



**RESOLUTION OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
September 4, 2020
No. 2020-001**

TITLE: A Resolution in Support of the Adoption and Implementation of the Indigenous Cultures and Communities Academic Requirement at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is a state agency created by the North Carolina General Assembly under NCGS 143B-404 in 1972, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is to advocate for the needs and concerns of North Carolina's American Indian population; to provide aid and protection; to prevent undue hardships; and to assist Indian communities in social, educational and economic development, etc., and

WHEREAS, today, there are more than 122,000 North Carolinians who identify as American Indian, representing the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River, according to the 2010 US Census: and

WHEREAS, in accordance to Chapter 71 A of North Carolina General Statutes, North Carolina is home to eight state-recognized Indian tribes: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee, the Meherrin, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, the Sappony, and the Waccamaw-Siouan; and

WHEREAS, the state is home to four Urban Indian Organizations that hold membership on the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs: the Cumberland County Association for Indian People, the Guilford Native American Association, the Metrolina Native American Association, and the Triangle Native American Society; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, there are 12 Historically Black Colleges and Universities that offer opportunities to study the Black and African American history and culture as part of their curriculum or degree programs; and

WHEREAS, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNC Pembroke), was originally established as the Croatan Normal school in 1887 by seven American Indian men to provide the promise of education for their future generations; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly designated The University of North Carolina at Pembroke as North Carolina's Historically American Indian University in recognition of its service to Native peoples and as a leader in education on the Indigenous experience; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs views the proposed Indigenous Cultures and Communities Requirement (ICC) at UNC Pembroke, as a demonstration of the university's commitment to encouraging a greater understanding of the American Indian experience, particularly the unique sovereign status of Indigenous peoples in and beyond the United States; and

WHEREAS, the ICC at UNC Pembroke would also promote the study and exploration of the issues affecting Native peoples, in this state and region, by providing educational opportunities in governance, culture, literature, history, health care, science, environmental justice and in many other areas; and

WHEREAS, the ICC at UNC Pembroke can offer a knowledge base to promote a more inclusive and diverse population; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs does hereby support and encourage the adoption of the **Indigenous Cultures and Communities academic requirement** at UNC Pembroke; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, by this Resolution, requests and urges The University of North Carolina at Pembroke to implement the ICC program as it would be the first of its kind making North Carolina and UNC Pembroke a leader in education on issues affecting Native and Indigenous populations.

CERTIFICATION

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs authorized the adoption of this Resolution by a unanimous vote of the membership during the Annual Meeting of the Commission, held on September 4, 2020, by conference call.



Ricky Burnett, Chairman



Gregory A. Richardson, Executive Director