



For Immediate Release

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NHBP and State of Michigan Announce Appointments to the Michigan Native American Heritage Fund Board

(Fulton, Michigan) –The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) proudly announces the appointment of board members to the Michigan Native American Heritage Fund Board.

The fund, which was approved in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the NHBP and the State of Michigan, allocates a portion of NHBP's state revenue sharing payments to the Michigan Native American Heritage Fund. This fund will provide financial assistance and/or reimbursement to local governments and educational institutions to defray the costs of projects that promote positive relationships and accurate information on the history and role of Michigan's Indian tribes and Native Americans in the state. Projects may also include replacing or revising mascots or imagery that might be considered offensive to Native Americans with more culturally appropriate representations or new mascots/logos.

The Michigan Native American Heritage Fund's Board Members consist of: two (2) persons appointed by the Tribe, two (2) persons appointed by the Governor, and the Michigan Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights or his/her designee. NHBP has appointed Tribal Chairperson Jamie Stuck and Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios.

"NHBP is committed to helping Michigan communities improve curricula and resources related to Native American issues and mascot revisions," Stuck said. "We look forward to the positive impacts that will come from projects which will receive assistance from this fund."

To represent the state, Governor Rick Snyder appointed Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Vice Chair Kimberly Vargo and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Citizen Elizabeth Kinnart. Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights Tribal Liaison/Native American Specialist Melissa Kiesewetter has been named to represent the Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights.

"I thank Elizabeth and Kimberly for their commitment to carrying out this collaboration with tribal governments in Michigan," Snyder said. "Their work will improve educational opportunities in helping Michiganders to understand the history and positive contributions of native people in our great state."

Once the board convenes, it will develop bylaws and a standard process through which funds may be requested by local governments and public and private schools, colleges and universities.

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About The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

There are nearly 1,400 NHBP Tribal Members. NHBP's primary Indian Health and Bureau of Indians Affairs Service Area covers members in Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ottawa counties. The Tribe's administrative office is located at the Pine Creek Indian Reservation in Athens Township, with a satellite office in Grand Rapids, Michigan to better serve Members. For more information visit:

www.nhbpi.com