



NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

October 22, 2021

National Indian Education Association statement on John W. North High School Incident in Riverside, California

“The National Indian Education Association is saddened and disheartened by the recent acts of cultural appropriation and misconduct committed by an educator at John W. North High School in Riverside, California. This blatant disregard for Native culture and Indigenous People is not only harmful to the mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness of our students, but also directly demonstrates the need to further examine historical and systemic educational deficits. Earlier this month, the State of California passed a law requiring all California high school students to complete an ethnic studies curriculum prior to graduation. Meanwhile, last week, the NIEA Board of Directors and Membership passed two resolutions: NIEA Resolution 2021 - #E01: In Support of Teaching the Full and Accurate History of the United States; and NIEA Resolution 2021 - #E02: Back the Braid – Protecting Native Students from Culture Related Discrimination. It is time to stop seeing Native people for who we were, and start seeing us as who we are.

In response to the egregious actions at John W. North High School, NIEA is actively working in partnership with the California Indian Education Association, Inc. (CIEA), California State Assemblymember and Select Committee on Native American Affairs Chair James C. Ramos (San Manuel), California tribal leaders and organizations, and federal, state, and local partners to provide technical assistance and active resources to California schools and educators. NIEA and our partners will be providing additional information via the NIEA website in coming weeks, visit NIEA.org for updates.”

Jason P. Dropik,

NIEA President