



**OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN  
LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

September 15, 2020

Southeastern North Carolina is the ancestral home of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. My people have been here since time immemorial and continue to live and thrive in our ancestral homelands. Our tribal territory consists of Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland counties. The Lumbee are the largest tribe in North Carolina and the largest American Indian Tribe east of the Mississippi.

The Lumbee were responsible for establishing the Indian Normal School in 1887 which is now known as the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. UNCP was established in the heart of Lumbee Country, to offer opportunities for Lumbee students at a time when access to education was limited due to racial discrimination and Jim Crow legislation. UNCP was the first historically American Indian University in the nation.

The existence and history of UNCP is deeply connected and intertwined with the heritage and history of the Lumbee People. I believe that the proposed Indigenous Cultures and Community Requirement (ICC) is an appropriate way to honor and continue the connection between UNCP and the American Indian Community in which it sits.

The ICC proposal is a continuation of the partnership between the Lumbee and UNCP. It will promote a better and more informed understanding of the American Indian experience, particularly the unique sovereign status of Indigenous peoples in and beyond the United States. The ICC also promotes the study and exploration of the unique issues that affect American Indian peoples by providing insight into Indigenous knowledge systems, world views, governance, culture, literature, history, health care, science, environmental ethos and many other areas. Consequently, the ICC offers a unique perspective and lens for promoting a more inclusive and diverse worldview among students at UNC Pembroke. Making for better global citizens. I believe that the ICC proposal honors and recognizes that connection and the pride the Lumbee people have for the university while encouraging students from all backgrounds to broaden their knowledge of the Lumbee and other Indigenous cultures and communities.

As Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and a proud Alumnus of UNCP, I support the adoption and implementation of the Indigenous Cultures and Communities requirement at UNC Pembroke.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvey Godwin, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Harvey Godwin, Jr., '90  
Tribal Chairman