



13 August, 2022

To: Dr. Walter Fleming, NAS Director
From: Dr. Elmer Guy, WINHEC Executive Committee
Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Co-Chair, WINHEC Board of Accreditation

Subject: WINHEC 5 Year Provisional Accreditation Approval, Department of Native American Studies (NAS) at Montana State University

WINHEC Board of Accreditation/Affirmation (BoA) met in February to consider the applications for WINHEC accreditation, per the criteria outlined in the WINHEC Accreditation Handbook, 2022 edition. Based on the review and report of the Site Visit Team and the presentation to the BoA, we are pleased to inform you that the following actions were taken by the Board of Affirmation/Accreditation and the WINHEC Executive Board:

BoA action: The BoA commends the report and recommendations of the Site Visit Review Team for the Department of Native American Studies (NAS) at Montana State University. The BoA affirms the Site Visit Report dated October 10-17, 2021, and provisionally approves the accreditation of NAS for 5 years as concluded in the terms of the site visit report (pg. 25). The dates for provisional accreditation status have been revised from August 14, 2022 to August 14, 2027.

NAS will be required to submit annual reports detailing the accomplishment of benchmarks that ensure continued development and progress toward full compliance with WINHEC accreditation standards. Should annual benchmarks not be met, the Department of Native American Studies at Montana State University, Bozeman, will return to provisional status and be required to resubmit their application for accreditation.

Year 1 (due 10/1/23): NAS will submit a plan to integrate their Cultural Standards and situate an Oversight board.

Year 2 (due 10/6/24): NAS will develop processes and procedures to integrate Cultural Standards into the curriculum and across NAS.

Year 3 (due 10/4/25): Develop Assessment plans and generate assessment data. Develop succession plans and/or hiring protocols.

Year 4: Reevaluate/Reassess.

Year 5: A site visit in 2027 to reaffirm and confirm the remaining 5 years of accreditation to 8/14/2027.

Motion 1: The WINHEC Executive Board hereby approves the recommendations from the BoA and the WINHEC Review Team report following the site visit to the Department of Native American Studies (NAS) at Montana State University, Bozeman, and in so doing, affirms the good standing of

the Department of Native American Studies (NAS) at Montana State University for a provisional period of 5 years, with all rights and privileges thereof.

May the Department of Native American Studies (NAS) be congratulated for their commitment to elevating the high standards of Indigenous education. Please let us know if we can be of assistance as you move forward with your programs.

Sincerely,



cc: Dr. Jolan Hsieh, Co-chair, Executive Board WINHEC
Dr. Walter Kahumoku III, Co-chair, Board of Affirmation/Accreditation