

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

RESOLUTION CHO 06-002

A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE ONGOING USE OF THE NAME CHOCTAW
AND RELATED SYMBOLS BY MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

WHEREAS, Mississippi College is located in what was called the Choctaw territory, and the old Indian trail that became the Natchez Trace passed through the campus, and

WHEREAS, in 1920 the Mississippi College student body voted overwhelmingly to affix the name *Choctaw* to its athletic teams, and

WHEREAS, Mississippi College Athletes and alumni are known throughout the state as the *Choctaws*, and have carried the name *Choctaw* for 85 years now displaying it proudly on uniforms, in print, and on their football stadium, and

WHEREAS, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has mandated that all colleges and universities that carry Native American names or symbols eliminate all references to Native American imagery from their sports teams and promotions, and

WHEREAS, an exception from this mandate was granted the Florida State University Seminoles, in part because the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida voted unanimously in favor of a written resolution to reaffirm its ongoing support of the university's use of its name and symbols, and

WHEREAS, Mississippi College believes that it has carried the Choctaw name with respect and is seeking the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' approval to continue to be known as the Mississippi College Choctaws, and

WHEREAS, for more than fifty years members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians have proudly attended Mississippi College with Henry Ben being the first tribal member to graduate from Mississippi College in 1953 with seven others graduating thereafter, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council does hereby reaffirm its ongoing support for the name *Choctaw* to be used by Mississippi College, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council does hereby authorize the Chief to write a letter of endorsement in support of the Mississippi College request for an exception from this rule from the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, certify that the Tribal Council of said Band is composed of 16 members, 14 of whom, constituting a quorum, were present at a Regular meeting thereof, duly called, noticed,

convened and held this 11th day of October 2005; and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by a vote of 11 members in favor, 3 opposed and 0 abstaining.

Dated this 11th day of October 2005.

ATTEST:



Phillip Martin, Chief



Phyllis J. Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer