

AFT WASHINGTON RESOLUTION 2023-06

1 **Building Authentic Tribal Relationships**

2 **WHEREAS:** The U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, asserts that Congress
3 shall have the power: "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and
4 among the several states, and with the Indian tribes." State power on Indian
5 issues is thus subordinated to federal power. See also Article VI, Clause 2,
6 where the Constitution states that treaties are the "supreme law of the
7 land"; and

8 **WHEREAS:** Washington state's legacy of settler-colonialism resulted in displacement and
9 dispossession of homelands for Indigenous peoples; and

10 **WHEREAS:** October 2022 marked the 33rd convening of the Annual Centennial Accord
11 between the Washington state Governor and Washington state Indian tribes
12 and organizations; and

13 **WHEREAS:** Washington state adopted [RCW 43.376](#) to guide Washington government-to-
14 government (G2G) relations with Indian tribes; and

15 **WHEREAS:** Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges received a
16 College Spark Washington grant (2022-23) to form an American Indian
17 Indigenous Advisory Board with the following goals:

- 18 • Professional Development – RCW 43.376 G2G Relationship Building
19 Through Tribal Consultation across 34 CTCs (Training for CTC Leadership
20 and Faculty)
- 21 • Tackle Contemporary Challenges (Hiring of Tribal Relations/
22 Administration/Faculty/Staff/Student Services/Community Scholars)
- 23 • Raise the Awareness of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Historical
24 Burdens (Intergenerational Historical Trauma i.e., Missing And Murdered
25 Indigenous Women (MMIW), Boarding Schools, Relocation & other
26 genocidal policies)
- 27 • Reduce AI/AN Education and Economic Disparities. Develop WA Tribal
28 Student Pathways with intentional recruitment, retention, completion
29 policies and practices, formalize G2G relationships with Tribes to support
30 local workforce training needs; and

31 **WHEREAS:** Lynn Palmanteer-Holder is the Director of Tribal Affairs, State Board of
32 Community and Technical Colleges and has been meeting with CTCs to build
33 relations with Tribes; and

34 **WHEREAS:** AFT Washington acknowledges the harms of Boarding School doctrine and
35 the intergenerational trauma; and

Adopted

Adopted as amended:

- By Committee
- By Convention
- By Executive Board

Defeated

Tabled

- 36 **WHEREAS:** AFT Washington acknowledges the need to expand Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion curriculum to include
37 Tribal Wisdom and Sovereignty; now, therefore, be it
- 38 **RESOLVED:** AFT Washington will build Tribal liaison and issues into its structure and practices to align itself as a union
39 federation with respect to Tribal Sovereignty; and, be it further
- 40 **RESOLVED:** AFT Washington will go Beyond Land Acknowledgement to build long term, authentic, mutually
41 beneficial relationships with Tribes and seek equitable, co-created outcomes in the educational
42 goals of Indigenous students, staff and faculty; and, be it further
- 43 **RESOLVED:** AFT Washington will consult with Tribal Communities and Leaders in pursuing Diversity, Equity, and
44 Inclusion initiatives and projects especially when Tribal Communities are involved; and, be it further
- 45 **RESOLVED:** AFT Washington will promote the teaching of Tribal Languages in Washington State Community and
46 Technical Colleges as part of the World Language requirement.

Adopted in open meeting by the Human Rights Committee on April 8th, 2023.
