

# N.A.H.F.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

For Immediate Release:

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## **Native American Heritage Fund Announces 2022 Grant Recipients**

Tribal-backed Fund Supports Projects in 6 Michigan Communities

The [Native American Heritage Fund](#) Board selected projects in six Michigan communities as recipients of the fund's 2022 grants, at the Board's June 17 meeting. From a pool of 11 applicants, the NAHF board chose to award grants totaling nearly \$480,000 in support of community projects, academic programming updates, mascot changeovers and other projects that honor Native American culture and history in the area.

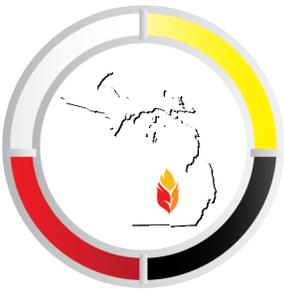
Priority was given to at least partially funding the important work of reducing the number of inappropriate mascots among Michigan public schools, which is often costly for schools that need to update facilities, uniforms, and more.

"If we fund the decommissioning of racist mascot imagery now, we will have more money in the future for proactive program and curriculum programming," said NAHF Chairperson Jamie Stuck, who is also the Tribal Council Chairperson for the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi.

The NAHF urges schools to consult not only students but local Tribes in the reconsideration of a school mascot, and specifically funds schools that have identified the new branding and are prepared and approved internally to make the switch.

The 2022 NAHF grants include:

- Chippewa Hills School District — \$52,371.20 to rebrand the current mascot from "Warriors" to "Golden Knights."
- Hartford Public Schools — \$132,249.25 to rebrand the current mascot from "Indians" to "Huskies," and implement a new curriculum to help build meaningful connections with students.
- Lansing School District — \$87,500 to rebrand the current mascot from the "Big Reds" to a new culturally appropriate mascot and logo.
- Michigan College Access Network — \$55,000 to continue funding the "College Completion Corps," a program that places completion coaches at three Tribal colleges: Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College and Bay Mills Community College for the upcoming academic year.
- Saranac Community Schools — \$139,318.90 to rebrand the current mascot from the "R-word" to "Red Hawks" before the upcoming academic year.
- Western Michigan University's Native American Affairs Council — \$12,295 to host "A Conversation with Dallas Goldtooth" of the Mdewakanton Dakota and Dine with Native News Online live streaming the event.



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The awards will be distributed and shared with the public at the NAHF Grant Award ceremony at FireKeepers Casino Hotel on Friday, Aug. 19 at noon.

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); and Board Member Kimberly Vargo (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians).

To learn about past recipients, or about future application requirements, visit [nahfund.com](http://nahfund.com).

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#### 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 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: <https://nahfund.com>.