

RESOLUTION No. 31-26

COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY (“NSU”) A
CHEROKEE NATION PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS HIGHER EDUCATION
PARTNER AND SUPPORTING IN PRINCIPLE A MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NSU AND CHEROKEE NATION**

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation (“Nation”) since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government on behalf of the Cherokee people;

WHEREAS, the Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continual government to government relationship with the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the Nation has exclusive tribal jurisdiction over the Cherokee Nation Reservation, the geographic scope of which is defined in federal and Cherokee Nation law;

WHEREAS, the Council of the Cherokee Nation enacted the [Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, as amended \(“PHWFA”\)](#) which broadly authorizes the Principal Chief to make expenditures relating to “Public Health and Wellness Activities and Infrastructure,” more fully described in Section 4, § 1004 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, Northeastern State University (“NSU”) is a public university whose main campus is located within the Cherokee Nation Reservation in Tahlequah, the capital city of the Cherokee Nation, and shares a unique and inextricably linked history with the Nation and is an indispensable higher education partner to the Nation and surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, the Principal Chief has identified categories of Public Health and Wellness Activities and Infrastructure within which NSU, and NSU by and through the Northeastern State University Foundation, can make investments which will ensure the benefit of Cherokee Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Principal Chief has identified various other interests shared by the Nation and NSU, which warrant formal agreement, including but not limited to: historic preservation, repatriation, efficient consolidation of periodic donations and tribal nation exclusivity; and

WHEREAS, the Principal Chief has identified funding not to exceed \$750,000 from the PHWFA Fund, as authorized under the PHWFA, available to donate annually to NSU to meet the aforementioned investments and interests pursuant to a formal agreement, negotiated and executed by the Principal Chief under his or her preexisting authority for a period not to exceed

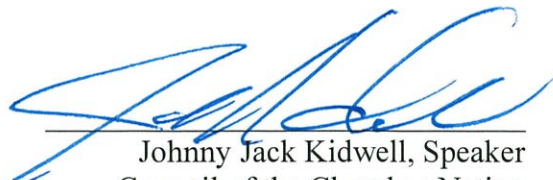
ten years with provisions for renewals, provided that the terms of that agreement substantially includes the provisions reasonably relating to the following:

- NTE \$750,000 annual donation to NSU and/or NSU Foundation, to be spent within NSU and/or NSU Foundation's discretion, without supplanting current NSU and/or NSU Foundation funding levels or commitments, within the following earmarked categories of:
 - 33% Student physical fitness, student health and safety and athletics,
 - 33% Native student programs and infrastructure,
 - 34% Cherokee Nation scholarships and grants in the health field.
- NSU agrees to establish a "Cherokee Nation / NSU Joint Repatriation Work Group," with Cherokee Nation's participation determined by the Principal Chief and which work group shall commit to exploring joint projects on historic preservation and repatriation of records and assets from NSU to Cherokee Nation.
- NSU provides for an advisory role for Cherokee Nation on hiring committee for key faculty and University Leadership.
- Appropriate Cherokee Nation branding opportunities.
- Tribal nation exclusivity or right of first refusal for Cherokee Nation as it relates to partnerships and sponsorships.
- Elements of public transparency, including making the MOU publicly accessible, requiring the issuance of an annual report on expenditures.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION, that the Council of the Cherokee Nation supports an annual donation not to exceed \$750,000 to NSU and/or NSU Foundation, beginning in Fiscal Year 2026, through any available funding source, provided under the terms of a memorandum of understanding negotiated and executed by the Principal Chief.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the Cherokee Nation at a duly called meeting on the 13th day of July, 2026, having 16 members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of 16 yea; 0 nay; 0 abstaining.


Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker
Council of the Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:


Joshua Sam, Secretary
Council of the Cherokee Nation

Approved and signed by the Principal Chief this 16 day of July, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHOSKIN", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shella L. Bowlin", written in a cursive style.

Shella Bowlin, Secretary of State
Cherokee Nation

ADMINISTRATIVE CLEARANCE

Dept/Program:

Signature/Initial

Date

Executive Director:

Signature/Initial

Date

Treasurer (Required:
Grants/Contracts/Budgets):

Signature/Initial

Date

Government Relations:

Signature/Initial

Date

Administration Approval:

Signature/Initial

Date

LEGISLATIVE CLEARANCE:

Legal & Legislative Coordinator:

Signature/Initial

Date

Standing Committee & Date:

Chairperson:

Signature/Initial

Date

**Cherokee Nation
Act/Resolution Proposal Form**

☐ Act

☒ Resolution

TITLE:

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STATE UNIVERSITY ("NSU") A CHEROKEE
NATION PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNER AND
SUPPORTING IN PRINCIPLE A MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NSU AND
CHEROKEE NATION**

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

RESOLUTION PRESENTER: Canaan Duncan

COUNCIL SPONSOR: Johnny Kidwell, Candessa Tehee, Codey
Poindexter, Kevin Easley, Jr., Julia Pates,
Joshua Sam, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls

NARRATIVE:

The purpose of this Resolution is to establish Northeastern State University as a Public Health and Wellness Partner and receive an annual contribution of \$750,000 through PHW, pursuant to a formal agreement with certain provisions outlined within the Resolution.