

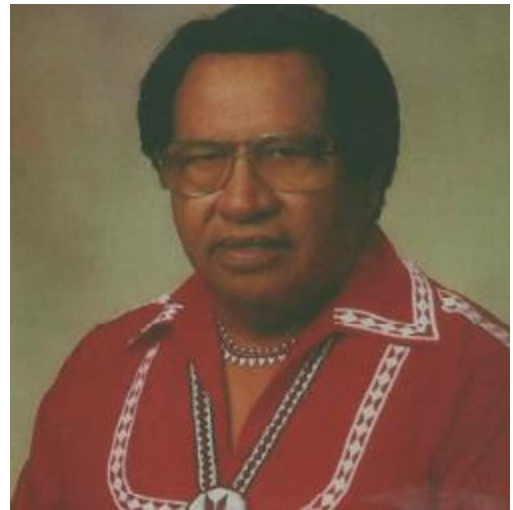
# Phillip Martin

USET President

1971 – 1972

As the Community Action Program (CAP) director for the Choctaw Tribe in the late 1960s, Martin was instrumental in the founding of United Southeastern Tribes, later to become United South and Eastern Tribes.

In addition to President of USET, Phillip Martin was Chairman of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians from 1959 to 1975, and Chief from 1979 to 2007. In his capacity as Tribal leader, the Choctaws made great strides in economic development and self-determination. In 1969, the Tribe started Chahta Development to build houses for Tribal members. He negotiated with Packard Electric, a division of General Motors, and in 1979 Chahta Enterprise opened as the Tribe's first manufacturing company, producing wiring harnesses for the automotive industry.



Under Martin's leadership, for the first time in Indian country, Industrial Revenue Bonds were issued by the local, non-Indian government to finance the construction of a manufacturing facility on the reservation. In 1981, the 120,000 square-foot plant was leased to the American Greetings Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of greeting cards. The Tribe opened the Choctaw Residential Center, a 120-bed nursing home, and a community retail shopping center that included a grocery store, bank, and general merchandise. By 1990, the Tribe had developed a diversified economy that included manufacturing, retail, service, and government jobs.

The Choctaws branched out into tourism with the opening of the Silver Star Resort & Casino, and three years later the Tribe opened the 36-hole Dancing Rabbit Golf Club. The nearby Golden Moon Hotel & Casino opened on October 4, 2002.

Martin has served as president of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association. From 1970 to 1976, he was the first president of the Board of Regents of Haskell Indian Junior College.