



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **USET Resolution No. 2014:017**

## **SUPPORT THE STRENGTHENING OF NATIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS**

- 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 Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Initiative was launched in an effort to address concerns regarding the wide variability in state standards resulting in uneven and unequal education opportunities across states and lowered expectations for student achievement in order to meet the Adequate Yearly Progress requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act; and
- WHEREAS,** CCSS are a set of commonly agreed upon standards for K-12 learning, grounded in research and practice, reflecting the type of skills and knowledge students need for a successful transition from high school to college and the world of work while also remaining competitive in a global economy; and
- WHEREAS,** potential benefits of CCSS include aligned standards across states and public schools, which could limit or mitigate interruptions or disconnects in learning for Native students who are mobile between schools and states, or between public, Bureau of Indian Education schools, and Tribal schools; and
- WHEREAS,** the skills and knowledge identified as necessary in the standards would also need to include the skills and knowledge identified by Native communities as being critical to their continued development and well-being which also provides a pathway for their students' success; and
- WHEREAS,** CCSS requires all teachers to master the same curriculum in each content area, instead of differing curricula in varying states, which allows states and school districts to focus on helping teachers become proficient and effective in teaching all students; and
- WHEREAS,** for all Native students, cultural inclusion is often necessary for success, and this may be an opportunity to expand instructional competencies to include Native histories, languages, and cultures, along with the educational time for professional development in these areas; and
- WHEREAS,** despite the repeated efforts of Tribal departments and organizations to urge states to consult with Tribes regarding the educational needs of their students throughout CCSS implementation, these pleas have been ignored; 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 joins with the National Indian Education Association and all other Tribal advocates to call upon states to identify and evaluate the educational needs of Tribal nations and Native communities and provide evidence including but not limited to dropout rate, attendance, student achievement, and Tribally defined standards at all grade levels; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** the states who have adopted Common Core State Standards to meaningfully consult, collaborate, and develop Tribal-state partnerships that specify additional standards ensuring Native histories, cultures, languages, Tribal sovereignty, and government structures are incorporated into the standards; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** that states recognize and support the right of Tribal nations to exercise educational authority in leading the implementation of Common Core State Standards in developing culturally relevant standards, curriculum, professional development, and assessments as well as other critical components that affect the education of Native students; and, be it further

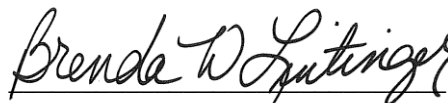
**RESOLVED** states ensure that teachers and administrators have the resources they need to successfully implement culturally-respectful standards by providing onsite and ongoing training, access to Common Core State Standards implementation material and instructions, and giving proper notice to changes in implementation procedures and ensuring schools have equitable access to hardware and technology for effective learning and assessing.

**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”*