



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET Resolution No. 2015:016

#### **PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION AMONG USET MEMBER TRIBES**

- 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,** a higher education program produces potential career opportunities and ultimately strengthens the sovereignty of Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the rates of Native American students completing post-secondary education are exceptionally low compared to all other ethnicities throughout the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** college expenses are increasing, presenting Native American students with financial challenges to achieve their educational goals; and
- WHEREAS,** many Native American students are unaware of scholarship opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** USET is aware of issues facing Native American youth, has the experience and influence to effect national policy changes that will build resources to help Native American students gain greater access to education and training; and
- WHEREAS,** USET Close-Up youth representatives developed and duly passed this resolution during the 2015 Impact Week Mock Board Meeting; and
- WHEREAS,** USET is a non-profit intertribal organization that builds unified efforts among Tribal Nations supporting a statement of unity; 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 calls for a survey for grades 7-12 among its member Tribes to identify the desire for higher education resources; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET member Tribes will work to increase the number of trained college counselors available to students within each community; and be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors should promote college scholarship programs and financial resources for all of its member Tribes; and be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors should build a coalition with other Tribal organizations such as the National Congress of American Indians to advocate for more educational resources; and be it finally

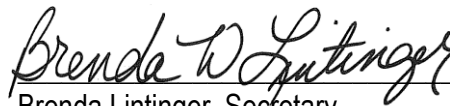
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors invites Tribal youth council members to the 2016 Impact Week Meeting to address concerns and ideas about issues and challenges for Native American students to gain access to affordable and quality college education with Congressional Representatives.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.



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



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

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*