

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'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'íyáti' 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.

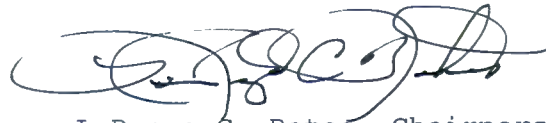
- D. The establishment of the Native American Social Work Program at the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work would constitute the nation's first effort by a school of social work to respond in a programmatic way to Native American social work education.
- E. The Native American Social Work Program Advisory/Development 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LoRenzo C. Bates", written in a cursive style.

LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairperson  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

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

Chairperson Bates not voting



# THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT  
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT



May 18, 2017

Honorable Delegate Jonathan Hale  
Office of Council Delegates  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

## **Re: Request for Resolution of Support**

Honorable Delegate Hale:

I am writing on behalf of the Native American Social Work Program Advisory/Development Committee to ask for your support of the enclosed draft resolution. The resolution seeks a place at the table to define and develop a course of study within the New Mexico Highlands University School of Social Work that prepares students to work in tribal and off-reservation communities in New Mexico. The effort to bring this to fruition is of long-standing and began in 1974 when the social work school was founded with a mission to focus on Hispanic/Latino and Native American social work education.

As the resolution outlines, the School responded to its pledge for Hispanic/Latino curricula in 2005 through a legislative initiative that established the program and made funding for the program a permanent part of the School's budget. This same status is sought for the Native American Social Work Program. The resolution requests a \$10,000 investment by the School to support the work of the committee. The committee's membership is composed of tribal and off-reservation Native practitioners who bring their expert knowledge and skills-based practice to the task of curriculum development (list enclosed). The work will take several years and it is planned that a bill to establish the program will be introduced into the 2019 legislative session. Senator Benny Shendo, Jr. is informed of the resumption of the effort and will be asked to introduce the bill. In the meantime, foundation funding will be sought.

The committee will request a meeting with Roxane Gonzales Walker, Ph.D., Highlands Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Cristina Duran, Dean of the School to discuss establishment of the program. Dr. Gonzales Walker whose portfolio includes the School of

Social Work was recently hired and is not familiar with the effort's history to establish the program. It is not clear that she has experience with tribal leadership and governance. It will be important at the meeting to demonstrate the support the effort has from tribal government and off-reservation programs. Dr. Duran knows about the effort and has pledged her support. She is the first Dean of the School to reach out to the Native community through active participation in seminars and other gatherings.

We look forward to your support and pledge our diligent effort to design and develop a program that will educate and train social work students to work effectively, respectfully and responsibly in our communities.

The following are committee members:

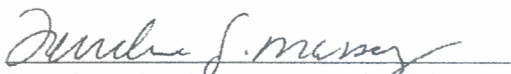
- Elizabeth Duran, MSW, MPH (Pojoaque), Director, Pojoaque Social Services Department
- Caroline Dailey, ICSW (Isleta), Director Isleta Social Services Department
- Regina Yazzie, MSW (Dine'), Program Manager, Navajo Children and Family Services
- Melissa E. Riley, Ph.D. (Mescalero), Owner, Native Community Development Assoc., Inc.
- Kelly Galbreth, MA, (Aniishinabe), Therapist, First Nations Community Healthsource, Inc.
- Diane Tsoodle-Nelson, NMHUSW Student (Kiowa, Taos, Delaware), May 2017 graduate
- Evelyn Lance Blanchard, MSW, Ph.D. (Laguna, Yaqui), Independent Consultant

Sincerely,



Regina Yazzie  
Program Manager

Acknowledgement

  
Terrelene G. Massey, Executive Director

Attachment



# 11

# 23rd Navajo Nation Council Naabik'iyati' Committee

Date: October 12, 2017Legislation No. 0319-17Motion: Seth DamonSecond: Jonathan Perry

## ALL DELEGATES:

	Yea	Nay
BATES, LoRenzo		
BEGAY, Kee Allen Jr.	✓	
BEGAY, Norman M.		
BEGAY, Steven	✓	
BEGAYE, Nelson	✓	
BENNETT, Benjamin L.		
BROWN, Nathaniel	✓	
CHEE, Tom T.		
CROTTY, Amber K.		
DAMON, Seth	✓	
DANIELS, Herman	✓	
FILFRED, Davis		
HALE, Jonathan L.	✓	
JACK, Lee Sr.		
PERRY, Jonathan	✓	
PETE, Leonard H.	✓	
PHELPS, Walter	✓	
SHEPHERD, Alton Joe		
SLIM, Tuchoney Jr.	✓	
SMITH, Raymond Jr.	✓	
TSO, Otto		
TSOSIE, Leonard	✓	
WITHERSPOON, Dwight	✓	
YAZZIE, Edmund	✓	

GRAND TOTAL

15 0

## BY COMMITTEE:

	Yea	Nay	TOTAL
<b>BFC:</b>			
CHEE, Tom T.			
DAMON, Seth			
JACK, Lee Sr.			
SLIM, Tuchoney Jr.			
WITHERSPOON, Dwight			
TSOSIE, Leonard			
<b>HEHSC:</b>			
BEGAY, Norman M.			
BEGAY, Steven			
BEGAYE, Nelson			
BROWN, Nathaniel			
CROTTY, Amber K.			
HALE, Jonathan L.			
<b>LOC:</b>			
BEGAY, Kee Allen Jr.			
DANIELS, Herman			
SMITH, Raymond Jr.			
TSO, Otto			
YAZZIE, Edmund			
<b>RDC:</b>			
BENNETT, Benjamin L.			
FILFRED, Davis			
PERRY, Jonathan			
PETE, Leonard H.			
PHELPS, Walter			
SHEPHERD, Alton Joe			
<b>SPEAKER:</b>			
BATES, LoRenzo			
(Votes only in a tie)			

GRAND TOTAL

## CERTIFICATION:



Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates  
Speaker