

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE OF THE  
23<sup>RD</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Third Year, 2017

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; RECOMMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIVE AMERICAN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM AT NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY, FACUNDO VALDEZ SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

WHEREAS:

Section One. Authority

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has legislative authority to recommend resolutions relating to education. 2 N.N.C. § 401 (B) (6)
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'iyáti' Committee to coordinate testimony before non-Navajo entities. 2 N.N.C. §700 (A).

Section Two. Findings

- A. The Diné, Apache and Pueblo people have strived over the centuries to exercise their sovereign right to assure appropriate responses to the needs of the people. The struggle to end the destructive and long-term damaging effects of the nations' assimilationist policies and to provide an appropriate education for Native people is legendary and testament to the significance of education in tribal thought. It is this struggle that propels efforts to establish a Native American Social Work Program at New Mexico Highlands University, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work.
- B. At the founding of the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work in 1974, its stated focus was to be on Hispanic/Latino and Native American social work education.
- C. In the 2015 New Mexico legislative session bills to establish a Native American Social Work Studies Institute at Highlands University School of Social Work were introduced. Unfortunately, the University's request was reduced by the amount necessary to fund the social work education initiative.

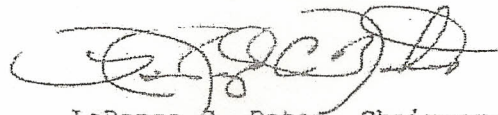
- D. The establishment of the Native American Social Work Program at the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work would constitute the nation's first effort by a school of social work to respond in a programmatic way to Native American social work education.
- E. The Native American Social Work Program Advisory/Development Committee, comprised of social work, psychology and education practitioners, including practitioners from Diné, Apache and Pueblo tribal programs, has been established to develop a curriculum for a Native American social work sequence of courses that responds to community needs and meets core graduation requirements.
- F. It would be in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support the establishment of a Native American Social Work Program at New Mexico Highlands University, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work and encourage the University to support and work cooperatively with the Native American Social Work Program Advisory/Development Committee in developing a sequence of courses that meet core graduation requirements. See Exhibit "A".

**Section Three. Approval**

The Navajo Nation hereby supports the establishment of a Native American Social Work Program at New Mexico Highlands University, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work and encourages the University to support and work cooperatively with the Native American Social Work Program Advisory/Development Committee in developing a sequence of courses that meet core graduation requirements.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 15 in Favor and 00 Opposed, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.



LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairperson  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Seth A. Damon  
Second: Honorable Jonathan Perry

Chairperson Bates not voting