixed-base funding method on their formula-funded programs, except JOM funds; and

WHEREAS, the Method B Fixed-Base Funding Formula is discriminatory among all of the Indian education programs; and

WHEREAS, the National JOM Association (NJOMA) is an organization representing the collective voice of over 275,000 eligible JOM program students and their parents/guardians nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the NJOMA's members have approved resolutions entitled "Johnson-O'Malley Student and Funding Cap," "Eliminate Baseline Student Count Cap," and "Eliminate Baseline Student Count Cap, Reinstate \$400 Per Capita with 6% Annual Increases and Take JOM Out of Tribal Priority Allocation."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will advocate and work towards elimination of the Method B Fixed-Base Funding Formula so that the JOM program will have flexibility in growth and expansion to serve eligible JOM students;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will collaborate with tribal governments, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and other organizations to ask the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to remove imposed requirements which prevent the growth and expansion of the JOM program.

SUBMITTED BY: Virginia Thomas (*Muscogee [Creek] Nation*), Wewoka, OK.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-06

TITLE: Support for Full Funding for the BIA's Johnson-O'Malley Program and for Reinstating a \$400.00 Per Capita with 6% Annual Increases.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Johnson-O'Malley Program (JOM) provides funds to tribes which are serving an increasing number of eligible American Indian and Alaska Native students at the preschool and K-12 levels in public and tribal schools; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian and Alaska Native student population has doubled in numbers from 150,000 to 300,000 over the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS, federal budget appropriations for JOM have decreased substantially over the last 20 years despite dramatic increases in the student population and in education costs at the preschool and K-12 levels; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native children receive supplemental JOM program services in public schools and tribal entities have had to reduce their programs by 75% due to funding losses; and

WHEREAS, local educational agencies (LEA's) with large American Indian and Alaska Native children school enrollment are supported by public, basic education funding through local, state, tribal, and federal sources; and

WHEREAS, the National JOM Association (NJOMA) is an organization representing the collective voice of over 275,000 eligible JOM program students and their parents/guardians nationwide; and

WHEREAS, NJOMA members have approved a resolution entitled "Eliminate Baseline Student Count Cap, Reinstatement \$400.00 Per Capita with 6% Annual Increases and Take JOM out of Tribal Priority Allocation."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does hereby recommend that the FY2000 federal budget appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Johnson- O'Malley Program (JOM) be funded at no less than \$24 million and at most \$54,400,000;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will advocate and work towards reinstatement of a

\$400.00 Per Capita with 6% Annual Increases for the JOM Program to come from the projected federal budget surplus without affecting other Indian education programs; **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION** will collaborate with tribal governments, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and other organizations to ask the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to remove imposed requirements which prevent the growth and expansion of the JOM Program, and to fully fund JOM at the higher requested level for FY2000.

SUBMITTED BY: Alvin Schuster (*Yakama*), Toppenish, WA, and Virginia Thomas (*Muscogee [Creek] Nation*), Wewoka, OK.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-07

TITLE: Support for Taking the JOM Program Out of the BIA's Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) Budget System.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, Indian and Alaska Native children receive supplemental Johnson-O'Malley Program (JOM) services in public schools and tribal entities have had to reduce their programs by 75% due to funding losses; and

WHEREAS, local educational agencies (LEA's) with large Indian and Alaska Native children school enrollment are supported by public, basic education funding through local, state, tribal, and federal sources; and

WHEREAS, the National JOM Association (NJOMA) is an organization representing the collective voice of over 275,000 eligible JOM program students and their parents/guardians nationwide; and

WHEREAS, NJOMA members have approved resolutions entitled "Eliminate Baseline Student Count Cap, Reinstate \$400.00 Per Capita with 6% Annual Increases and Take JOM out of Tribal Priority Allocation" and "Eliminate Baseline Student Count Cap and Take JOM out of the Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA)."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will advocate and work towards removing the Johnson-

O'Malley Program (JOM) from the Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) budget system under which few tribes have received financial increases as they were prior to 1995.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will collaborate with tribal governments, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and other organizations to ask the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to remove imposed requirements which prevent the growth and expansion of the JOM Program.

SUBMITTED BY: Virginia Thomas (*Muscogee [Creek] Nation*), Wewoka, OK.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-08

TITLE: Support for the Development of a Model K-12 Curriculum on Tribal Sovereignty, Contemporary and Historical Indian Life, and on the Unique American Indian-U.S. Relationship.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the historical and contemporary legal and political rights of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, and the legal and political relationships of tribes with non-tribal governments, are critical to understanding tribes and Indian people; and

WHEREAS, while Indian people cannot change the past, they can change the future by teaching all children and students of the United States of America, about the rightful, legal and historic place that American Indians and Alaska Natives hold in American history, society, and political system; and

WHEREAS, Indian tribes are sovereigns, governing themselves for thousands of years prior to the founding of the United States, and that this inherent sovereignty is recognized by the United States Constitution, the courts, and in federal policy; and that despite violations to the treaties, rights, and laws that apply them to Indian people continue to personify a unique body of law and relationships that are inherent in the American ideal of rule of law, responsibility, and commitment to human rights and equality; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the future of American Indians and Alaska Natives that their powers and exercise of self- government over themselves and their tribal lands as recognized by the Constitution, be taught in the American educational system; that

education was viewed by the country's founding fathers as central to a healthy democracy; that they understood that an educated electorate was the best hope for achieving the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights; and yet today children move from kindergarten through college without being taught about the unique status of American Indian and Alaska Natives in contemporary America; and

WHEREAS, in the American system, American Indians and Alaska Natives cease to exist beyond the historic Indian-U.S. land wars, and the assumed final resolution of Indians issues through the creation of the reservation system. Few Americans recognize that there are 558 self-governing sovereign nations, governed in the same manner as the 50 sovereign states through a government-to-government relationship with the federal government, who trace their legal and institutional foundations through a framework of the Constitution, treaties, courts, and Congress; and

WHEREAS, ignorance of Native peoples, and the contemporary issues of politics, economics, social and religious challenges they face, is a travesty of the meaning of education as it is meant to prepare the citizen to live together respecting common laws, rights and values. This void of information perpetuates a racist attitude and renders American Indians and Alaska Natives as non-existent anachronisms of a dead past; and

WHEREAS, the reality is that American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to struggle to endure and to secure a place on their ancestral lands. Worse yet is the fact that decisions and conflicts between Indians and Americans continue based on old stereotypes and myths of the past, unexposed and uncritically examined in the light of the soon to be 21st Century America; and

WHEREAS, these tribal rights and political relationships confirmed by federal law are not being taught, or not being taught well, in most K-12 federal, tribal, and public schools; and

WHEREAS, a model K-12 curriculum on the legal and political rights and relationships of tribes would help to get these matters incorporated into curricula and educational processes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION supports the development of a model K-12 curriculum that accurately depicts the historical and contemporary legal and political rights of tribes, and the legal and political relationships of tribes with non-tribal sovereigns;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION calls on educators, educational organizations and institutions of the 50 states, and of the U.S. government to modernize teaching curricula to include the legal and governmental rights, and modern and contemporary status and circumstances of American Indians and Alaska Natives;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION pledges to work with tribes and other national Indian organizations in the development of such curricula.

SUBMITTED BY: Melody L. McCoy (*Cherokee*), Boulder, CO, and Alvin Schuster (*Yakama*), Toppenish, WA.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-09

TITLE: Support for a Statewide Indian Charter School Concept and for the NATIVE Charter School of California's Request to Become a Local Education Agency (LEA).

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has the largest population of American Indians of all of the 50 states; and the state legislature has established Indian Education Centers throughout California to address the alarmingly high dropout rate and low academic achievement scores of Indian youth; and

WHEREAS, these centers have collaborated to form a replicable statewide charter school model, the NATIVE Charter School, to address the failure of the public school system to educate Indian youth; and

WHEREAS, recent California legislation, SB434, severely restricts the implementation of the NATIVE Charter School concept by limiting a statewide collaborative effort; and

WHEREAS, there may be American Indian and Alaska Native students residing in other states with the same problems as those in California who could benefit from the NATIVE Charter School Model.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION reaffirms the belief that American Indian and Alaska Native children must not lose their sense of self or culture in order to succeed in school;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION supports any and all efforts to reduce drop out rates and improve academic performance and achievement by American Indian and Alaska Native students wherever they reside;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION supports the efforts of the NATIVE Charter School, as well as efforts to create similar systems in other states, to reduce drop out rates and improve academic achievement among resident American Indian and Alaska Native students.

SUBMITTED BY: Marcellene Norton (*Hupa*), Hoopa, CA, and Cindy La Marr, (*Pit River/Paiute*), Sacramento, CA.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-10

TITLE: Resolution to Oppose State Anti-Affirmative Action Initiatives that Adversely Discriminate Against American Indian and Alaska Native Students in Higher Education, to Support Exemptions for these Students from Bans on Financial Aid and Admission to State Universities that Target Racial Minorities, and to Support Exemptions for American Indian Students from the Application of Initiative 200 in Funding/Scholarships and Admission to Washington State Universities.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, within the boundaries of the state of Washington there exists over two dozen federally recognized tribes, and several others petitioning for recognition, without the acquisition of whose lands the state would not exist; and

WHEREAS, Washington State approved Initiative 200 (I-200) in November 1998, which bans and outlaws affirmative action and preferences based on race, ethnicity, and gender in state and local public employment, contracting, and education; and

WHEREAS, the passage of I-200 has effectively ended over 25 years of open access and educational opportunity for tribal students at Washington State public universities resulting in an immediate decrease in admissions by 20% at the University of Washington, and a future projection of enrollment decreasing by 50%; and

WHEREAS, I-200 failed to address its impact on the political relationship that exists among the three main sovereign governments within Washington State (federal, tribal, and state); and

WHEREAS, in exchange for vast tracts of tribal lands and resources, and with a commitment to peace and loyalty, the federal government entered into contractual treaties with tribes that included, among many things, perpetual provisions for education; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court, known as “the highest court in the land,” has repeatedly ruled that the American Indian is not a “race of people,” or “ethnic group,” or “minority,” but rather a “unique political culturally distinct entity”; and

WHEREAS, the acknowledgment of this classification is a result of hundreds of ratified treaties that are the supreme law of the land, and federal statutes that recognize American Indian tribes as sovereign nations, and affirm that tribes have possessed and enjoyed exercising inherent powers of self government and sovereignty for thousands of years prior to the creation and establishment of the United States of America, the U.S.

Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, provisions for health, education, and welfare are guaranteed because of the tribes' treaty and trust relationships with the federal government based on the agreements between the tribes and the U.S. and pursuant to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Washington State public universities have systematically discriminated against American Indian students and their tribal nations by acting to negate their uniqueness by classifying these students as "minority," and that this has been an accepted practice despite the universal policy of Washington State public universities to honor, respect, and value diversity and condemn discrimination in all forms; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association has noted with alarm and deep concern a similar trend among other colleges and universities in states where initiatives similar or identical to I-200 have been approved; and

WHEREAS, such initiatives also fail to recognize the unique and special relationship American Indian and Alaska Native people have with the United States based in part on the ceding, by force and coercion, of tribal lands and resources for the creation, benefit, and enjoyment of the United States, the individual states, and their citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does hereby deplore any form of discrimination against American Indian and Alaska Native students as members of their tribal nations, and the termination of tribal programs at Washington State and other state public universities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does urge all Washington State and any other state public universities to acknowledge American Indians and Alaska Natives as "unique political culturally distinct entit[ies]" and not solely as racial minorities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does strongly encourage the formation of American Indian and Alaska Native support and academic counseling service centers at Washington State and other state universities based on and justified by the unique status and needs of tribal students that are different from other students;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does hereby urge Washington State and other state public universities to deem current and future American Indian and Alaska Native students exempt from the application of I-200 and other similar initiatives because of such students' distinct political and historical status;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does strongly oppose any and all efforts by voters, state governments and their entities, and by the federal government to overturn, repeal, and otherwise cause to become null and void any and all affirmative action programs, laws, and policies that have helped students stay in school and earn their degrees.

SUBMITTED BY: Alvin Schuster (*Yakama*), Toppenish, WA.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-11

TITLE: Oppose Efforts by the U.S. Department of Education to Repeal Laws Establishing Federal Indian Education Programs or to Put Federal Indian Education Funds in State Block Grants, and to Support Full Funding for Such Programs.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a government-to-government relationship with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes; and

WHEREAS, the United States also has a trust responsibility for educating American Indians and Alaska Natives that is based, in part, on the ceding of lands and resources by their tribes for the establishment of the United States and for the enjoyment and use of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the United States government, by congressional and executive action and policy, has confirmed said government-to-government relationship and trust responsibility including a policy of tribal consultation and self-determination in matters affecting American Indian and Alaska Native tribes; and

WHEREAS, Congress, in recognition of the desperate educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives, enacted legislation to establish the Office of Indian Education (OIE), the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE), and other federal Indian education programs; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education has flagrantly disregarded President Clinton's American Indian and Alaska Native Education Order (#13096) of August 6, 1998 by introducing legislation in the 106th Congress to repeal NACIE and the Indian education programs it is responsible for administering, and that Congress has not funded during the last decade; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes have not been consulted by the Department of Education, despite a presidential order to do so, nor have Congressional hearings been held on why these programs and NACIE have not been funded and why they should be repealed; and

WHEREAS, the education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students have not yet been fully met due to a continual lack of funding by Congress and a lack of attention by the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education, as a federal department, has a responsibility to the tribes under the government-to-government relationship; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has demonstrated by its actions its lack of support for the Indian education programs in its charge and appears to be avoiding its responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, NIEA has a standing Resolution #99-15 stating its opposition to using federal Indian education program funds being diverted to block the grants to the states.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION opposes any and all efforts by the U.S. Department of Education and the Congress to repeal laws establishing federal Indian education programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION calls on tribal nations, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and other Indian organizations and groups to protest and vigorously work to prevent the repeal of and block granting to the states any and all federal Indian educational laws and programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION calls upon Congress to remember the commitment it made to the American Indian and Alaska Native people when it enacted legislation to meet their education needs by not supporting efforts to repeal federal Indian education laws;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION calls upon Congress and President Clinton to use a portion of the projected federal budget surplus to fund these unfunded Indian education programs.

SUBMITTED BY: Alvin Schuster (*Yakama*), Toppenish, WA.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-12

TITLE: Support for Continued Federal Funding for the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA).

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) is a national fine arts college devoted solely to the teaching and preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, NIEA has been made aware that the House Interior Appropriations Committee has terminated federal funding for IAIA in FY2000 and that the Senate and President Clinton have recommended funding at \$4.25 million for core operations and \$2 million for construction.

WHEREAS, IAIA has educated approximately 4,000 American Indian and Alaska Native students since its inception in 1962; and

WHEREAS, NIEA is cognizant of the positive impact IAIA has made on the recognition of American Indian and Alaska Native cultures via the arts; and

WHEREAS, NIEA is strongly committed to the enrichment and preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native cultures and art, and to the continuance of IAIA; and

WHEREAS, IAIA's Board of Trustees has asked for advice and assistance from NIEA and tribal leaders as it works to ensure its future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION does hereby urge the President of the United States and Congress to fully fund the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) at a level of \$4.25 million for core operations and \$2 million for construction with a 100% matching provision in FY2000.

SUBMITTED BY: Alvin Schuster (*Yakama*), Toppenish, WA.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-13

TITLE: Support Increased Funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Scholarship Program.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Scholarship Program provides funds to tribes who are serving an increasing number of eligible American Indian and Alaska Native students who are attending institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, federal budget appropriations for BIA scholarship funds has decreased substantially over the last 20 years while the cost of attending higher education institutions has increased dramatically.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION recommends that the FY2000 federal budget appropriations for the BIA Scholarship Program be \$39 million.

SUBMITTED BY: Alvin Schuster (*Yakama*), Toppenish, WA.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-14

TITLE: Support for Science and Technology Curricula and Facilities at the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) and at Other Tribal Colleges.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), its tribal leadership, and its Board of Regents have spent the past seven years planning, developing, revitalizing, and acquiring resources for the expansion of science and mathematics-based Advanced Technical Education (ATE) programs offered to the national Indian community; and

WHEREAS, SIPI's enrollment has increased from less than 400 students per trimester in 1991 to 654 in fall 1997, which reflects a 50 percent increase in six years; and

WHEREAS, SIPI is actively developing tribal and industry-responsive technology degree programs in Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology, Environmental Science and Industrial Hygiene, Water Science, Civil Engineering Technology, Global Information and Positioning Systems (GIS-GPS), Multimedia Distance Learning and Remote Sensing Technologies, Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD-CAM), Advanced Computer Graphics, Agriculture Science and Technology, Pre-Engineering and Pre-Science (transfer degrees), Science and Mathematics Teacher Preparations, and Electro-Mechanical Manufacturing Process; and

WHEREAS, SIPI has acquired technology and staff to implement and manage a distance-learning program to educate tribal members who live far from the school; and **WHEREAS**, SIPI's continued accreditation as a national Indian community college requires a permanent science building; and

WHEREAS, NIEA recognizes the need to train American Indian and Alaska Native people in science and technology for the benefit of themselves and their tribes; and

WHEREAS, there may be other tribal colleges seeking to create, build, or enhance a science and technology program for the benefit of their students and to maintain accreditation standards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION urges the United States Congress to support the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) by appropriating \$9.3 million for a science building and to increase SIPI's annual operational budget to meet its actual needs in delivering quality education to its students.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION urges Congress to fund other tribal colleges seeking to offer quality science and technology curricula and facilities to their students.

SUBMITTED BY: Jerry C. Bread (*Kiowa*), Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque, NM.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present during the meeting held October 17-20, 1999.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)

RESOLUTION #99-15

TITLE: Support for Census 2000.

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, as the largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau is required by the Constitution of the United States to conduct a census of the population every 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Census data are used for reapportionment of seats in the Congress, drawing federal, state, and local legislative districts, and monitoring and enforcing civil rights statutes, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Census data are used for making decisions at all levels of government, that the federal government uses Census data to allocate billions of dollars in federal funds

annually for community programs and services including education programs, housing and community development, health care, services for the elderly, and many more; and **WHEREAS**, state, local, and tribal governments use Census data for planning and allocating funds for school construction, public buildings such as libraries, highway safety and public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, location of police and fire departments, and many others; and

WHEREAS, community organizations use Census data for developing social service programs, community action projects, and child care center locations; and

WHEREAS, Census data are held confidential for 72 years and, by law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's records with any other government agency, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), courts, police, and the military.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION joins the U.S. Census Bureau in its goal of achieving a complete and accurate count in Census 2000, particularly among population groups who have been traditionally undercounted in past census counts;

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will publicize its endorsement of Census 2000 through its own publications, urging its full membership and the public to cooperate;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION will assist the Census Bureau with recruiting and promotion efforts, and will encourage local chapters and affiliates to work with the local Census staff in their areas to obtain a full and accurate count for Census 2000.

SUBMITTED BY: The NIEA Board of Directors

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 16, 1999 meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present.

Dr. Sherry R. Allison, President (1998-99)