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Resolution to Recognize Native American Heritage Month in Nebraska

WHEREAS, Native Americans are the original inhabitants of the lands once identified as Nebraska Territory, then as the State of Nebraska in 1867 as part of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, Native Americans have contributed and continue to contribute to the sciences, economics, mathematics, agronomics, arts, humanities and philosophy, as well as providing a basis for forming a more perfect union and government by way of the Iroquois Confederacy and the Great Law of Peace, modeling these ideals to pre-Columbian North and South America;

WHEREAS, Nebraska's Native American languages, cultures, and histories are unique and important to the fabric of our state's education system that prepares learners to prosper in a global economy, and function in a global society;

WHEREAS, Nebraska schools are compelled to incorporate multicultural education into all phases of the curriculum, including indicators relative to the culture, history, and contributions of Native Americans with a special emphasis placed on human relations and sensitivity toward all races, and are required to direct appropriate exercises related to Native American Heritage Day;

WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush designated the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month in the year 1990, and similar proclamations have been issued by successive Presidents since that time; and

WHEREAS, The Nebraska State Board of Education recognizes the importance of cultural identity by all peoples in an ever-increasing global society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education recognizes the month of November as Native American Heritage Month in Nebraska; and

RESOLVED, That, in addition to that which is minimally required by regulation and statute, the State Board of Education strongly encourages all Nebraska schools to include the contributions of each unique Native American culture, and work to develop educational programs and practices in harmony with all parents, families, community members, and tribal governments that will ensure success in school and life for all students, during the month of November and throughout the year.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 6th day of October 2023.

Patti Gubbels, President

Kirk Penner, Vice President