



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2015:017**REQUEST FOR THE UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC. MEMBER TRIBES TO ESTABLISH CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAMS**

- 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,** cultural and language preservation is a high priority for member Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** native languages are the repository of all the collective wisdom and culture of Indian Tribes, containing ceremony and indigenous knowledge; and
- WHEREAS,** having more fluent native language speakers maintains this indigenous knowledge; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seminole Tribe of Florida is taking the needed steps to assure cultural preservation by establishing culture and language camps for youth; and
- WHEREAS,** other member Tribes have established culture and language immersion programs to further preserve their culture and raise the overall success of native youth; and
- WHEREAS,** teaching youth their native language has proven in several studies to be an effective way of improving scholastic achievements of Native American children in part because such teaching mechanism raises self-esteem and places value on the culture and traditions; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Close-Up youth representatives had lengthy discussions on how to maintain cultural identity and in result, developed and duly passed this resolution during the 2015 Impact Week Mock Board Meeting; 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 calls upon each member Tribe to prioritize the establishment of youth cultural and language protection programs to preserve Tribal traditions and identity.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.

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

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