A Resolution of the Inter-Tribal Council Supporting Young Native American Girls to Study and Enter into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Fields of Study and Careers

Resolution No. 17-13

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing more than 650,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers help innovate solutions to natural resource development issues, develop new health care strategies and increase safety, but these careers require rigorous studies and preparation to develop STEM backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, there is an unmet balance between males and females in STEM careers, where only 29 percent of STEM careers are held by women; and

WHEREAS, in Native American communities STEM participation is extremely low with only 3,445 American Indian and Alaska Native students receiving science and engineering degrees in 2012; and

WHEREAS, through new mentorship and support avenues STEM opportunities have increased and significantly helped more young girls and Native students succeed in STEM related fields of study; and

WHEREAS, programs, like the Million Women Mentors Native American Council and the American Indian Science and Engineer Society’s “Empowering Native Girls in STEM”, are providing support in elementary schools through high schools across Indian Country to encourage more young girls to develop the required skills to succeed in a STEM field of study in college; and

WHEREAS, programs provide the opportunity for existing women in the STEM workforce to mentor young girls and build interest in the STEM field.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby supports the Million Women Mentors Native American Council in its efforts to highlight the need of support and increased opportunities for Native American women to enter into the STEM fields of study and the STEM workforce.
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 7th day of April, 2017, by a vote of all for ___ against and ___ abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

James R. Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation