USET Resolution No. 2018:003

PROMOTING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE AMONG USET MEMBER TRIBAL NATIONS

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the Tribal Nations’ leadership; and

WHEREAS, higher education programs create potential career opportunities and ultimately strengthens Tribal Nations capacity; and

WHEREAS, the rates of Native American students completing post-secondary education are drastically low compared to all other ethnicities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, college expenses are increasing, presenting students with financial challenges to achieve their educational goals; and

WHEREAS, many Native American students can benefit from a partnership between USET and the University of North Carolina at Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina at Asheville has expressed an interest in pursuing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USET; and

WHEREAS, the MOU would set the foundation for increased partnerships in educational and financial opportunities for USET Tribal Nation students, such as in-state tuition; 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 requests the USET Education Committee to work in coordination with USET staff and the University of North Carolina at Asheville in developing and executing a Memorandum of Understanding between USET and the University of North Carolina at Asheville for the benefit of USET Tribal Nation students.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, October 12, 2017.

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Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.