



N.A.H.F.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

For Immediate Release:

Date: Sept. 14, 2018

The Native American Heritage Fund Distributed Grant Monies

The Native American Heritage Fund (NAHF) is excited to announce the 2018 NAHF Check Distribution took place Friday, Sept. 14, at FireKeepers Casino Hotel in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The 2018 grants distributed include:

1. Belding Area Schools – \$334,690.60 to support the replacement of equipment, apparel and signage following the revision of the school's mascot from Redskins to Black Knights.
2. City of Battle Creek – \$3,377.50 to assist with removal and replacement of a stained glass window medallion in City Hall.
3. City of Kalamazoo – \$76,765 to assist with the removal of the Fountain of Pioneers and site improvements at Bronson Park.
4. Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba – \$2,013 for The Living Circle of Life project.
5. Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie – \$10,000 for an education initiative to increase local tribal imagery on campus and implement cultural events.
6. Michigan Technological University in Houghton – \$30,488 for a partnership project with Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College to co-create curricula.
7. Suttons Bay Public Schools – \$12,500 to the Friendship Community Center/LIFT Teen Center to expand hours and create new programming for the only local afterschool program for sixth through 12th grade youth, with 70 percent demographic consisting of Native American students.

Businesses, community organizations and community members alike united as one for this special ceremony. The NAHF continues to be a unique funding initiative that supports and promotes positive relationships and accurate information about the history and role of Michigan's Indian tribes and Native Americans in the state.

"The NAHF Board of Directors are proud to announce that seven different organizations were able to receive assistance from the Native American Heritage Fund," said NHBP Tribal Council Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios, who also serves as the Vice Chairperson of the NAHF Board. "NHBP is humbled so many applicants applied and we consider it an honor to be able to lead the way with this initiative and offer funding to those in need. We look forward to seeing how this assistance will generate understanding, kindness and acceptance about the native culture and history of Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes."

The NAHF Board is composed of: Chairperson: Jamie Stuck (NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson); Vice Chairperson: Dorie Rios (NHBP Tribal Council Vice Chairperson); Secretary Elizabeth Kinnart (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Citizen); Treasurer: Melissa Kiesewetter (Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights Tribal Liaison/Native American Specialist); Board Member: Kimberly Vargo (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Vice Chairperson).

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For media inquiries, or to request an interview with NAHF Board Chairperson Jamie Stuck, please contact NHBP Director of Communications and Public Relations Judi Henckel at 269.704.8361.

For questions regarding the NAHF grant process, please contact Calhoun County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott at 269.781.0966.



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Photos:



Belding Area Schools: NAHF Board of Directors Kimberly Vargo, Melissa Kiesewetter, Elizabeth Kinnart, Dorie Rios, Jamie Stuck, and Belding Area Schools Superintendent Brent Noskey and Finance Director Ross Hinkle.



City of Battle Creek: NAHF Board of Directors Kimberly Vargo, Melissa Kiesewetter, Elizabeth Kinnart, Dorie Rios, Jamie Stuck, and Battle Creek Assistant City Manager Ted Dearing.



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City of Kalamazoo: NAHF Board of Directors Kimberly Vargo, Melissa Kiesewetter, Elizabeth Kinnart, Dorie Rios, Jamie Stuck, and Kalamazoo Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain.

About The Native American Heritage Fund

The NAHF was established in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) and the State of Michigan. The amendment allowed for a portion of NHBP's annual state revenue sharing payment to be deposited into the NAHF.

The fund serves to promote positive relationships between public and private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, local units of government and Michigan's federally recognized Native American Tribes. The NAHF provides resources to help improve curricula and educational resources related to Michigan Indian history, as well as to replace or revise mascots and imagery that may be deemed as offensive to or inaccurately conveying the culture and values of Native Americans.

For more information visit: at www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/native_american_heritage_fund_board