



**NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES  
December 05, 2025**

**Campbell University**

Student Center Banquet Hall  
Ball Room C – Second Floor  
459 Leslie Campbell Avenue  
Buies Creek, North Carolina 27506

**WELCOME:** Mr. Greg Bryant, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. The Chair welcomed everyone and acknowledged guests, Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, and staff.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Vee Oxendine acknowledged the Fallen Warriors (this Quarter) in the communities and presented the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Gerald Goolsby led the membership and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Bryant noted that when Commission members' names are called, each member will be asked to state their name and affirmation. In addition, he indicated that members need to state if they “approve” of the agenda.

**TRIBAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

Coharie	Ed Simermeyer	Present Approve
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Present Approve
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Harrison Jones	Present Approve
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Tina Dicke	Present Approve
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Michael Lambert	Present Approve
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Jarrett Crowe	Present Approve
Guilford Native American Association	Perry L Hunt Jr.	Present Approve
Guilford Native American Association	Amanda J Ballard	Absent
Haliwa Saponi	Alfred Richardson	Present Approve
Haliwa Saponi	P. Sunshine Richardson	Present Approve
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Present Approve
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Absent
Lumbee	Vernanda Oxendine	Present Approve
Meherrin	Edward Livingston	Present Approve
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present Approve
Metrolina Native American Association	Greg Bryant	Present Approve
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Tony Hayes	Present Approve



**ROLL CALL (Continued)**

Sappony	Dorothy Yates	Present Approve
Triangle Native American Society	Danny Bell	Present Approve
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Present Approve
Waccamaw Siouan	Nadine F. Patrick	Present Approve

**STATE OFFICIALS**

President Pro Tem Appointee	Gerald Goolsby	Present Approve
Speaker of the House Appointee	Craig D. McMillian	Present Approve
Department of Administration (DOA), Gabriel J. Esparza, Secretary		
Designee: Noelle S. Talley, Deputy Secretary		Present Approve
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Lee Lilley, Secretary		
Designee: Emily Roach, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning		Absent
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), D. Reid Wilson, Secretary		
Designee: Jeff Hart, Environmental Justice Manager		Present Approve
Department of Health & Human Services, DevDutta Sangvai, Secretary		
Designee: Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary Health Equity		Present Approve
Designee: Portia Pope, Acting Director, NCDHHS Office of Minority Health		
Department of Labor, Luke Farley, Commissioner		
Designee: Chris Bullard		Absent
Department of Cultural Resources, Chris Southerly, Advisor,		
<b>Adhoc- Non-Voting Member</b>		Absent
Designee: Rosie Blewitt, Assistant State Archaeologist and Site Registrar		

**OTHER STATE OFFICIALS**

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice	Present
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**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

NCNAYO Kenly McLaurin (Co-Chair) - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Absent
Vacant (Co-Chair) – <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Absent
NC NACOHE Thorn Grove - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Present (Arrived late)

The Chair declared that a quorum existed; therefore, the meeting could proceed according to the approved agenda.

**STAFF PRESENT**

- Gregory Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
- Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary to the Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
- Stephen (Steve) Maynor, Program Director, Section 8 Housing Program
- Elkton (Elk) Richardson, Program Director, State Recognition Program
- Pamela (Shena) Brewington, Program Director, Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)
- Maria Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program
- Tenley (Nikki) Locklear, Program Director, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Laury Chavis, Program Director, Tobacco Survey Program



Ashley Patrick, Program Coordinator, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program  
Sonya Lang, Grants Administrator, NC Commission of Indian Affairs

**OTHERS PRESENT:** A list of attendees is on file with the Commission.

**ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA:** The agenda was presented. Commissioner Gerald Goolsby motioned to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Tony Hayes seconded. The agenda was approved with no objection from the membership, and the motion carried.

**ETHICS STATEMENT:** Director Richardson read the Ethics Statement on Behalf of Chairman Bryant and urged Commission Members to declare any conflicts of interest or the appearances of any conflicts of interest that may exist in relation to any matters before the Commission, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. No conflicts were noted.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 05, 2025, MEETING MINUTES:** September 05, 2025, minutes were presented for adoption.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Larece Hunt moved to approve the minutes of September 05, 2025. Commissioner Alfred Richardson seconded the motion. The Chair asked whether there were any objections to the motion. None was noted. The motion was approved.

**GREETINGS AND WELCOME REMARKS:**

**Coharie Tribal Leadership Remarks:** Commissioner Ed Simermeyer, representing the Coharie Tribe, delivered the remarks on behalf of Coharie Tribal leadership and on behalf of Mr. Phillip Strickland, Chair of the Coharie Intratribal Council, and Ms. Sharon Haire Williams of the Harnett County Coharie Indian Association, who were unable to attend the meeting due to separate medical emergencies. Commissioner Simermeyer read their prepared statements, which outlined the following:

- Tribal governance structure
- Community priorities include elders, youth, education, housing, and agriculture.
- Cultural preservation initiatives
- Participation in state and federal programs

Special acknowledgement was made regarding historic contributions to schools' desegregation and ongoing educational advocacy.

These statements are in file with the Commission.

**Welcoming and Greetings from Campbell University Officials:**

**Dr. Alfred Bryant**, a Lumbee and Dean of the School of Education and Human Sciences, welcomed attendees to Campbell University and expressed his pleasure at hosting the Commission meeting. He noted that this is the sixth Commission meeting held on campus and highlighted Campbell's collaboration with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs through the American Indian Leadership Development Program. He also noted that the university hosts the Commission's Indian Child Welfare Gatherings regularly and will do so again in 2026.



**Dr. William M. Downs**, President of Campbell University, delivered an overview of the institution's academic programs and strategic initiatives:

- Established in 1887 with an initial enrollment of 16 students, Campbell University now serves approximately 5,000 students.
- The university offers more than 150 academic majors and minors, with flagship programs in medicine, law, engineering, pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy, and business administration.
- The School of Medicine is located adjacent to Highway 421; the law school operates in Raleigh; and additional campuses serve Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune.
- Campbell provides adult education and online learning opportunities to meet diverse student needs.
- The university supports second-chance education initiatives for incarcerated individuals at Sampson Correctional Institution and Anson Correctional Institution.
- Dr. Downs emphasized Campbell's mission to graduate students equipped with strong academic foundations and professional competencies.
- As the largest private employer in Harnett County, Campbell University contributes an estimated annual economic impact exceeding \$500 million.
- Dr. Downs reaffirmed the university's commitment to collaboration with the Commission on the American Indian Leadership Development Program, as well as initiatives in economic and workforce development, healthcare, and education.

Dr. Downs concluded by expressing gratitude to attendees and appreciation for hosting the meeting at Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

#### **GUEST PRESENTATIONS:**

##### **Catawba Nation Foundation Overview**

**Ms. Kristine Locklear**, Executive Director, Catawba Nation Foundation, provided an overview of the Foundation's grant-making activities funded through the Two Kings Casino compact, supporting:

- Education
- Cultural preservation
- Conservation
- Economic development

Plans for future grant cycles and outreach were discussed.

No handout was submitted.

##### **Catawba Nation Government and Operations**

**Chief Brian Harris**, Catawba Nation, South Carolina, delivered a comprehensive presentation covering the following topics:

- Tribal governance and constitutional framework
- Economic enterprises
- Housing development
- Healthcare expansion



- Education initiatives
- Pass through grant loans
- Cultural and language revitalization
- Intertribal cooperation and unity

Chief Harris emphasized collaboration, shared opportunity, and intertribal support across state and federally recognized tribes.

No handout was submitted.

### **USDA Rural Development Presentation** (not listed on the agenda)

**Robert Hosford**, State Director, USDA Rural Development, presented the following:

- Housing programs
- Water and infrastructure investments
- Broadband and telemedicine
- Fire, police, and community facilities financing

Discussion included cooperative agreements, eligibility thresholds, tribal consultation requirements, and coordination with nonprofit and tribal partners.

No handout was submitted.

### **Health Disparities Analysis Report**

**Dr. Portia Pope**, Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCDHHS), presented the Health Status of American Indians in North Carolina report, highlighting that American Indians represent approximately 1.2% of North Carolina's population. According to surveys conducted between 2023 and 2025, the top three health disparities among American Indian tribes include chronic health conditions, infectious diseases, and cancer-related issues. Unintentional injuries sometimes lead to drug overdose. American Indians' tobacco use is much higher than that of other demographics in the state.

The following topics were discussed:

- Chronic health disease disparities
- Mental health and substance use concerns
- Medicaid expansion enrollment
- Environmental health initiatives
- Suicide prevention and peer support programs
- PFAS or the Polypropylene water, ensuring that the water is safe, particularly the Cape River. In 2023, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) worked with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs Division. Land and water are important parts of the heritage, for history and for livelihood.
- The NC Department of Public Health provided 350 water filters to ensure that there is clean water to the Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation
- Announced that the Environmental Justice, Climate Report related to clean water and clean air will be published in 2026.



- Minority Diabetes Program and Disease Prevention
- Noted that the focus is on nutrition, physical activity, and other aspects of Wellness that prevent disease.
- Handouts were distributed at the meeting.

### **Health Status of American Indians in North Carolina**

Ms. Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), provided the following updates:

- **Vital Records Data Accuracy**
- **Birth Certificate Race and Tribal Affiliation**
  - Birth certificates are typically completed within three days of birth, prior to the child's discharge from the hospital. The state then reports this information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
  - Tribal representatives requested that tribal affiliation be verified before the birth certificate is finalized and issued. Ms. Farrington noted that implementing such a verification process could delay issuance of the certificate.
- **Upcoming Meeting**
  - A meeting is scheduled with the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds to address issues related to race and tribal affiliation on birth certificates.
- **Rural Health Transformation Fund (RHTF)**
  - Updates regarding complete questionnaires by the tribes and organization, application process, and timeline were provided.

Additionally, two fact sheets, **Diabetes Prevention**, **Rural Health Transformation**, and **Vital Records Information**, were distributed during the meeting.

The NCDHHS handouts listed above are on file with the Commission.

### **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Commission members engaged in discussion regarding the following:

- Intertribal grant collaboration
- Housing sustainability and infrastructure rehabilitation
- Data accuracy for funding allocation
- Long-term healthcare and workforce development strategies

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman Bryant called for a closed session. The Commission entered a **closed session** for Commission members only.

### **MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION:**

Commissioner Gerald Goolsby moved that the Commission go into a closed session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ed Livingston.



**ACTION:**

The Chair instructed all Commission staff, guests, and members of the public to exit the meeting room prior to the commencement of the closed session.

**VOTE:**

The motion to enter into closed session was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**PURPOSE OF CLOSED SESSION:**

The purpose was to discuss personnel matters and internal confidential matters as permitted under applicable law, GS 143-318.11.

**TIME ENTERED:**

11:40 a.m.

**TIME RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION:**

11:55 a.m.

**LUNCH BREAK**

Chair Bryant announced the lunch break at 11:57 a.m. Commissioner Ed. Simermeyer requested Rep. Thorne Grove, NC Native American College Organization on Higher Education (NCNACOHE), to bless the food.

The meeting was called back to order at 12:29 p.m.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**Executive Director's Report**

**Mr. Greg Richardson**, Executive Director of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, presented the Executive Director's Report. The report was included in the Board packet sent to the Commission prior to the meeting. Key highlights from the report included:

- **Community Successes:** Recognized significant achievements in Harnett and Sampson Counties, attributed to strong local leadership.
- **Cultural Engagement:** Emphasized the importance of leadership recognizing the rich and unique history regarding the old Indian schools and to understand the history!
- **Budget Overview:** Provided an update on the Commission's budget for the current fiscal year.
- **Commission Accomplishments:** Reviewed notable achievements and initiatives undertaken by the Commission and programs.
- **Board Appointments:** Highlighted that, unlike other states where appointments are made by the General Assembly, North Carolina tribes appoint their own members to the Commission—underscoring that tribal sovereignty and organizational independence is very important.
- **Events and Celebrations:** Reported on successful events, including the Indian Heritage Month Celebration and the Tribal Meeting at the Governor's Mansion, during the month of November.



- **Federal Shutdown Impact:** Discussed the impact of the federal shutdown on Commission programs and staffing. It indicated that 16 staff had to be furloughed but have been brought back after funding was reinstated.
- **Grant Program Restoration:** Announced that NCDHHS assisted in reinstating the Jules Tobacco Survey Grant Program funding, enabling the Commission to rehire furloughed employees.
- **Human Resources Processes:** Outlined onboarding and offboarding procedures managed in coordination with the Department of Administration (DOA).
- **Roanoke Hatteras Recognition:** Provided an update on recognition efforts and recent recognition committee meetings.
- **NC Indian Cultural Center Funding:** Shared the latest developments regarding this funding. The approximate balance is \$7,000.
- **SACIE Vacancies:** Noted upcoming vacancies on the State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE). Nominations are due until February 1, 2026, and will be an action item at the March 2026 Commission meeting. Once approved, recommendations will be sent to the State Board of Education following the March meeting.
- **Rural Health Transformation Plan:** Discussed NCDHHS's Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) and encouraged Commission members to review information sent to them regarding that program.
- **National Congress of American Indians:** Provided an update on the NCAI Annual Convention held in Seattle, Washington, November 16–22, 2025. NC Tribes and Organizations were well represented during the convention.
- **2026 NC Indian Unity Conference:** Reminded attendees about the deadline for workshop proposals, which is December 5, 2025.
- **Upcoming Commission Meeting:** Announced that the March 4, 2026, Commission meeting will be held in conjunction with the NC Indian Unity Conference at the Hilton North Raleigh Hotel, March 4–7, 2026.
- **Future Meeting Dates:** Shared upcoming Commission meeting dates; locations to be determined.

### **Moment of Reflection to Honor the Life and Legacy of Mr. Jessie Leon Jacobs**

Mr. Richardson paid tribute to the late Mr. Jessie Leon Jacobs of the Coharie Indian Tribe, Sampson County, North Carolina, who passed away on October 18, 2025. Mr. Jacobs served as President of the United Tribes of North Carolina and the NC Indian Senior Citizens Coalition. He was also a distinguished member of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs from 2011 to 2020, where he contributed significantly through his service on numerous committees.

Mr. Jacobs leaves behind a remarkable legacy of leadership, hard work, and unwavering dedication. His profound impact on the Coharie Indian community and the broader Native American community in North Carolina will be remembered and cherished for generations to come.

The Executive Director's Report is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

### **ACTION ITEM**

Mr. Greg Richardson recommended that the Commission adopt his report.



## **MOTION**

Commissioner Alfred Richardson moved to approve the Executive Director's Report. Commissioner Sunshine Richardson seconded the motion. The Chair asked whether there were any objections to the motion. None was noted. The motion was approved.

## **COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS (Action Items Only)**

**American Indian Culture & Religion Committee:** No Report

**American Indian Housing:** No Report

**AdHoc Land Trust:** No Report

**Ad Hoc American Indian Health Sub-Committee Report:** Chair Bryant invited Ms. Kay Freeman to present her report.

**Guest Presentation: Ms. Kay Freeman,** Native American Liaison, Trillium

Ms. Freeman provided an overview of current initiatives and future plans:

- **Commission Committee:** Ms. Freeman requested to be included as Adhoc member of the Health Committee.
- **Collaboration with Tribal Communities:** Working closely with tribes and partner organizations to address behavioral health needs and improve access to health insurance within tribal communities.
- **Expansion of Rural Healthcare Access:** Partnering with healthcare providers to increase the availability of rural health clinics serving tribal populations.
- **Policy and Advocacy Efforts:** Supporting policies, procedures, and advocacy initiatives aimed at reducing health disparities and expanding resources for rural and tribal communities.
- **Resource Allocation and Infrastructure Development:** Overseeing the allocation of funds, organizing rural health clinics, and establishing intergenerational health hubs in collaboration with tribal leadership and rural community partners.
- **Community Engagement:** Actively volunteering at local food pantries, including Mount Olive Community College, where she helped distribute over 1,000 food boxes during Thanksgiving. Ms. Freeman is advocating for this initiative to be replicated across colleges throughout North Carolina.
- **Future Initiatives:** Announced plans to develop a health hub within the Lumbee tribal community, which will include programs focused on financial literacy and health education for senior citizens (ages 55 and older).

Chair Bryant appointed Ms. Kay Freeman to the Health Committee as an Adhoc member.

No handout was provided for this item.

## **American Indian Education**

**Committee Chair Michael Lambert** provided a brief overview, noting that there are no action items at this time.

## **Announcements:**



**American Indian Scholarship Fund – 2026:** This scholarship provides \$1,000 to high school graduates pursuing post-secondary education. Preference will be given to applicants from state-recognized tribes in North Carolina.

**State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) Vacancies – 2026**

The State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) is composed of American Indian representatives from North Carolina who provide guidance to the State Board of Education on strategies to better address the educational needs of American Indian students.

The Education Committee is currently seeking applications from **parents and educators** to serve on SACIE beginning **July 1, 2026**. Key details are as follows:

- **Nomination Process:** At the March 2026 Commission meeting, the Commission will nominate **two parents** and **three educators** to serve on SACIE.
- **Eligibility Requirements:**
  - **Parents:** Must have at least one child enrolled in a K–12 public school (including charter schools).
  - **Educators:** Must be current K–12 public school educators.
- **Nomination Sources:** Nominations must be submitted by North Carolina’s state, and federally recognized tribes, as well as Urban Indian Organizations represented on the Commission.
- **Submission:** Tribes and organizations may submit nominations by mail or email to the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.
- **Deadline:** All nominations must be received by **February 1, 2026**.
- **Notification:** *Email notification will follow this meeting.*

No handout was provided for this item.

**American Indian Child Welfare Sub-Committee Update**

Committee Chair Lambert invited **Ms. Laury Chavis**, Program Director for Indian Child Welfare (ICW), to provide an update. Key points included:

- **ICW Program Initiative:** The initiative, supported by Healthy Blue Care under Blue Cross Blue Shield, currently focuses on conducting listening sessions within tribal communities. Three of the eight sessions have been completed.
- **Foster Care:** Ms. Chavis discussed the complexities surrounding foster care within American Indian communities.
- **Upcoming Event:**

**Indian Child Welfare Gathering**  
**Date:** March 17, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
**Location:** Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC  
*Please save the date. Email notifications will follow this meeting.*

No handout was provided for this item.

**Economic Development & Employment Committee**

**Environmental Justice**

**Agriculture**

**Committee Chair McMillian** provided an overview of recent initiatives:



- The Economic Development and Employment Committee (EDEC) has partnered with community leaders and organizations to develop an apprenticeship program aimed at expanding career opportunities.
- The first class began on December 4 at Robeson Community College, enrolling WIOA Training Students. Participants will earn 10 credits a week. Each student has received conditional job offers ranging from \$25 to \$35 per hour, contingent upon successful completion of the program.
- Deputy Director Lowry and Ms. Patrick met with the Regional Prison Director to discuss extending these classes to the prison system as part of a reentry program.
- Committee Chair McMillian announced that the Metrolina Native community will be the next site for this pilot program, based on available job opportunities. Additional tribal communities identified for future expansion include Sappony, Guilford Native American Association, Meherrin, Waccamaw Siouan, and Coharie.

No handout was provided for this item.

Committee Chair, McMillian invited Mr. Jefferson Currie II to present his report.

**Guest Presentation: Mr. Jefferson Currie II**

Lumbee Riverkeeper, Winyah Rivers Alliance; Independent Folklorist and Historian

- Mr. Currie distributed a handout on the **Community Collaborative Research Grant (CCRG) Program** for member review.
- The grant supports scientific research to assess water quality and mitigate environmental health impacts caused by contamination from animal processing operations in the Lumber River Watershed.
- Mr. Currie is collaborating with Dr. Ryan Emmanuel on the scientific aspects of the project and will host two community meetings near Campbell Soup and Mountaire facilities.
- Air and soil samples will be collected and analyzed as part of the study.
- Community members will be engaged to ensure transparency and understanding of the data collection process.
- The research will evaluate climate-related impacts on local communities and individual groups.
- Undergraduate students from UNC and graduate students from Duke University will participate in the project to gain hands-on experience in environmental research.
- The final report, including findings, evaluations, and recommendations, is due in **January 2026**.

The handout on the Community Collaborative Research Grant Program is on file at Commission.

**COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- A question was raised regarding data transparency. Mr. Currie confirmed that all findings and data will be shared with the community.

**ACTION ITEM**



- Mr. Currie requested a letter of support to secure a \$25,000 grant. The letter must accompany the final report in January 2026, with results expected in May 2026.

### **MOTION**

- Commissioner Alfred Richardson moved to approve the letter of support for the CCRG Program grant. Commissioner Vee Oxendine seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion was approved.

### **Additional Announcement**

Committee Chair McMillian announced that he and Commissioner Jeff Hart will serve on the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Committee Weatherization Team.

### **Legislative Committee**

#### **Legislative Agenda Discussion: 2025–2026**

**Commissioner Craig McMillian** presented this report on behalf of Committee Chair Tony Hayes. Key discussion points included:

- **No action items to report at this time.**
- Committee Chair Tony Hayes and Representative John Lowry are coordinating plans for a **Tribal Legislative Day**, scheduled for **May 8, 2026**. Commissioner McMillian emphasized that this event would focus on networking, strengthening relationships, and advancing the Commission’s strategic initiatives.
- Commissioner McMillian expressed appreciation to Commissioners Harrison Jones and Ed Simermeyer for their efforts in promoting the Commission’s legislative agenda during meetings with state legislators in **Raleigh, NC**, in **October 2025**.

No handout was provided for this item.

### **State and Federal Recognition – No Report**

#### **Veterans Affairs Sub-Committee**

- **United Tribes of North Carolina is now accepting nominations for the 2026 American Indian Veteran Awards Ceremony.**  
The awards will be presented during the 2026 Indian Unity Conference at the banquet scheduled for **March 6, 2026**, at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Additional details will be provided via email following this meeting.
- Details are also published on the United Tribes Website.

No handout was provided for this item.

### **OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS:**

#### **Flower Fund Report**

**Commissioner Nadine Patrick**, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the Flower Fund report. Key points discussed included:

- Chair Bryant requested that the Flower Fund balance not be announced publicly.



- Commissioner Patrick reported that flowers were purchased to honor the late Mr. Jesse Jacobs and his family.
- The Flower Fund is designated to support Commission members and their families during times of illness or bereavement.
- Members were reminded that the annual contribution is \$24 per person. Payments may be made via credit card, check, cash, or Cash App. Members should contact Commissioner Patrick directly to submit their payment.
- Commissioner Patrick expressed appreciation to all members for their continued contributions.

No handout was provided for this item.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

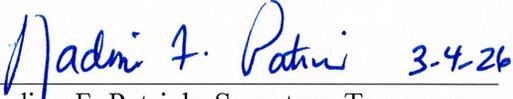
- Commission members announced their upcoming events.

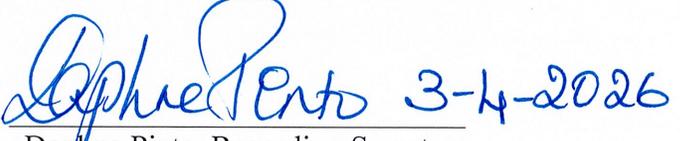
**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Chair Bryant requested Commissioner Vee Oxendine to lead the membership in a closing prayer.

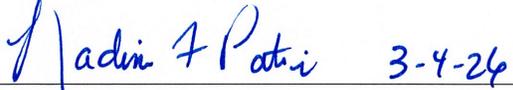
**ADJOURNMENT:**

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.
- The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026, at the North Raleigh Hilton Hotel, Raleigh, North Carolina.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer  
NC Commission of Indian Affairs  
(Sign & Date)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary  
(Sign & Date)

*These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on March 4, 2026.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer  
NC Commission of Indian Affairs  
(Sign & Date)



## N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS QUARTERLY MEETING

Campbell University  
Student Center Banquet Hall  
Oscar N. Harris Student Union  
(Ball Room C - Second Floor)  
459 Leslie Campbell Avenue  
Buies Creek, North Carolina 27506

**December 5, 2025**  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
DRAFT AGENDA



**Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!**

<b>Opening Session</b>	<b>10:00 am – 10:20 am</b>
Welcome, Call to Order	Mr. Greg Bryant, Chairman
Invocation Announcement and Acknowledgment of Fallen Warriors - This Quarter	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Commission Member
Pledge of Allegiance	Gerald Goolsby, Commission Member
Roll Call and Adoption of Agenda (Please Say - Present and Agree)	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Presentation of Ethics Statement	Gregory Richardson, Executive Director
Presentation and Approval of September 05, 2025, Meeting Minutes	Chairman Bryant
<b>Greetings and Welcoming Remarks:</b>	<b>10:20 am – 10:40 am</b>
Coharie Tribe Representatives	Phillip Strickland, Chairman, Coharie Intratribal Council (Per Ed Simermeyer) Sharon Haire Williams, Harnett County Coharie Indian Association (Per Ed Simermeyer)
<b>Dr. Alfred Bryant, Dean of the School of Education and Human Sciences, Campbell University</b>	
<b>Dr. William M. Downs, President, Campbell University</b>	

<b>Guest Presentation:</b>	<b>10:40 am - 11:15 am</b>
Update and Overview of Catawba Nation's Tribal Operations	The Honorable Chief Brian Harris, Catawba Nation of South Carolina
Health Disparities Analysis Report – Health Status of American Indians in North Carolina	Debra C. Farrington, Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), and Dr. Portia Pope, Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Office of the Secretary
<b>Business Items:</b>	<b>11:15 am – Noon</b>
<b>Executive Director's Report</b> Staff Quarterly Program Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Included in Meeting Packet by email)</li> </ul>	Gregory Richardson, Executive Director
National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Fall Convention Feedback	Executive Director and Commission members who attended the NCAI Convention in Seattle, WA
<b>LUNCHEON</b>	<b>Noon - 1:00 pm</b>
Blessing the Food	Ed Simermeyer, Commission Member
<b>Committee Reports</b> <b>*Reports with action items only</b> <b>*Action Item - In writing</b>	<b>1:00 pm – 2:30 pm</b>
American Indian Culture & Religion Committee	Danny Bell, Chair
American Indian Housing AdHoc Land Trust	Harrison Jones, Chair
AdHoc American Indian Health Sub-Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presenter - Kay Freeman, Native American Liaison for Trillium</li> </ul>	Chairman Bryant
American Indian Education American Indian Child Welfare Sub-Committee	Dr. Michael Lambert, Chair
Economic Development & Employment Committee Environmental Justice Agriculture	Craig McMillian, Chair
State and Federal Recognition Veterans Affairs Sub-Committee	Perry Hunt, Chair
Legislative Committee Legislative Agenda Discussion 2025-2026	Tony Hayes, Chair

<b>Other Business Items</b>	<b>2:30 pm</b>
Flower Fund Report	Nadine Patrick, Secretary / Treasurer, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>2:45 pm</b>
<p>Upcoming 2026 Commission Meetings:  <b>Meeting Sponsors Requested</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday, March 4-7, 2026, held in conjunction with the 2026 NC Indian Unity Conference, North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, NC</li> <li>• June 5, 2026, Location TBA</li> <li>• September 4, 2026, Location TBA</li> <li>• December 4, 2026, Location TBA</li> </ul> <p>Commission members are encouraged to review our new website at:  <a href="https://www.doa.nc.gov/boards-commissions/commission-indian-affairs">https://www.doa.nc.gov/boards-commissions/commission-indian-affairs</a></p>	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Vee Oxendine, Commission Member
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>3:00 pm</b>

