



National Association for Multicultural Education

Resolution on Recommending Replacement of Indian Mascots

Whereas, the symbols chosen to represent institutions are powerful and influential public images that promote messages about core values and beliefs;

Whereas, the leaders of the sovereign nations of Native American/Native Alaskan, and American Indian Nations have passionately expressed opposition to the use of Indian sports mascots for decades. Proclaiming that – when unsanctioned by tribal leaders – the adoption of Indian names, images, logos, nicknames, etc. is a misappropriation equivalent to identity theft. Many American Indian/Native American nations have called for immediate end to the use of Indian mascots at all K-12 schools, universities, and professional settings;

Whereas, when it is unsanctioned, the misappropriation of Indian names, mascots, logos, and the accompanying accoutrements are stereotypical representations rooted in colonial elitism, institutional racism, prejudice and ridicule;

Whereas, public schools and universities typically proclaim their commitment to educational practices and curriculum that dismantles racism, sexism, and classism profess to provide education as a the major tool to dismantle discrimination and oppression;

Whereas, our schools and universities professing commitment to multicultural awareness and development of cross cultural understanding in their communities, and their interest in protecting the mental health and school climate for all students, especially students of color;

Whereas, the maintenance of Indian mascots in the 21st century promotes racial stereotypes and glorifies the continued oppression, bigotry and discrimination of our First Nations' peoples;

Whereas, the use of Indian mascots in school events teaches Indian and non-Indian students to accept institutional and personal racism and undermines messages of respect and understanding within the institutions and, consequently, in our communities;

Therefore, NAME has resolved that....

--It is critical for those institutions to reexamine their traditions, policies, practices, procedures, and assumptions to ensure that vestiges of bias and discrimination have been eliminated;

--By removing negative images, names and archaic symbols offensive to American Indians and Native Americans, schools and universities actively demonstrate their commitment and role in alleviating racist stereotypes, rather than perpetuating them;

--By following through with mascot reform initiatives, schools and universities publicly demonstrate their leadership in diversity efforts;

--Engaging in this change process is one invaluable, public way that schools can lead their communities through the analysis and deep conversations necessary to improve cross cultural understanding and respect among all ethnic and cultural groups;

--By engaging their communities and American Indian/ Alaskan Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans leaders in the process of removing Indian symbols and names from the sports mascot domain and selecting new non-offensive symbols, schools demonstrate and model their sincere, holistic commitment through courageous conversations and meaningful action to alleviate racism and prejudice, to the benefit of the entire community.

Unanimously Approved by the NAME Board at the November 11, 2006
Phoenix AZ Conference Board Meeting

The National Association for Multicultural Education is the leading international and national organization in the area of multicultural education. For additional information, contact NAME at name@nameorg.org or visit the website at www.nameorg.org. The NAME office is located at NAME, 5272 River Rd, Suite 430, Bethesda, MD 20816 and can be reached by phone at (301) 951-0022 or by fax at (301) 951-0023