



Dear Lumbee People,

In July, I presented my annual State of the Tribe address, which is mandated by our Constitution. My speech highlighted our numerous accomplishments for the 2023-24 fiscal year and laid out my priorities for the 2024-25 budget. With 10 million more dollars from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department, I proposed to significantly increase funds for Down Payment Assistance, Student Housing Vouchers, and put funds towards infrastructure development for housing divisions in Lumberton, Rennert, and Pembroke. My budget has gone to the Lumbee Tribal Council for review, updates, and any changes prior approval. The new fiscal year began October 1st.

Pageants, the parade, fireworks, the powwow, vendors, the film festival, and much more filled up our time during homecoming. Although the weather was hot, the warmth from the many smiles and laughter from our friends made Homecoming a most memorable occasion. So many of our people travel from both near and far to be home and to reconnect with our land. Our land, our people, and our river bring us much comfort and joy every Homecoming and I cannot wait to do it all again next year.

We hosted our first ever Housing Fair on Saturday, July 20th which was well attended by our citizens. We had banks, insurance companies, and related vendors, along with our staff, set up to meet and discuss housing needs and options to afford a home with attendees. Many of our citizens have been renting for so long and they have questions around homeownership and what it takes to buy and pay for a home. Buying a home for the first time can be scary, but once an individual can afford their own home and begin to put money into their own property, a sense of pride and the feeling of true ownership becomes the new reality for many. With this, and future Housing Fairs, we seek to educate and inform our tribal citizens, so they can make the best decision for their future.

The Lumbee Tribe worked with UNC Pembroke's Dr. Jonathan Drahos to welcome "Strike at the Wind!" Outdoor Drama (SATW) to the newly renovated Adolph Dial Amphitheater at the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center. SATW! tells the story of my direct ancestors, Henry and Rhoda, and how they battled the Confederate Home guard and local officials to bring justice to our Lumbee people who were being abused, mistreated, and murdered. Dr. Drahos and the many volunteers and staff are to be commended for a job well done. Next summer, once renovations are totally completed, we will be able to expand the drama to additional dates and give individuals more opportunities view the story.

I love you all,

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

John L. Lowery  
Lumbee Tribal Chairman

