

Cherokee Council House
Cherokee, North Carolina

Date

RESOLUTION NO. _____(2019)

WHEREAS, Western Carolina University (WCU) College of Arts and Sciences has recently rehabilitated its archaeological collections curation facility, an archive that houses extensive and scientifically important collections from southwestern North Carolina and adjacent areas; and

WHEREAS, with financial support from the United States Forest Service, the collections facility has increased capacity by 80% for future expansion and is transformed into a modern facility that conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's federal guidelines for the curation of archaeological collections; and

WHEREAS, with this upgrade, WCU now assumes responsibility as the official repository for United States Forest Service-owned collections of materials associated with the Cherokee Trail of Tears; and

WHEREAS, the name of the town that once occupied WCU's present Cullowhee campus was derived from Cherokee oral traditions recorded in the nineteenth century as summarized below:

In 1826, Cherokee Assistant Principal Chief, Charles R. Hicks, wrote a series of letters to future Chief John Ross to educate him on traditional history (and prepare him for leadership roles); in these letters, Hicks relates a migration story from the 1770s that concludes with Cherokees settling at a place called Two Sparrows (Tali Tsisgwayahi), near the head of the Tuckasegee River. Another elder, who gave testimony in the 1830s, identifies Two Sparrows as a holy place, where the surrounding hills were supposed to contain large villages of immortals. In 1887, Smithsonian ethnographer James Mooney recorded Cherokee sources who referred to the mound and ancient town site on what is now WCU's central campus as *Tsisksitsi*, meaning "a place typified by sparrows." Mooney's *Tsisk[waya]sitsi* (where the sparrows are, in a typical fashion) and Hicks' *Tali Tsisgwayahi* (Two Sparrows Place) appear to be the same, and designate the place that Western Carolina University now is located; and

1 WHEREAS, the Western Carolina University administration, with approval of the
2 WCU Board of Trustees, proposes this honorary naming to formalize the
3 archaeological collections curation facility's identity at its location on
4 WCU's campus and to honor the deep Cherokee history of the facility's
5 location and material evidence of that history contained within.
6

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in
8 Tribal Council Assembled, at which a quorum is present that the Tribal
9 Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians does hereby authorize to
10 name the newly reopened Western Carolina University archaeological
11 collections curation facility, "Wł̃h̃oḍḍ/Tali Tsisgwayahi (Two
12 Sparrows Town) Archaeological Collections", to be represented as
13 follows:
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15 Wł̃h̃oḍḍ
16 Two Sparrows Town
17 Tali Tsisgwayahi
18 Archaeological Collections
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21 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are
22 rescinded, and that this resolution shall become effective when ratified by
23 the Principal Chief.
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26 *Submitted by:*
27 *Sky N. Sampson, Director of the WCU Cherokee Center;*
28 *Bo Lossiah, KPEP;*
29 *Brett Riggs, WCU Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies;*
30 *and Dr. Sara Snyder Hopkins, Director of the WCU Cherokee Language Program*
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