

RESOLUTION OF THE  
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE  
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, Mr. Robert Blumhagen, a candidate for a Doctorate Degree at Northern Arizona University, has come before the Tribal Council for permission to conduct a study of High School dropouts and graduates on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, and
- WHEREAS, a copy of Mr. Blumhagen's proposed study is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as a representation of what he intends to study on the reservation, and
- WHEREAS, Wesley Bonito of the Tribal Education Department recommends that the Tribal Council grant Mr. Blumhagen permission to complete a study of dropouts and graduates on the reservation based upon the representation made by Mr. Blumhagen that the study will aid the Tribal Education Department and its appraisal of why students drop out of High School prior to graduation, and
- WHEREAS, Robert Blumhagen has represented to the Tribal Council that he will guarantee the anonymity of the persons identities whom he will interview for his study, and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Blumhagen advises the Tribal Council that he will utilize this study in order to obtain his Doctorate Degree from Northern Arizona University.
- BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes Robert Blumhagen to conduct interviews for the purposes of completing his study of dropouts and graduates.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that this authorization is based upon representations made by Mr. Blumhagen that he will guarantee the anonymity of the identities of the tribal members he interviews for his study and that the results of the studies will be made available to the Tribal Education Department and will aid in the ongoing program of the Tribal Education Department to understand the problem of High School dropouts.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that it is understood, based upon representations made by Robert Blumhagen, that this study will not incur any costs for the White Mountain Apache Tribe and that Mr. Blumhagen must underwrite his own financial needs for his project.

The foregoing resolution was on September 07, 1983 duly adopted by a vote of 10 for and 0 against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1 (i) of the Amended Constitution and By-Laws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

  
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Chairman of the Tribal Council

  
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Secretary of the Tribal Council

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FORT APACHE INDIAN  
RESERVATION  
WHITE MOUNTAIN, ARIZ

Resolution No. 83-276

## Proposed Study of Dropouts and Graduates

From 1979 to 1982, I had the privilege of working with members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe in my capacity as high school teacher for the public schools, GED teacher for the Tribal Education Department, and as a resident of Whiteriver. My three years here were good ones for me and when the time came to select a research topic for my doctoral dissertation, I wanted to do something that would benefit the tribe as well as myself.

Dropping out is a serious problem on the reservation. Mr. Gary Grube, guidance counselor at Alchesay High School, estimates that 40 percent of entering Freshmen do not graduate. No one knows, in any organized way, what happens to those who drop out in comparison with those who stay in school and graduate. This is true not only for the White Mountain Apache Tribe but for the nation as a whole. Very few studies have ever been done anywhere to measure dropouts with graduates. In this study, I propose to sample 80 typical members of the eighth grade graduating class of 1973 and talk to them now that they have all been finished with school for a number of years. I propose to ask questions concerning how they are getting along in every day life and about their memories, feelings, and suggestions about school. The answers to the questions will be summarized in such a way that no one will be able to identify exactly how any member of the sample answered specific questions. The results will tell us if dropouts and graduates are different in everyday life and will provide information to the schools and to the Tribal Education Department that will help in planning and evaluating programs.

This research proposal has been discussed with school and tribal officials and has received the endorsement of the Whiteriver Unified School District Board of Education and the White Mountain Apache Tribe Education Committee. Today, we are asking this Tribal Council to approve the study. If approved, the study will begin immediately and final results will be available by early spring.