

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Teaching the Complex History of Tribal Nations and the United States

Resolution No. 21-24



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee (Creek), representing approximately 780,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, the history of our Tribal Nations and of Indian peoples involves many examples of tragedy and injustice, wars, dispossession of ancestral land, and cruel treatment by settlers on our land, as well as examples of resilience, courage, and the strength to rebuild again and again after suffering and loss; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, teaching the complexity of this history, including both the good and the bad, is necessary to preserve and honor the memories of our ancestors, to promote the current well-being of our citizens, and to protect the futures of our people; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the state of Oklahoma has made welcome progress in developing public school curriculum standards that provide for a more accurate history of our country and its complex relationships with Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, contentious political debates about the teaching of history and the impact of racism on our past and present have contributed to confusion about how these sensitive topics can be discussed in public schools; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma laws and curriculum standards do not prohibit teaching about tragedies and injustices of the past and present, nor do they prohibit discussion of ways that American Indians and Tribal Nations have struggled with unjust actions and policies by the United States and the State of Oklahoma;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes affirms its support for educators across our reservations to freely teach Tribal Nation's histories, cultures, and languages; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes affirms that educators should not feel afraid to teach the facts surrounding dark periods of our history, but they should instead embrace teaching about

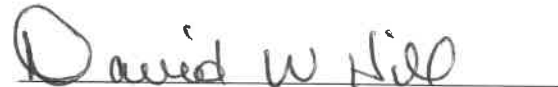
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the injustices and inequalities of history as well as how some of those injustices have been overcome, so that students can better learn from the past and become reconciled with people of all races and backgrounds today.


CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 9th day of July, 2021 by a vote of 18 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation