



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.  
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**USET Resolution No. 2011:014**

**RE-ADVERTISE THE DIRECTOR POSITION FOR THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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 USET Veterans Committee was formed by Resolution No. 2009:018 on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at the USET Impact Week Meeting in Arlington, VA; and
- WHEREAS,** USET members are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific Tribal concerns; and
- WHEREAS,** the preservation of cultural and natural resources and the general health, safety, welfare, education, and economic well-being of Indian people and employment opportunities are its primary goals and objectives; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has issued a position announcement for the Director for the Office of Tribal Government Relations which is a new position created to lead, manage, and direct the process of consultation between the VA and Tribal governments in the development and implementation of laws, regulations, policies, and memoranda by the VA to improve programs and services to American Indian veterans; and
- WHEREAS,** there is a historic lack of consultation with American Indian Tribal leaders, and the VA is attempting to address this problem as described in the VA position description of the newly created directorship; and
- WHEREAS,** the VA will consider non-competitive appointments to this position "if you are current or career Senior Executive Service (SES), Career Development Plan (CDP) graduate, or have reinstatement rights as a former career SES"; and
- WHEREAS,** the narrow definition for a non-competitive applicant disqualifies several well qualified Americans Indians; and
- WHEREAS,** this position is critical for ensuring that the American Indian veterans are better served, and it is imperative that the Director have an intimate knowledge and relationship with American Indian customs, beliefs, traditions, and community; and
- WHEREAS,** having an American Indian this position will provide the most experienced resource to be able to meet the needs of all Tribal leaders and their veterans; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests the Veterans Affairs to close the job opening of Director and re-advertise to applicants outside the Veterans Affairs system; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests Tribal representation on the Selection Committee for this position; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** the Veterans Affairs should engage USET and other intertribal organization, to identify selection criteria.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET 2010 Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 14, 2010.



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



Robert McGhee, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*