



Dear Lumbee People,

Wow, what a month we had in May. After months of preparation, it was wonderful to once again welcome and fellowship with friends at our "Dance of the Spring Moon" Powwow in May. Thousands visited the Lumbee Tribe Culture Center, as we celebrated our first Powwow since 2019. Dancers and singers from across the U.S. and Canada joined us, right here, in the Land of the Lumbee. Our annual powwow offers us a chance to open our doors to visitors and neighbors to learn more about our culture, our history, and our hospitality. We are already planning for next year. One of my top priorities as we plan is to work on a better traffic pattern for future events.

I worked with the Lumbee Tribal Council to create a new Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. This is a historic moment for our tribe and our farmers as we put forth resources to enhance our food quality, assist our producers, and create economic development opportunities for our tribe and the greater region. This department is only the beginning of what we can do to market Lumbee foods and to protect our natural resources for future generations. We are currently seeking grant opportunities that will fully fund this new department.

Speaking of grants, when I started my term as Chairman, the tribe had one grant writer. We recently hired a full-time and a part-time grant writer to strengthen our grant office and allow us to explore additional funding opportunities at a quicker pace. Having a larger grants office opens the door for us to pursue grant opportunities with foundations and non-profits that we have not had an opportunity to pursue in the past. With additional funds, we can provide improved services for our citizens.

We also hosted a Veterans Stand Down event, which allowed our Lumbee Veterans to receive information about available resources from organizations or providers from across the region. This event was in collaboration with Veterans Services of the Carolinas. We look forward to hosting another Stand Down next year. We continued our focus on veterans by celebrating the opening of the Warriors' Way Veterans Village. Warriors' Way will offer housing for 10 veterans through our HUD-VASH HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program. The HUD-VASH program provides rental assistance and supportive services to Native American Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas. Our veterans have sacrificed a lot for our protection and freedoms. I am proud that our tribe honors them with our services and programs.

Each spring, mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, extended family, and friends celebrate the achievement of their loved ones as they graduate from high school or college. The Lumbee Tribe held a Cord Ceremony to honor those students who have worked hard to meet the requirements needed to graduate. More than 170 students participated, with degrees ranging from High School to Graduate School. I am extremely proud of these Lumbee Graduates and I know they will continue to do great things for our people and our communities.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your Chairman and I love each of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lowery".

John L. Lowery
Chairman

