TITLE: Haskell Indian Nations University Feasibility Study

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Professor Alan Parker, a Citizen of the Chippewa Cree Tribal Nation and Faculty to the Maori Indigenous University regarding the recommendations of leaders of the Maori University regarding the feasibility of establishing at Haskell Indian Nations University, an International Indigenous Nations Graduate University; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Haskell Indian Nations University has favorably considered this proposal as their most recent annual meeting in Lawrence, Kansas and has communicated their support to the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Education; and

WHEREAS, the Nez Perce Tribal leaders have also favorably considered this report and have requested Congressman, Mike Simpson, 2nd Dist. Idaho, to request authorization for a feasibility study on this proposal to be undertaken in FY 2015 by Haskell and for such authorization to be included in the Committee Report of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Interior and related agencies; and

WHEREAS, Haskell Indian Nations University has served tribal students from the Pacific Northwest for many years as a school operated with federal support and direction from the Bureau of Indian Education to serve tribal students who are located on remote Indian reservations; and

WHEREAS, Haskell was elevated to “University” status in 1993 after existing since 1887 as Haskell Indian Institute, a Bureau of Indian Affairs Boarding School; and
WHEREAS, Haskell now serves over 1,000 tribal students and is a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) of tribal colleges; and

WHEREAS, AIHEC will serve as the primary source of tribal students who wish to pursue higher level graduate studies with the Maori and other students from Indigenous Nations across the Pacific Rim as well as the Sami People of Norway and Sweden; and

WHEREAS, the proposal for Haskell to undertake a feasibility as requested by the Maori, is worthy of consideration and wishes to propose that tribal delegates of NCAI fully support this worthy endeavor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the Maori proposal to establish an International Indigenous Nations Graduate University at a tribally-controlled college or university and requests Haskell Indian Nations University to conduct a feasibility study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2014 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, October 26-31, 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia, with a quorum present.

President

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary