



NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## **NIEA Resolution 2023 - #E003**

### **TITLE: CONDEMNING THE 2023 U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1970 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Native organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Native nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the NIEA Resolution #2018-13 adopted in 2018 supports affirmative action policies against the withdrawal of guidance on affirmative action and urged higher education institutions to continue to abide by affirmative action guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, which rejects affirmative action policies in college admissions, undermines decades of progress and precedent made in addressing historical injustices and promoting diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, this decision fails to account for the centuries of destructive federal educational policies that oppressed Native cultures with future implications that may discourage Native learners from applying to universities; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Constitution acknowledges the sovereign rights of Tribal Nations and their citizens, which together with the federal trust and treaty responsibility guarantees Native students high-quality education, including higher-education, based upon their political affiliation.

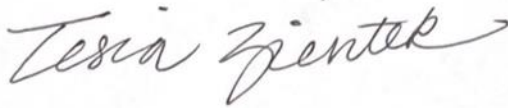
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Indian Education Association condemns the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Indian Education Association calls upon the Department of Education and all institutions of higher education to acknowledge the unique political status of Native students, outside of their racial designation, and uphold the trust and treaty responsibilities by actively seeking to enroll Native students in higher education; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NIEA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was duly considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 21, 2023 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tesia Zientek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "k".

Tesia Zientek  
President