



# United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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## USET Resolution No. 2014:005

### **RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR CAR TEAM**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), being longtime members of USET and having a delegation of representatives at this Annual Meeting; formally requests recognition by USET of the outstanding accomplishments of the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) Solar Car Team currently competing in the Bridgestone World Solar Car Challenge in Australia; and
- WHEREAS,** the CCHS Solar Car Team, having won the national Winston Solar Car Challenge in 2010 and in 2012, is the only high school team to compete in the global Bridgestone World Solar Car Challenge this year and holds the distinction of being the only Native American team to ever compete in the Challenge; and
- WHEREAS,** the CCHS Solar Car Team's objectives are: 1) to find a clean air alternative to the dependence on fossil fuels, 2) to increase student knowledge in the fields of science, physics, math and engineering and 3) to serve as an example for native youth on the possibilities resulting from teamwork and unity; and
- WHEREAS,** exploration of the uses of solar energy shows respect to Mother Earth and its utilization by native people could reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, and provide a cleaner and possibly more affordable alternative for providing energy in Indian Country and beyond; and
- WHEREAS,** the CCHS Solar Car's voyage to the Bridgestone World Solar Car Challenge was funded through a concerted effort by the CCHS students, parents, school officials, Tribal members, and with the monetary and moral support of the Choctaw Tribal Council, and Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson; and
- WHEREAS,** the CCHS Solar Car team is comprised of the following exemplary MBCI Tribal member students:
- Robin Routh (co-captain)
  - Jada Sockey (co-captain/ driver)
  - Jose Cruz (Driver)
  - Brandon Lewis (Driver)
  - Justin Tubby
  - Hilowah Davis
  - Ozzie Willis
  - Nastassia Isaac
  - Kobe York
  - Robert York
  - Kaylan Gibson
  - Sidney Billy

under the outstanding direction of the following mentors comprised of teachers and school officials:

- Joey Long
- Liddia Hughes
- Dave Sanders; and

**WHEREAS,** the diligent work put forth by the above named students and their unprecedented success are a testament to their Tribal upbringings and their commitment to education, and provide a positive example for native youth on the reservation lands of the MBCI and throughout Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

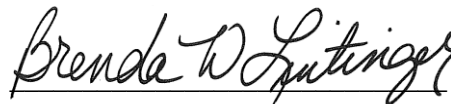
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recognizes and commends the members and mentors of the Choctaw Central High School Solar Car Team of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for their successes and outstanding accomplishment in representing their families, Tribe, country, and native peoples in the Bridgestone World Solar Car Challenge in Australia.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, on Thursday, October 31, 2013.



Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*