

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, for more than a century, Indian boarding schools separated young Native children from their families and communities for the purpose of educating the children in isolation far from the influence of their homes, families, traditions and cultures; and

WHEREAS, too often many of these children were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to boarding and mission schools; were inadequately fed, clothed, housed and deprived of the care and nurturing of their parents, grandparents and communities; and were forbidden to speak their native language or practice their cultural traditions, and were often subjected to physical and mental abuse; and tragically the most vulnerable of these children died while attending these schools and were never returned home to their parents and tribes; and

WHEREAS, despite the harsh and sad beginnings of the Indian boarding schools and mission schools, Haskell officially opened in 1884 under the name of the United States Indian Industrial Training School and provided agricultural trades training and elementary level academic training; and

WHEREAS, During the 1930s Haskell provided Industrial training and evolved into a vocational-technical institution, and continued to evolve into a junior college in 1970 and renamed Haskell Indian Junior College; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-two years later, Haskell's vision to become a national center for Indian education, research and cultural preservation prompted the National Haskell Board of Regents to recommend Haskell to become Haskell Indian Nations University:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim and recognize Haskell Indian Nations University and the special and historical significance this college has with the State of Kansas, and expresses deep remorse for the ramifications of former ill-conceived assimilation policies, and apologizes on behalf of the people of Kansas to all Native Peoples for the hardships, maltreatment and deaths of the children that attended Haskell and were never returned to their families and ancestors, and resolves to move forward with Haskell in a positive and constructive relationship that will help us to achieve our mutual goals and harmoniously steward and protect Haskell Indian Nations University.

DONE: In Topeka under the Great Seal
of the State this 14th day of
November, A.D. 2013

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Handwritten signature of Sam Brownback in blue ink.

Kris W. Kobach
Secretary of State

Kathy M. Sells
Assistant Secretary of State

