



## **Proclamation Designating November as Native American Heritage Month at MESD**

**WHEREAS**, Multnomah Education Service District is committed to creating a community of belonging that improves the quality of life for all persons we serve; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American Awareness Week began in 1976, and recognition was expanded by Congress and approved by former President George W. Bush, designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the history and culture of our great nation have been significantly shaped by the rich tapestry of American Indians and indigenous peoples; and the contributions of Native Americans have enhanced the freedom, prosperity and greatness of America today; and

**WHEREAS**, their customs and traditions are respected and celebrated as part of a rich legacy throughout Oregon and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American Indians are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States, the first Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native Americans contribute to the unique identity of the Pacific Northwest, represented the early voices for the values that define our Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American Indians maintain vibrant cultural heritage, rich traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community; and

**WHEREAS**, we cannot ignore nor erase the consequences of this country's long and unfortunate history of violence, discrimination, and deprivation of the Native Americans –but we can commit to working together for a bright future; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans stand among America's most distinguished authors; artists; scientists; and political leaders; and in their accomplishments, they have profoundly strengthened the legacy we will leave our children; and

**WHEREAS**, MESD affirms its commitment to working toward a society that fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diversity of culture and history of the 573 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native nations in our country;

**WHEREAS**, the Blueprint'28 outlines specific strategies to increase racially, culturally and linguistically diverse staff, including a Grow Your Own Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the District recently hired a Native American Student and Family Partnerships Program Manager to help facilitate, sustain and support the wellness of American Indians, and Alaska Native communities, as we move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, water crises, and other traumas and their effects.

**WHEREAS**, MESD has adopted policies that state our commitment to closing the achievement gap for students of color, and creating an educational environment where all students can benefit equally from the educational programs offered; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is working towards eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality on all aspects of education and articulated action steps in the adopted District Strategic Plan "The Blueprint'28"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Multnomah ESD Board of Directors do hereby proclaim the month of November to be **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**, and strongly encourages staff and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of Native Americans to our country, our state, our cities, and our schools.