UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF ORANGE SHIRT DAY: EVERY CHILD MATTERS

WHEREAS, The University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire) Student Senate is the official voice of the student body; and
WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate recognizes that this resolution should have passed sooner and apologizes for the delay; and
WHEREAS, September 30th is recognized as Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters or National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada; and
WHEREAS, this movement started in 1973 and became a Canadian national holiday in 2013; and
WHEREAS, this day promotes the wearing of orange shirts to recognize and raise awareness of Indian residential schools in Canada and The United States of America; and
WHEREAS, it all started when six-year-old Phyllis Webstad was wearing a brand-new orange shirt to her new school but the religious leaders of the school stripped her of that shirt and forced her to change into their school uniform¹; and
WHEREAS, in 1876, the Indian Act was passed, limiting Native Americans to reservations, as well as allowing for children to be forced to attend Indian Residential Schools (IRS)²; and
WHEREAS, Sept. 30th was picked as the date because it was the time of year where children from Native communities were taken from their people and brought to IRS’s¹; and
WHEREAS, the children were being forced out of their tribes’ beliefs and forced to assimilate to norms of White communities; and
WHEREAS, for most of the 20th century, there was at least 139 IRS’s²; and
WHEREAS, Wisconsin had at least 10 IRS’s between the 19th and 20th century³; and
WHEREAS, many of those schools were run by churches and received federal funding²; and

¹ https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/what-is-orange-shirt-day
³ https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2096
WHEREAS, IRS’s were overcrowded, poorly built, had inadequate sanitation, and many children were malnourished⁴; and

WHEREAS, the last IRS closed in 1996⁵; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous and Native American communities are still feeling the effects of IRS’s today; and

WHEREAS, as of August of 2021, more than 1,300 unmarked graves have been discovered at 5 different former residential schools in Canada²; and

WHEREAS, many former IRS’s have yet to be searched; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate encourages other students, faculty, and staff to do their own research on this day of remembrance and reconciliation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate encourages other students, faculty, and staff to wear an orange shirt on September 30th moving forward; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate will continue to support Indigenous and Native American communities to the best of their ability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate will continue to support and advocate for Native American and Indigenous student orgs such as Inter-Tribal Student Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate calls on UW- Eau Claire Administration to acknowledge and honor this Day of Truth and Reconciliation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Mikoulinskii will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Olga Diaz, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Teresa O’Halloran, Director, Affirmative Action; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Jake Wrasse M.A., Legislative and Community Relations Liaison; Kristin Schumacher M. A., Director, University Centers; Grace Arrigoni, Student Body President, UW-Eau Claire Barron County; Heather Ann Moody; Advisor, Inter-Tribal Student Council

Submitted By:
Meej Tshaj Muas, Equity In Student Matters Commission Senate Director, Off-Campus Senator
Eddie Noyes, Equity In Student Matters Commission Member, On-Campus Senator
Rian Jones, Equity In Student Matters Commission Member

⁴ https://exhibits.library.gsu.edu/current/exhibits/show/health-is-a-human-right/displacement/american-indian-boarding-school