

2001

**RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NIEA 32nd ANNUAL CONVENTION
BILLINGS, MONTANA
(location and date needed)**

RESOLUTION # 01-01

Title: Support for New Muckleshoot Tribal School

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

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

WHEREAS, to meet the unique educational needs of Muckleshoot Tribal children where those needs cannot or are not being met in the public school system, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe has established and now maintains a Tribal School that currently provides education to Indian children in grades kindergarten through high school; and the funding levels for certain BIA education program; including Student Transportation, Facilities Operations and Maintenance, and Administrative Cost Grants have been funded at well below the required levels, thereby requiring schools to reduce the funds available for pupil instruction to make up these deficits; and

WHEREAS, the current buildings that house the Muckleshoot Tribal School have exceeded their useful life; are inadequate and in many respects are in a physical condition that is not conducive to providing the best educational experience for Indian children attending the school; and,

WHEREAS, the Muckleshoot Tribe has prepared an application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for funding that will allow the Muckleshoot Tribe to replace its existing school facilities in order to meet the educational needs of its members and other Indian children on and near the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation, and,

WHEREAS, the funding of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's funding request will allow the Tribe to construct a Tribal school to provide the best education for Indian students from the reservation and surrounding areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association supports the efforts of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to secure funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to replace its existing Tribal School facilities, and further supports the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's application for funding and urges the Bureau of Indian Affairs to approve the submitted application.

Submitted by: Virginia Cross, Tribal Affiliation: Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 28 – 31, 2001 meeting in Billings Montana at which time a quorum was present.

Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION #01-02

Title: In opposition to the University of North Dakota's use of the "Fighting Sioux" name and logo.

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nationals and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, the use of an American Indian stereotype is demeaning by its very nature, whether intended as such or not, and

WHEREAS, these stereotypical symbols create an environment in which degrading acts become more acceptable and promote practices that trivialize and demean Native American culture, traditions and spirituality, and

WHEREAS, the United States Commission on Civil Rights calls for an end to the use of Native American images and team names by non-Native schools acknowledging that such names and logos when promoted by public educational institutions, teach all students that stereotyping of minority groups is acceptable, and

WHEREAS, this is an issue of human rights because the use of such a name and symbol at the University of North Dakota limits the ability of all Native students to learn and take part in campus and community activities.

WHEREAS, the President of St. Cloud University, Roy Saigo, has expressed his full support for this work and will make a presentation to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Minnesota State College and University Board (MSCUB) on how the mascot violates student rights and creates a hostile environment; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Education Association and the North Dakota Indian Education Association have both passed resolutions opposing the continuation of the "Fighting Sioux" mascot; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association was founded in 1969 to give American Indians a national voice in their struggle to improve access to educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, former NIEA President and Indian Educator of the Year has cosponsored this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association deplors, opposes and calls for an immediate end to the University of North

Dakota's use of the "Fighting Sioux" name and its accompanying "Indian-head" symbol. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NIEA supports the aforementioned work and calls on the UND Administration to change the UND mascot from the "Fighting Sioux" to a UND American Indian student suggested mascot.:

Submitted by: Dana Goodwin-Chaffee White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Robert J. Swan & James R. Swan, Chippewa Cree

North Dakota Indian Education Association, Viola LaFountain, President

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 28 – 31, 2001 meeting in Billings, Montana at which time a quorum was present.

Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION # 01-03

Title: Alternative Education

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

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

WHEREAS, we the members of NIEA, in the efforts and commitment to quality Indian education, are to enlighten and support those efforts; and

WHEREAS, the NIEA does support the "Building Blocks for Our Future," which include, "language, culture and spirituality;" and

WHEREAS, the members of NIEA do support those efforts seeking alternative initiatives to increase graduation rates among American Indian students; and

WHEREAS, the members of NIEA additionally support quality alternative education systems that promote a student's identity through culture, language and spirituality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association does hereby publicly support alternative education systems, specifically American Indian charter schools or those charter schools that embrace and facilitate the student's culture, language, and spirituality for the well-being of our Indian students.

Submitted by: Dana Goodwin-Chaffee White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 28 – 31, 2001 meeting in Billings, Montana at which time a quorum was present.

Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION #01-04

TITLE: Requesting that the President's FY 2003 Budget include increases in Student Transportation, Facilities, Operations and Maintenance and Administrative Cost Grants to enhance the quality of education in the BIA funded education system and supports full consultation with affected school and tribes prior to making changes in the ISEP formula.

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the funding levels for certain BIA education program; including Student Transportation, Facilities Operations and Maintenance, and Administrative Cost Grants have been funded at well below the required levels, thereby requiring schools to reduce the funds available for pupil instruction to make up these deficits; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is considering changes to the Indian School Equalization program (ISEP) that would eliminate specific formula weights for Bilingual programs and Intense Residential Guidance due to reported abuse of the weighted student counts related to these programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association supports funding at the 100% level of need for all components of ISEP; including Student Transportation, Facilities Operations and Maintenance, and Administrative Cost Grants; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association supports full consultation with the affected schools and tribes prior to any changes in the ISEP formula and favors enforcement of existing rules in cases of abuse by schools over a response to do away with the programs.

Submitted by: Raphael Martin, Navajo, Navajo Area School Boards Association.

CERTIFICATION

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Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION #01-05

TITLE: Requesting that the Federal programs in support of Indian Education administered by both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States Department of Education be exempt from the budget formulation instructions to reduce FY 2003 budget amounts by five (5) percent from the FY 2002 requested level.

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Director of the Office of Management and budget (OMB) has directed federal agencies to prepare their FY 2003 budgets with a five (5) percent reduction from the FY 2002 requested levels, while at the same time directing them to provide the President's policy initiatives through offsets from other programs; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that improvement of educational opportunity for disadvantaged youth is a major presidential initiative.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association hereby requests that the federal programs in support of Indian education, administered both by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States Department of Education, be exempt from the budget formulation instruction to reduce FY 2003 amounts by five (5) percent from the FY 2002 requested levels. Submitted by Raphael Martin, Navajo, Navajo Area School Board Association.
Submitted by: Raphael Martin, Tribal Affiliation: Navajo

CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 28 – 31, 2001 meeting in Billings, Montana at which a quorum was present.

Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION # 01-06

TITLE: Review of standardized testing for American Indian Students and develop recommendations for schools.

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the use of standardized tests to assess the skills and knowledge of students in our public schools has developed into a major criteria used in the accountability measures for students as well as the teachers and schools' capabilities; and

WHEREAS, NIEA recognizes that many American Indian students do not perform well on standardized tests such as the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) which are used in the State of Montana as well as other states, and

WHEREAS, as an example of this – the majority of public school students in the state of Montana that attend school on or near Indian reservations are in the bottom ranking of the ITBS test results when compared with all other schools/students at the 4th, 8th, and 11th grade test score results on ITBS; and

WHEREAS, it is important that appropriate use of standardized tests, such as ITBS, as a part of the assessment of American Indian students' achievement levels be supported with research and data: and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NIEA will work with the national testing programs (ACT, ITBS, etc.) to develop a National American Indian data base, review the norming process for test results, as well as the test development and implementation to determine if there are testing procedures that are culturally and economically inappropriate for American Indian students, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NIEA will report its findings to its membership within the next year and have recommendations for the use of standardized tests for all schools who serve American Indian students.

Submitted by W. Stanley Juneau. Tribal Affiliation: Blackfeet.

CERTIFICATION

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Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION #01-08

TITLE: Support of state legislation that recognizes the culture and history of American Indians, similar to that of Montana code 20-1-501.

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the

United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

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

WHEREAS, NIEA recognizes the importance of the inclusion of curriculum in all grades K-Higher Education that helps all students learn about the history, culture and contemporary issues of the American Indian; and

WHEREAS, NIEA recognizes the current issues of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians cannot be adequately addressed and strategies for solutions found unless both Indians and non-Indians have an understanding of the history, culture and contemporary contributions of the Nations' Indian people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA recognizes that the state of Montana has as part of its State Constitutional language that supports the inclusion of American Indian culture in Article X, 1 (2); and

WHEREAS, the state of Montana enacted a state law in 1999, MCA 20-1-501, that provides the state's educational systems with guidance in implementing the legislative intent of Article X, 1 (2) with the following language in Section 1:

(1) it is the constitutionally declared policy of this state to recognize the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and to be committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural heritage. (2) It is the intent of the legislature that in accordance with Article X, section 1 (2), of the Montana Constitution; (a) Every Montanan, whether Indian or non-Indian, be encouraged to learn about the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians in a culturally responsive manner. (b) Every educational agency and all educational personnel will work cooperatively with Montana tribes or those tribes that are in close proximity, when providing instruction or when implementing an educational goal or adopting a rule related to the education of each Montana citizen, to include information specific to the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians, with particular emphasis on Montana Indian tribal groups and governments. (3) It is also the intent, of sections (1-3) predicated on the belief that all school personnel should have an understanding and awareness of Indian tribes to help them relate effectively with Indian students and parents, that educational personnel provide a means by which school personnel will gain an understanding of and appreciation for the American Indian people.

WHEREAS, NIEA recognizes that this law can serve as a guide for other legislative action throughout the nation in strengthening the curriculum and services provided by the nation's public school systems for American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Indian Education Association commends the state of Montana for its efforts in meeting its Constitutional mandate in Article X, 1 (2) and encourages its educational leadership (such as the offices of Public Instruction, Commissioners of Higher Education, Boards of Regents, Boards of Public Education, and local school boards throughout the nation and Montana to develop,

implement, and monitor the policies and action plans that have been designed to fulfill MCA 20-1-501 with the utmost expediency.
Submitted By W. Stanley Juneau, Blackfeet.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 28 – 31, 2001 meeting in Billings, Montana at which a quorum was present.

Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION #01-09

TITLE: Increase High School Graduation Rates of American Indian Students

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

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

WHEREAS, a quality high school education should be expected as a basic part of the educational level for all America's students including American Indian students, and is a necessity for entry level employment opportunities that provide an adequate wage as well as entry level into post-secondary training; and

WHEREAS, a quality education system, which should include as a minimum a high school diploma, must be provided in our Indian communities to not only support the development of a well-trained labor force but to strengthen families and reduce the dependency on social services programs, such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families; and

WHEREAS, NIEA recognizes that many of the Indians students who are entering high school as freshmen are not graduating from high school and as a result are faced with many barriers that limit their opportunities in continuing their education in post secondary training, seeking gainful employment, and creates barriers for future success; and

WHEREAS, NIEA recognizes that a wide disparity in educational achievement exists between the American Indian students and their non-Indian peers in our nation's public schools as evidenced by the extremely high rates of between 40 – 60% of American Indian students who are leaving high school between their freshmen and senior year and not graduating as evidenced by the example of 50% graduation rate in the state of Montana between the years 1995-1996 and 1998-1999; and

WHEREAS, NIEA finds this an unacceptable achievement level for American Indian students in our nation's public schools; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NIEA will develop a data base from at

least 10 other states that have this data available (similar to the state of Montana that shows enrollments and graduation data by ethnic background) to document the disparity in graduation rates of American Indian students based on enrollment and graduation over a four-year period (Freshmen level through Senior), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NIEA will share the data with educational leadership, its membership, and advocate for strategies to increase the graduation rates of American Indian students.

Submitted by W. Stanley Juneau, Blackfeet

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 28 – 31, 2001 meeting in Billings, Montana at which a quorum was present.

Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION #01-10

TITLE: Increase Voter Participation and Strengthen the Indian Voice

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

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

WHEREAS, educational systems are governed or influenced by policy/law/budgets established by governmental bodies including school boards, county commissioners, state legislatures, state leadership and national leadership; and

WHEREAS, it is important that American Indian people of the United States have a “voice” in the governmental leadership at the local, county, state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, to have this voice and be proactive participants in the political process it is voter that American Indian people be registered to vote, encourage to vote in all elections, and encourage to participate as candidates for leadership positions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NIEA will advocate for and support non-partisan voter-registration, voter education projects and other non-partisan strategies that will strengthen the participation of American Indian people in the political leadership arena and give a stronger voice to the issues of American Indian education in the United States.

Submitted by W. Stanley Juneau, Blackfeet.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 28 – 31, 2001 meeting in Billings, Montana at which a quorum was present.

Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)

RESOLUTION #01-11

TITLE: Support for the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) FY 2003 Federal Appropriations

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 Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

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

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nationals and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians residing 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/Alaska Native arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) is a national fine arts college offering baccalaureate degrees in Museum Studies and Creative Writing and the Associate of Fine Arts degrees in 2 and 3 Dimensional arts; and

WHEREAS, IAIA has educated approximately 4,000 American Indian/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/Alaska Native cultures via the arts; and

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

WHEREAS, NIEA and tribal leaders continue to support the IAIA's Board of Trustees 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 \$5.0 million for core operation for FY 2003 and \$1.5 million for construction of the Library Technology Center.

SUBMITTED BY:

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its October 28 – 31, 2001 meeting in Billings,

Montana at which a quorum was present.
Carole Anne Heart, President (2000-2001)