Memorandum of Agreement
For Cherokee Language, History and Culture

BETWEEN CHEROKEE NATION, EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS,
NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY AND WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS: THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS (EBCI) AND THE CHEROKEE NATION (CN), ARE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO COLLECTIVELY AS THE "TRIBES";

WHEREAS: NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY (NSU) AND WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY (WCU) HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO COLLECTIVELY AS THE "UNIVERSITIES," ARE UNIVERSITIES ON THE STATE LEVEL ENGAGED IN THE ACADEMIC STUDY AND PROMOTION OF THE CHEROKEE LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND CULTURE;

WHEREAS: THE TRIBES AND UNIVERSITIES, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE SIGNATORIES, DESIRE TO DEVELOP COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS;

WHEREAS: THE SIGNATORIES DESIRE TO SEEK EXTERNAL FUNDING TO ASSIST IN THESE PROJECTS;

WHEREAS: THE SIGNATORIES DESIRE TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND BY FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITIES;

WHEREAS: THE SIGNATORIES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE CHEROKEE LANGUAGE IS A LIVING, VIABLE LANGUAGE THAT DESERVES COMMUNITY PRESENCE AND ACADEMIC STUDY;

WHEREAS: THE SIGNATORIES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE HISTORY OF THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE DESERVES INCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION;

WHEREAS: THE SIGNATORIES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE CHEROKEE CULTURE IS AN existINg LIfeway OF THE CHEROKEE PEOPLE.

Therefore: the signatories agree to respect and teach Cherokee cultural values and to promote the continuance of Cherokee culture;

Therefore, the signatories agree to pursue development of educational materials for the use of the tribes, universities, and communities;

Therefore, the signatories agree to coordinate, as a group, the fundraising efforts for language, history and culture projects;

Therefore, the signatories agree to seek opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and communities to advance the study of the Cherokee language, history and culture;

Upon signing, the partnership signatories will each appoint a representative to constitute the initial steering committee. The steering committee will set priorities on a consensus basis.

If any party wishes to disengage from the Memorandum of Agreement, they must provide a 90 day notice to the other signatories.

This agreement will be reevaluated in two years from the date of signing.

Honorable Chadwick "Chantassel" Smith,
Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation

Honorable Michelle Hicks, Principal Chief,
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Kim Cherry, Interim President,
Northeastern State University

Dr. John Bardo, Chancellor,
Western Carolina University

[Signatures and dates]