MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

TO ESTABLISH

THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS
and WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION

PREAMBLE

The Parties to this agreement ("the Agreement") are The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and Western Carolina University (Western), collectively referred to hereinafter as the Parties.

WHEREAS, EBCI is a sovereign, Federally recognized Native American Tribe operating a Native American tribal government, treated as a distinct legal and political entity, with its own powers of self-government and self-determination, and

WHEREAS, Western, located on former traditional Cherokee land, is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina System whose mission includes the delivery of quality education to its students and the performance of public service; and

WHEREAS, EBCI and Western have established a Task Force for the purpose of creating a framework to enhance the relationship between them, and to improve educational and economic opportunities for EBCI members as well as cultural exchanges between Western and EBCI; and

WHEREAS, from an historical and geographical perspective, EBCI and Western are uniquely positioned to collaborate on a range of issues and initiatives that are mutually beneficial.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. To maintain a proactive EBCI-Western Task Force comprised of representatives from both Parties and to add members as appropriate and advantageous to achieving the Memorandum of Understanding objectives.

2. To explore and support opportunities for cultural revitalization and exchanges between the Parties.

3. To promote a climate conducive to enhancing communication and interaction between the Parties and facilitate recognition and honor of their respective cultures.

4. To develop a long-range financial resources plan to fund collaborative projects and activities including, but not limited to, the following:

   To design and conduct an assessment of the EBCI to determine higher education needs of members and employees of its programs and entities.

   To assess economic development needs and opportunities on the Qualla Boundary and surrounding area.

   To develop a strategic action plan with both short and long-term goals to address and implement recommendations of identified needs as appropriate.

This Agreement shall be effective when signed and shall continue until terminated as provided herein.

The objectives of this Agreement will be implemented through such further written agreements as may from time to time be developed by either party and may be expanded as appropriate to include other parties. Such further agreements will be considered coddets to this Agreement and will be effective only upon execution by all Parties.

This Agreement may be amended or modified at any time upon mutual written agreement by all Parties hereto. Any one of the Parties may terminate this Agreement by serving written notice to the other Party. Such termination will take effect six months from the date of that written notice.

The parties have prepared and executed this document in both a Cherokee language version and an English version. Since the language common to both parties is English, the English language version shall be controlling.

Signed this 21st day of OCTOBER 2005.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Principal Chief

Western Carolina University

Chancellor