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WHEREAS, Dr. Lisa Lefler has worked as an educator at Oklahoma University for five years and conducted research on American Indian Fatherhood through the American Indian Institute on campus. She has provided information on spirituality and wellness to various indigenous communities. Dr. Lefler is currently affiliated with the College of Health & Human Services and has served as the Director for the Center for Native Health, a position she held for approximately thirteen years. She has hosted and attended many workshops, lectures, and staff training courses focused on historical topics, grief, trauma, and health-related issues. Additionally, she contributed to the development of the MedCat Program,

32 which aims to introduce young Cherokee students to careers in health and wellness and
33 encourage them to join the health workforce. Dr. Lefler is a professor of Anthropology and
34 researcher, having worked with various tribes throughout her career, and has resided in the
35 local region of Dillsboro for over 25 years.

36 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Lefler partners with various organizations to benefit the Cherokee
37 community through indigenous education and storytelling. For 15 years, she has
38 coordinated the Rooted in the Mountain Symposium and Annual Public Lecture in Native
39 Health at WCU, which engages EBCI members in health-related learning. She has taught
40 multiple subjects including Medical Anthropology, Psychological Anthropology, Applied
41 Research Methods, Appalachian Studies, Cherokee History & Culture, and Native
42 American Studies to Cherokee and WCU audiences. Dr. Lefler is currently a full professor in
43 the College of Health and Human Sciences at Western Carolina University and continues
44 to work within the community daily.

45 **WHEREAS** Lisa's commitment to teaching and learning in health fields is matched by her
46 warmth and support for our community. Through years of shared experiences, she has
47 been a valued friend and contributor, always showing kindness despite personal
48 challenges. Today, we are proud to recognize Lisa as an Honorary member of the Eastern
49 Band of Cherokee Indians for her outstanding academic and community contributions.

50 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of
51 Cherokee Indians, assembled in council with a quorum present, that in recognition of her
52 enduring friendship and substantial contributions to the Cherokee people, Dr. Lisa Lefler,
53 Ph.D., is hereby designated an Honorary Member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any prior resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are
55 rescinded, and this resolution shall take effect upon ratification by the Principal Chief.

56 **Supporters:**

57	• Tommy Cabe	Sky Sampson
58	• Sarah Thompson	Tom Belt
59	• Frieda Saylor	Roseanna Belt
60	• Angelina Jumper	Brett Riggs
61	• Sheena Lambert	Onita Bush
62	• Tina Saunooke	Vicky Bradley
63	• Patty Grant	Tyson Sampson
64	• Louise Goings	Casey Cooper
65	• Robin Bailey-Callahan	Sonya Wachacha
66	• Driver Blythe	Paxton Myers

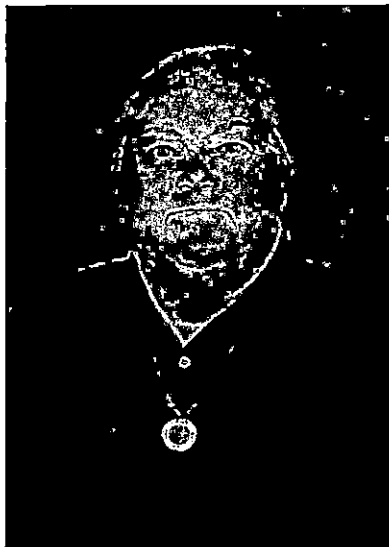
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68 **Submitted by:**

- 69 • Sky Sampson, Secretary of CERS Division and former WCU Director of the Cherokee
70 Center.

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74 Ph.D., University of Tennessee 1996; Vstg. Assoc. Prof. Anthropology; Director,
75 Culturally Based Native Health Program; Research Assoc. at Wake Forest University,
76 Dept. of Anthropology

77 Education:

- 78 • Ph D, University of Tennessee Knoxville
79 • MA, Western Carolina University
80 • BA, Appalachian State University

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82 Links to publications and articles of Lisa's work

- 83 • [Native Health: Making Important Connections to History, Language, and the Land](#)
84 [Published in North Carolina Medical Journal](#)

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