



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2016:036

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE INDIAN EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR EMPOWERING USET YOUTH PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** rates of reading proficiency, high school graduation, college entrance, employment, and voting registration are all lower among American Indians than the U.S. population as a whole; and
- WHEREAS,** Native students have the lowest four-year high school graduation rate out of any group profiled by the federal government, and Native youth report feeling a sense of displacement and a lack of community attachment; and
- WHEREAS,** over one-third of the current Native population is under the age of 18 and a large proportion of Native youth are ages 15-19; and
- WHEREAS,** there is an opportunity to prepare the youth throughout Indian Country to become active voters and participants in Tribal, local, state, and national elections; and
- WHEREAS,** Native students need authentic and meaningful opportunities to engage with government, the political process and social issues that matter most to them; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors has consistently expressed its commitment to provide youth with educational opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors recognizes that partnerships with other youth-focused organizations is critical to furthering youth activities and development; and
- WHEREAS,** the Close Up Foundation has been a vital partner to the USET Board of Directors in the education, civic development, and political engagement of USET youth for eighteen years; and
- WHEREAS,** in partnership with the Close Up Foundation, USET proposes to implement the "Empower USET Youth Program," a program designed to help Tribal education directors engage high school students to explore their Tribal Nation's history and culture, Tribal sovereignty, dual citizenship, the history of federal-Tribal relations and issues of importance to Indian Country; and

- WHEREAS,** Close Up's community action and professional development curriculum will help students and educators investigate their community to: 1) identify needs and assets; 2) develop a plan for addressing identified issues of importance; and 3) engage stakeholders and the broader community, including government officials and business and non-profit leaders, in implementing that plan; and
- WHEREAS,** over the course of the "Empower USET Youth Program," students will explore their Tribal Nation's history and culture through structured learning activities that may include recording interviews with elders, visiting Tribal archives to research their families, or creating a book to teach others. Students in each of the participating Tribal Nations will interact virtually with students in other Tribal Nations to share information about their Tribal Nation's history and culture and strategies for becoming agents of change to make a difference on important issues facing their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the "Empower USET Youth Program" will increase students' confidence as leaders, will help students to develop deeper ties to their schools and communities, and will give students the tools to engage in civic and political action, and in addition, the program will leave Tribal educators with curricula, support materials, and additional training in leading and facilitating community service and action projects, increasing Tribal Nations' capacity to engage and develop their youth after the grant expires; and
- WHEREAS,** the grant proposal meets the USET goal to increase youth participation and achievement in educational advancement; 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 authorizes the USET Executive Director to submit a proposal to the Indian Education Demonstration Grants Program seeking financial assistance to collaborate with Close Up Foundation on the "Empower USET Youth Program" to help Tribal education directors engage high school students to explore their Tribal Nation's history and culture, Tribal sovereignty, dual citizenship, the history of federal-tribal relations and issues of importance in Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Atmore, AL, May 18, 2016.



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



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"