



# United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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## USET Resolution No. 2014:024

### URGING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR THE TEACHING OF TRIBAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURES

- 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,** youth are discouraged by the loss of culture and frustrated by the limited language learning opportunities within their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Tribal youth would like to see a revitalization of language, culture, and traditions, with the advice and consent of the nearby Tribal governments concerning the curriculum being taught in public schools; and
- WHEREAS,** studies show that schools that teach relevant and appropriate Tribal history and culture are likely to have more engaged Native students; and
- WHEREAS,** the misrepresentation of our culture by non-Natives leads to a feeling of non-acceptance; and
- WHEREAS,** a more informed non-Native student body and local community would result in greater understanding and acceptance of Native children; and
- WHEREAS,** loss of language hinders us from embracing our cultural identities as Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET youth are proposing certain actions to the USET Board of Directors which the USET Board adopts by this resolution; 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 will create an internal focus group in conjunction with the Culture and Heritage and Education Committees to address the loss of language and culture; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors will prioritize this objective as part of this year's legislative agenda; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors directs the USET staff to seek funding from the United States Department of Education's Office of Indian Education, Administration for Native Americans and others to create a grant program establishing a relationship between public schools with high Native populations and the education of Tribal language and culture.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 6, 2014.



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



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

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*