



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2003:102

### HEAD START BUREAU – AMERICAN INDIAN PROGRAMS BRANCH

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribes, and the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors believes that American Indian program specialists and federal reviewers employed or contracted with the Head Start Bureau, American Indian Programs Branch must be culturally competent; and
- WHEREAS** the USET Board of Directors is concerned that the lack of employment of qualified, culturally competent program specialists and federal reviewers is not in the best interest of quality Head Start programs in American Indian communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors is concerned that American Indian Head Start Programs have not been adequately assisted in developing culturally competent programs to meet the needs of community families and children; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors believes that the federal review team composition must be culturally competent to effectively and intelligently review an American Indian Head Start Program; and
- WHEREAS,** there has been no increase in hiring of American Indian staff within the Head Start Program, and
- WHEREAS,** every effort must be made to hire Native American staff for the positions of Program Specialists to reflect the cultural sensitivity and understanding toward the service population; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the Congress, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Associate Head Start Commissioner's Office to support the employment and contracting of American Indians as program specialists and federal reviewers with the Head Start Program – American Indian Branch for the purpose of quality services to families and children in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors recommends development of programs to recruit and employ AI/AN's for program specialists; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors recommends development of programs that supports culturally competent Head Start programs.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

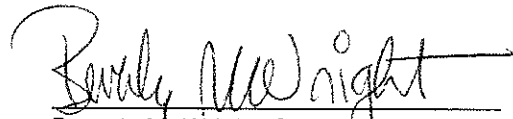
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**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET 2003 Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Choctaw, MS, Thursday, June 5, 2003.



Keller George, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Beverly M. Wright, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.