

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

CLLR-2019-0604-01

Date: June 4, 2019

“Ceremonial Attire for Native American High School Graduates”

Whereas, The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, a recognized Tribe of the State of North Carolina Subject to the Constitution of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and its inherent powers of self-government; and

Whereas, Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina delegates all legislative authority to the Tribal Council; and

Whereas, The Lumbee Tribal Council has the authority and responsibility to protect and foster the identity of the Lumbee Tribe and Tribal members; and

Whereas, The Lumbee Tribal Council has the authority and responsibility to protect and foster the culture, history, and heritage of the Lumbee Tribe and Lumbee tribal members; and

Whereas, every year, Lumbee and other Native American students are gifted ceremonial and cultural items to be worn at graduation ceremonies as a form of practice and expression of spiritual and religious beliefs; and

Whereas, these items are also given for the students' leadership and academic achievement; as a sign of maturity; to signify the achievement of this important educational journey; to honor the graduate and his or her family, community, and tribal nation; and for many other reasons; and

Whereas, these students seek to express and practice their religious and spiritual beliefs and celebrate their personal academic achievement, leadership, and transition into adulthood, among other things, by wearing these ceremonial items at their graduation commencement; and

Whereas, graduation from high school is an especially significant occasion for Native students and families, considering that the American Indian and Alaska Native high school graduation rate is 67 percent, the lowest of any racial or ethnic demographic across all schools; and

Whereas, from time immemorial, many tribal nations have viewed ceremonial items as sacred elements of their religious and cultural traditions; and

Whereas, according to many Native religious and spiritual traditions, certain ceremonial items are given only in times of great honor and often to mark significant personal achievement; and

Whereas, for many Native students, receiving a ceremonial item in recognition of high school graduation is as significant as earning the diploma; and

Whereas, on 25th November 1981 The United Nations General Assembly Proclaims a Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief with Article 4; and

Article 4 of the United Nations proclamation states.

1. All States shall take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life.
2. All States shall make all efforts to enact or rescind legislation where necessary to prohibit any such discrimination, and to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance on the grounds of religion or other beliefs in this matter.

Whereas, On March 4th, 1789 Congress passes what became known as the Bill of Rights which included Freedom of Religion and or Amendment I. Amendment I states,

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;"

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina supports the right of Lumbee high school students as well as other Native American students to practice and express their traditional religious and spiritual beliefs and honor their academic and other achievements by wearing ceremonial items at their commencement ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina urges all schools to respect traditional tribal religious and spiritual beliefs by allowing Native students to wear ceremonial items at graduation.

CERTIFICATION

THIS CLLR-2019-0604-01 "**Ceremonial Attire for Native American High School Graduates**" ADOPTED AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TWENTY-ONE (21) MEMBER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA WHERE 16 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT, CONSTITUTING A QUORUM, THIS THE 4TH DAY OF JUNE 2019 BY A VOTE OF 16 YES, 0 NO, AND 0 ABSTENTION(S).


ATTEST: RICKY BURNETT

Speaker, Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

6/4/19
Date


ATTEST: WENDY MOORE-GRAHAM

Secretary, Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

06/04/19
Date

ROLL CALL VOTE RESULTS

CLLR-2019-0604-01 "CEREMONIAL ATTIRE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES"

ADOPTED JUNE 4, 2019

16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTENSION(S)

District 1:	Carvicous Barfield	YES
District 2:	Sharon Hunt	YES
	Janie McFarland	YES
District 3:	James B. Hunt	YES
	Vacant	-----
District 4:	Ted Woodell	YES
District 5:	Wendy Moore-Graham	YES
	Jarrod Lowery	YES
District 6:	Larry Chavis	YES
	Douglas Locklear	YES
District 7:	Reginald Oxendine	ABSENT
	Jan Lowery	YES
	Alvin Mercer	ABSENT
District 8:	Corbin Eddings	YES
District 9:	Dewey J McNeill	YES
District 10:	Marshil Locklear	YES
District 11:	Frank Cooper	YES
District 12:	Annie Taylor	ABSENT
	Michael Chavis	ABSENT
District 13:	Ricky Burnett	YES
District 14:	Terry Hunt	YES