

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF AUSTIN WEST TO THE UNITED NATIONS
INDIGENOUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR 2025**

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE a resolution supporting the nomination of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member Austin West to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Indigenous Fellowship Program 2025.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation"), the Chief has the power to "establish and appoint committees, members and delegates to represent the Choctaw Nation with the advice and consent of the Tribal Council";

WHEREAS, Chief Gary Batton nominates Austin West to serve in the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Program 2025 and to represent the Nation and Choctaw Nation Members, and Indian Country as a whole;

WHEREAS, Mr. West's commitment to the Nation and to international diplomacy is in alignment with this role;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma supports efforts to build and grow our relationships with other Tribal Nations, the United States of America, and other nations and organizations abroad and to grow the Nation's relationship with international bodies focused on Indigenous rights, as well as to build strong relationships with other Indigenous peoples and Indigenous rights experts around the world;

WHEREAS, Austin West is highly qualified and equipped to serve in this fellowship program due to his education and experience in international relations and diplomacy. Mr. West served as the 2021-2022 Choctaw-Ireland Scholar earning an MSc in International Public Policy and Diplomacy from University College Cork, Ireland. In doing so, Mr. West was able to strengthen the Choctaw-Ireland bilateral relationship, demonstrate competency in international diplomacy, and bring Choctaw perspectives to an international audience. Austin West has also served as a Government Affairs Intern with the Nation demonstrating knowledge of Choctaw Nation's local, state, and federal priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to support the nomination of Austin West to serve in the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Program 2025 as a representative of the Nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for supporting the nomination of Austin West for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Indigenous Fellowship Program 2025.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that Eleven (11) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on August 10, 2024. I further certify that the foregoing Council Resolution CR- 24 -24 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of Eleven (11) members, Zero (0) negative votes, and Zero (0) abstaining.

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Ronald Perry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 8-12-24

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Purpose/Need of Council Resolution: The purpose of this Resolution is to support the nomination of Austin West to serve in the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Program 2025. The fellowship program gives indigenous persons the opportunity to gain knowledge about the UN system and mechanisms dealing with human rights issues in general and indigenous issues in particular. Austin West is highly qualified to serve in this fellowship program in terms of education, expertise, and experience in international diplomacy. Austin West will be an excellent representative of the Choctaw Nation and the fellowship program will fulfill the Nation's strategic goal of protecting and promoting tribal sovereignty by placing Choctaw Tribal Members and leaders in political positions.

**Title of Council Resolution: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF AUSTIN WEST TO
THE UNITED NATIONS INDIGENOUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR 2025**

Choctaw Nation Agency: Government Relations

Budget: N/A

Match Required: N/A

Request by: John Hobbs, SEO Communications

Suggested Legislative Committee Review: Member Services

Austin West

Contact: Tel: +1 918-232-7715 Email: austinwestok@gmail.com

EDUCATION

MA Public Administration , University of Oklahoma	2023 - Present
MSc International Public Policy and Diplomacy , University College Cork	2021 – 2022
BA Political Science , University of Central Oklahoma	2019 - 2021
AA Political Science , Tulsa Community College	2017 - 2019

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Graduate Research Assistant – OU-Tulsa Schusterman Library	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted library patrons with research ensuring they could access the full range of library services.Staffed a service desk while providing reference assistance to patrons.	
Circulation Assistant – Tulsa City-County Library	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organized and sorted library material for public use.Conducted customer service with patrons ensuring they could access the full range of library services.Monitored material to be circulated, removed, and/or archived.	
Corps Member – AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) Pacific Region	2022 – 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completion of over 1700 service hours of national and community service.Adapted to diverse work across 8 non-profits in California, Oregon, and Washington including NorthCoast Opportunities, McLaughlin Nature Reserve, Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa, Mojave Desert Land Trust, Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County, Pierce Conservation District, Center for Rural Livelihoods, and SquareOne Villages.Conducted varied service work in areas such as wildfire preparedness, conservation, invasive species removal, community outreach, disaster response, and sustainable living/construction.	

INTERNSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Government Affairs Intern – Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	2024 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research, analyze, and monitor state and federal public policy to assess impacts to the Choctaw Nation.Research aspects of Choctaw law and policy to advance the sovereignty of the Nation.Research and promote avenues of civic engagement for Choctaw citizens.	
Civic Engagement & Voter Protection Intern – Democratic National Committee	2024 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research a variety of voting rights and election administration issues at the state and federal level.Create voting materials designed to inform and encourage civic participation.	
Research Intern – Association on American Indian Affairs	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Researched the intersection of federal/state education policy and K-12 curriculums on Native histories, cultures, and peoples.	
Public Affairs and Advocacy Intern – American Chamber of Commerce, Ireland	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supported the Public Affairs & Advocacy Team across key economic policy areas.Conducted research for the development of AmCham advocacy documents.Coordinated with the Communications Team to advance Public Affairs messaging.	
Choctaw-Ireland Scholarship – Chahta Foundation	2021-2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Awarded prestigious scholarship providing for Choctaw students to study at University College Cork.	
Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program - Punjabi	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Awarded prestigious Critical Language Scholarship with the U.S. Department of State.Completed a rigorous and demanding workload as the CLS Program covers approximately one academic year of university-level language coursework during an eight-to-ten-week program.	

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer – Tulsa Achieves Program	2017-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completion of over 80 hours of community service.Adapted to diverse work with non-profits such as the Bixby Outreach Center (BOC), the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society, Tulsa Route 66 Marathon, and more.	

CERTIFICATIONS/SKILLS

- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) - 2022
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office & Google Suite