

RESOLUTION NO. 201
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
[Tribe] OF THE [Tribe] RESERVATION
[Tribe] TRIBAL COUNCIL

**“SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A 6TH AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER
THAT FOCUSES ON THE INDIAN HEALTH SYSTEM”**

WHEREAS, The [Tribe] Leadership have identified the need for the creation of a 6th Area Health Education Center (AHEC) that would focus on American Indian/Alaskan Native AI/AN students to address the health professional shortage in Arizona's tribal communities.

WHEREAS, All Tribal lands in Arizona are deemed Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA's) and Tribal members experience limited access to care.

WHEREAS, The [Tribe] Advocates for an AI/AN AHEC to enhance access to high quality healthcare by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professional throughout Arizona's Indian reservations/communities.

WHEREAS, the American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) representation in the health care field is disproportionate when compared to other race/ethnicity populations. In 2013, there were 3,478 AI/AN physicians in the United States representing only 0.4% of the total physicians workforce; and

WHEREAS, the AI/AN population in Arizona is 5%, in 2012, AI/AN comprised 1.1% of Registered Nurses (RN), 2.1% of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), and 1.0% of Medical Students in Arizona. Just to be on parity with the AI/AN population percentage, there needs to be a 455% increase in RNs, 238% increase in LPNs, and a 500% increase in medical school enrollment in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the state of Arizona high school graduation rate was 77% and the AI/ANs graduation rate was 63%; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the US Congress through the Comprehensive Health Manpower Act (PL 92-157) created the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program with the purpose of enhancing access to high quality, culturally competent health care through academic-community partnerships to improve the distribution, diversity, and supply of the primary care health professions workforce who serve in rural and underserved health care delivery sites; and

WHEREAS, through A.R.S. 15-1643 the Arizona State Legislature created the Arizona AHEC program with the University of Arizona Medical School being the administrative center with five regional centers; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the first regional center was established in Nogales known as the Southeast Arizona AHEC and subsequently four other regional centers were established located in Flagstaff, Globe, Phoenix, and Somerton; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona AHEC program is funded through federal funds from the Health Resources Services Administration and Arizona State Lottery Funds with the primary source being the State Lottery funds; and

WHEREAS, studies show that minority students who attain professional degrees are more likely to practice in underserved or rural areas; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the [Tribe] strongly supports the establishment of a 6th AHEC that focuses on the Indian Health System; and

FURTHER BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the (Tribe) urges action from the Arizona legislature and the Governor to amend ARS 15-1643 (B) by adding a sixth AHEC that focuses on the Indian Health System.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the [Tribe] at a regular meeting on [Date adopted) with a quorum present.

(Name and title of Chair/President)
(Name) Tribal Council

ATTEST:

[Tribe] Secretary

[Tribe] Tribal Council