POLICY RESOLUTIONS

AND NIEA ACTION

Conventions 2015-2019
2015 Annual Convention: Portland, OR

NIEA RESOLUTION 15—01
In Support of Allowing Native Students to Wear Eagle Feathers at High School Graduation

NIEA Action:
- Letters in support of Native students sent to school districts as needed and requested.

NIEA RESOLUTION 15—04
To Abolish Columbus Day and Replace with Indigenous Peoples’ Day

NIEA Action:
- Sent a copy of the resolution to appropriate staff.
- Support for NIEA Member who met with Hill staff regarding possible legislation.

2016 Annual Convention: Reno, NV

NIEA RESOLUTION 16—01
Native American Hall of Fame

NIEA Action:
- The resolution was built into the 50th Anniversary of the founding of NIEA in 2019 in Minneapolis, which included a historical timeline at the 2017 Convention and a timeline in the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet.

NIEA RESOLUTION 16—02
ESSA Report on Native American Language Medium Education

NIEA Action:
- This Report has been raised repeatedly with the Department of Education and Congressional Allies in person.
- Letter identifying the Report as untimely sent to Department of Education and Senate allies regarding the lack of timeliness of this report, which was due August 10, 2017.

NIEA RESOLUTION 16—03
Did Not Pass Membership

NIEA Action:
- No action necessary.

NIEA RESOLUTION 16—04
Did Not Pass Membership

NIEA Action:
• No action necessary.

**NIEA RESOLUTION 16—05**  
Supporting NIHSDA's Recommendation For the Reauthorization of the Head Start Act

**NIEA Action:**  
- Head Start Improvement Act of 2019 was introduced in the House of Representatives in January 2019, but has yet to move.  
- NIEA has and will work with NIHISDA on a regular basis to support reauthorization, with Native priorities paramount in our advocacy.

**NIEA RESOLUTION 16—06**  
Did Not Pass Membership

**NIEA Action:**  
- No action necessary

**NIEA RESOLUTION 16—07**  
Term Limits for NIEA Board of Directors

**NIEA Action:**  
- NIEA has revised its organizational procedures to implement term limits for members of the NIEA Board of Directors.  
- The Resolution is binding prospectively on Board Members seeking a third term after the 2016 election.

**NIEA RESOLUTION 16—08**  
Opposition to Voucher Programs in BIE Schools

**NIEA Action:**  
- Engaged with Hill staff to advocate against voucher programs that utilize funding and resources allocated for tribal schools.  
- Joined the National Coalition for Public Education to engage with allies, where appropriate, to protect Native education, while always staying committed to Tribal sovereignty in education.

**NIEA RESOLUTION 16—09**  
Support for the Establishment of a Native American Teacher Campaign

**NIEA Action:**  
- Convened a meeting of tribal leaders and Native education advocates during the 2017 NIEA Hill Day to kick off the national campaign.  
- Followed up by developing a set of committees to advance the Native Teacher Campaign over the coming year, with action steps to be set by the committees in partnership with NIEA staff.  
- NIEA established the Native Educator Initiative and job board.

**NIEA RESOLUTION 16—E01**  
Improving Student Identification
This packet only tracks the last five (5) years. For resolutions dating further back, please visit niea.org.

NIEA Action:
- Advocated with federal agencies for a more accurate count of Native students as an organization and in coordination with partner organizations where Native education interest and partner organization interests align.
- Created a fact sheet on student data in higher education.

NIEA RESOLUTION 16—E02
Issues Concerning Reorganization of BIE to Portions of its Implementation

NIEA Action:
- Provided comments in July 2017 to the Secretary of Interior on departmental reorganization related to BIE following an executive order to evaluate the organization of the executive branch.
- Met with BIE leadership to discuss BIE reorganization and advocate for inclusion of tribal leaders and Native education advocates to ensure accountability at the BIE.
- Regularly engaged with the BIE to advocate for accountability and improvement in BIE Schools across the country.

2017 Annual Convention: Orlando, FL

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—01
Support for Ongoing Tribal State Consultation for Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

NIEA Action:
- Developed tribal consultation guides for states to fulfill requirements and evaluate engagement with tribes under ESSA.
- Provided written comments on eight state ESSA plans.
- Hosted state launch programs focused on ESSA implementation in Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and New York. Launch meetings in New Mexico, Alaska, and Minnesota are scheduled for late 2018 and 2019.
- Began development of a report card on state ESSA implementation and Native education.

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—02
Support for Ongoing Tribal Local Consultation Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

NIEA Action:
- Developed a tribal consultation guide for local educational agencies to fulfill requirements under ESSA.
- Participated and spoke at an ESSA consultation and implementation workshop hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; attendees included federal, state, local, and tribal leaders.

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—03
Support of Effective Implementation of Indian Education for All Learning
NIEA Action:
- Hosted a webinar with the Montana Office of Public Instruction to highlight successful strategies for implementation of the state’s Indian Education for All legislation.

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—04
Support of the Movement to End Violence against Native Women and Children

NIEA Action:
- Supported Senate Resolution 401 to designate May 5, 2018 as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls.”
- Engaged with national Native partners regarding on the Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act (S.2233).

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—05
Opposition to Aquila Resources’ Back Forty Mine Project Due to Impact on Land, Water, and Education

NIEA Action:
- Sent an official letter of support to leaders of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin to support the protection of sacred and culturally significant sites.

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—06
Support for Tribal School Choice

NIEA Action:
- Developed materials to define and provide a national landscape for current opportunities for tribes to exercise education sovereignty through school choice.
- Engaged in several meetings with the GAO regarding an upcoming report on opportunities for tribal school choice.
- Engaged with congressional leaders to support tribal sovereignty and choice through legislative action.

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—07
Support of Native Frameworks for Charter Schools

NIEA Action:
- Developed a Native charter school handbook to support tribes and Native communities that choose to develop innovative, culture-based charter schools that support the unique needs of Native students.

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—08
Urge Congress to Act on Recommendations from American Academy of Arts and Sciences to Support Native American Languages

NIEA Action:
- Provided written comments to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in September 2018 to support efforts to revitalize Native languages.

NIEA RESOLUTION 17—E01
Support for Full Transparency and Tribal Consultation in the Development and Administration of the Department of Education's Evaluation Study of Title VI in the Every Student Succeeds Act

NIEA Action:
- NIEA sent a letter to the Secretary of Education regarding membership concerns.
- NIEA provided public comments regarding the proposed study in January 2018.
- Worked with former NIEA President Dr. David Beaulieu to make sure the purpose of Title VI for cultural education is fulfilled in the proposed evaluation of the program.
- Ensured Native scholars were represented on the technical working group.
- The Acting Director of the Office of Indian Education addressed concerns regarding the study and provided an update to NIEA members at the 2018 Hill Day.

2018 Annual Convention: Hartford, CT

NIEA RESOLUTION 18—01
Urge Congress to Increase Appropriations for Tribal Education Departments and Agencies

NIEA Action:
- Sent Letter to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding increasing appropriations for Native Language and Revitalization programs.
- Sent NIEA's budget request for 2019 to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, which requests increased appropriations consistent with the resolution for TEDs and TEAs.
- Gave testimony before the Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies regarding Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations, which requests increased appropriations consistent with the resolution for TEDs and TEAs.
- Submitted written comments to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies in response to the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request, with recommendations for increased appropriations consistent with the resolution for TEDs and TEAs.
- Submitted written comments to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, regarding the Oversight Hearing on the President’s Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for Indian Programs, with requests for increased appropriations consistent with the resolution for TEDs and TEAs.

NIEA RESOLUTION 18—02
Protecting Native Students from Harmful Cuts to Federal Student Aid

NIEA Action
- Gave testimony before the United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on the President's Budget Request for FY which proposed severe budget cuts and elimination of key programs, which included post-secondary scholarships, and federal student aid.
- Highlighted affordability as a key tenant of NIEA’s higher education priorities.
- Put out a Legislative Alert advocating for H.R. 2486-Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act.
NIEA RESOLUTION 18—03
In Support of Affirmative Action Policies and Against the Withdrawal of Guidance on Affirmative Action

NIEA Action
• Worked in coalition with civil rights organizations to support affirmative action policies in the development of recommendations for postsecondary education and the Higher Education Act.

NIEA RESOLUTION 18—04
In Support of improved Child Nutrition Programs and Food Sovereignty Services for Native Students

NIEA Action
• Engaged with the Native Farm Bill Coalition to support food sovereignty and nutrition programs in the Farm Bill, which passed on December 11, 2018.
• Met with tribal leaders and community members to discuss best practices for improving access to fully-funded child nutrition services and programs that serve American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students.

NIEA RESOLUTION 18—05
Condemning the Separation at the U.S.-Mexico Border and Urging Immediate Reunification

NIEA Action
• Worked closely with partners in the civil rights community through the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights to support and aid their efforts in ending the separation of families at the U.S.-Mexico Border
• Engaged with audiences on various social media platforms (i.e. Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) condemning the separation of families at the border and urging immediate reunification.

NIEA RESOLUTION 18—E01
In Support of Financial Aid Data Sharing for Tribes and Tribal Organizations

NIEA Action
• Submitted written comments to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, regarding the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and Native Postsecondary Students, which supported access be given to Tribes and Tribal Organizations to see their student financial aid records.
• Met with congressional offices to support inclusion of a permanent fix in the Higher Education Act.

NIEA RESOLUTION 18—E02
In Support of Bureau of Indian Education Contracts and Funding for Tribal Schools in Alaska

NIEA Action
• Met with Alaska congressional office to share resolution and discuss opportunities for expanding the BIE in the state.
NIEA RESOLUTION 19—1
In Support of Tribal Nations that Pursue the Development of a State Education Agency

NIEA Action
- Worked with tribal nations to elevate sovereignty and ensure tribal flexibilities in federal regulations for the BIE Standards, Assessments, and Accountability Plan under ESSA.

NIEA RESOLUTION 19—2
In Support of Data Sharing Partnerships and Cooperative Agreements

NIEA Action
- Met with congressional offices in support of data sovereignty and access, including in the Higher Education Act.

NIEA RESOLUTION 19—3
In Support of State Laws and Tribal Compacts that Allow Native Students to Wear Items of Cultural or Religious Significance

NIEA Action
- Engaged with tribal partners to support state legislation that allows Native students to wear items of cultural or religious significance in Oklahoma.

NIEA RESOLUTION 19—4
Expanding Service Payback Opportunities for the Indian Education Professional Development Grants Program

NIEA Action
- Provided comments on proposed changes to the Indian Education Professional Development Grants Program at the Department of Education.

NIEA RESOLUTION 19—5
Expanding Federal Resources and Funding for Native Students with Disabilities

NIEA Action
- Engaged with national and tribal organizations to strengthen partnerships, advocacy, and resources for Native students with disabilities.

NIEA RESOLUTION 19—6
Improving Federal Technical Assistance to Support Native Education

NIEA Action
• Provided comments, testimony, and resources to advocate for federal technical assistance in Native education, including in assessments, COVID-19 implementation, culture-based curriculum, language immersion, and more.

**NIEA RESOLUTION 19—7**

In Support of Bureau of Indian Education School Construction Funding Increases and Innovation

**NIEA Action**

• Coordinated with national tribal partners to request $1 billion in funding for Native education construction in emergency coronavirus appropriations.

**NIEA RESOLUTION 19—8**

In Support of a Complete and Accurate 2020 Census Count in Native Communities

**NIEA Action**

• Engaged with the Census Bureau to provide webinars and resources for Native schools and communities.

**NIEA RESOLUTION 19—E01**

In Support of Native Students, Educators, and Community Members who Identify as LGBTQ2S

**NIEA Action**

• Presenting at Convention.
• Creating curriculum/activities for NIEA website and virtual learning to be published soon.
• Developed LGBTQ2S training/professional development for educators.