NORTH CAROLINA TRIBES:
COHARIE
EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE
HALIWA-SAPONI
LUMBEE
MEHERRIN
OCCANEECHI BAND OF SAPONI
SAPPONY
WACCAMAW-SIOUAN

NORTH CAROLINA ORGANIZATIONS:
CUMBERLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR
INDIAN PEOPLE
GUILFORD NATIVE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
METROLINA NATIVE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
TRIANGLE NATIVE AMERICAN SOCIETY

LEGAL AUTHORITY: NC GENERAL STATUTE 143B & 404 THROUGH 411

San Diego, California
October 18, 2015
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Greetings from the Gregory A. Richardson, Executive Director
Commission of Indian Affairs

The State Report from the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs provides a description and summary of Commission programs and an explanation of activities for the previous year. During this recurring process, it is a privilege to reflect upon our past endeavors as we face future horizons and pledge to become even more effective in our mission to advocate for the American Indian population in North Carolina.

With the support of The Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina, Mr. Bill Daughtridge, Jr., Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, the North Carolina General Assembly, our distinguished Commission members, and the citizens of this State, we will remain steadfast in our objective and build upon the accomplishments that have been made. We accept the challenges that lie ahead, and we are committed to introducing and promoting tools to achieve a better quality of life for the citizens whom we represent.

The Commission of Indian Affairs seeks to provide a unified voice for all of the American Indian tribes in North Carolina. This report contains the Commission mission statement, purposes, statutory duties, and goals, and these are both the regulations and principles which guide our efforts for the Commission. As we face another year with enthusiasm and determination, we invite your continuing interest in all that we do.

Most sincerely,

Gregory A. Richardson
HISTORY AND PURPOSE

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs was created in 1971 by the North Carolina General Assembly in response to the requests of concerned Indian citizens from across the state. The Commission was established pursuant to North Carolina General Statute’s 143B-404 through 143B-411. Specifically, the Commission was created to:

♦ Deal fairly and effectively with Indian affairs
♦ Bring local, state and federal resources into focus for the implementation or continuation of meaningful programs for the state's Indian citizens
♦ Provide aid and protection for Indians as needs are demonstrated
♦ Assist Indian communities in social and economic development
♦ Promote recognition of, and the right of, Indians to pursue their cultural and religious traditions

The Commission has eight statutory duties outlined in its enabling legislation as follows:

♦ Study, consider, accumulate, compile, assemble, and disseminate information on Indian affairs
♦ Investigate relief needs of Indians and assist in the preparation of plans for the alleviation of such needs
♦ Confer with appropriate officials of local, state and federal governments
♦ Review all legislation concerning Indians
♦ Conduct public hearings on matters relating to Indian affairs and subpoena any information deemed necessary
♦ Study the existing status of recognition of all Indian groups, tribes and communities
♦ Establish appropriate procedures for legal recognition by the state and provide for official recognition
♦ Initiate procedures for recognition by the federal government

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is to instill a positive vision for American Indians through preserving cultural identity by promoting and advocating for the rights, beliefs, and opportunities which impact the quality of life.
GOALS

* Increase and maximize educational opportunities for American Indians in North Carolina.
* Increase the economic self-sufficiency of American Indians in North Carolina and maximize Indian economic development initiatives.
* Achieve parity in employment for Indians of North Carolina.
* Improve the health status of American Indians in North Carolina.
* Increase the public awareness of American Indians.
* Provide for the state and/or federal recognition of North Carolina Indian tribes.
* Promote recognition of, and the right of, Indians to pursue cultural and religious traditions that they consider sacred and meaningful, and to promote public understanding and appreciation of Indian culture.

The membership of the Commission is composed of 19 representatives from 12 North Carolina Indian tribes and/or organizations, five state officials, and an appointee of both the Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives and the Lieutenant Governor. Ex-officio members include representatives from two statewide youth organizations, the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO), and the North Carolina Native American Council on Higher Education (NCNACOHE).

The Commission operates under the direction and supervision of the North Carolina Department of Administration pursuant to G.S. 143A - 6(b) and (c) and is one of four advocacy agencies currently housed within the department. The Commission employs an executive director to carry out the day-to-day responsibilities and business of the Commission. The executive director serves at the pleasure of the Commission membership and is subject to legislative or other funds that would accrue to the Commission. The executive director is empowered to hire additional staff and consultants to assist in the discharge of his responsibilities, as determined by the Commission, in accordance with the administrative, budget, and management policies of the North Carolina Department of Administration. Additionally, the executive director performs all other administrative duties under the guidance of the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, with respect to state regulations, statutes, and general government policy.

In the performance of its duties, the Commission held four quarterly meetings in SFY 2014-2015. These meetings were held on September 2014, December 2014, March 2015, and June 2015. The quarterly meetings were held for the purpose of addressing issues of concern to the Indian citizens of North Carolina, the development of policies and/or programs necessary to alleviate the social and economic problems of the State's American Indian population, and the review of Commission service program activities. Reports were heard from the Commission’s standing committees. (See Appendix 2)
In 1971, the Commission received its first appropriation of $12,500 from the North Carolina General Assembly. Since that time, State support has been expanded, and federal funding of service programs has been secured.

Commission staff administers programs and delivers services. The staff conducts other major activities and initiatives as well as those required by General Statutes. The majority of the staff administers programs and services supported by federal grants. State funds supported seven staff positions including the executive director, two clerical positions, three community developers and an economic developer.

Descriptions of the activities, services, and programs sponsored by the Commission during SFY 2014-2015 follow:

**NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**FUNDING SUMMARY 2014-2015**

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Community Development Program focuses on developing partnerships and collaborations with local, state, and federal resources for the implementation of programs and services for American Indian senior citizens, handicapped/disabled and veterans.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The Commission receives a grant from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services to operate an education and outreach program designed to promote public awareness in American Indian communities in the designated counties of Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Halifax, Harnett, Sampson and Warren to ensure that American Indian families, especially elderly and disabled individuals and families with young children, are informed and encouraged to apply for Low Income Energy Assistance Program, Crisis Intervention and Weatherization Program services available at the local county departments of social services.

American Indian Veterans Initiative

American Indians have been defending this country since before they were granted citizenship and the right to vote. Many natives feel that it is their duty to safeguard and defend the land. It is a part of their culture and heritage. There has not been one battle where the native warrior has not been present. In honor of our American Indian men and women veterans for their dedication and service on our behalf to insure protection over our nation we have begun collaborating with the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs and continue an on-going partnership with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to ensuring that they are aware of rehabilitation, education assistance programs, loan guarantee programs, life insurance policies, burial assistance, and an array of other services being offered by these agencies to ensure they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to receive.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Economic Development Program provides information and referral services to the state-recognized tribes and organizations, American Indian citizens and organizations interested in economic development enterprises and business start-up or expansion.

With the recent economic recession, we witnessed company closures, major state budget cuts to social programs and for the first time in history, cuts to education. As a result, universities and community colleges increased already high tuition rates and fees, enlarged class sizes and eliminated programs/majors previously offered. American Indian students already struggling with rising costs and diminishing financial aid have been forced to abandon their dreams of a college education. They simply cannot afford to pay the costs. Education has long been a predictor of economic prosperity yet it is becoming increasingly inaccessible for American Indian students as they fall farther behind and are economically disadvantaged. Seeing this need, we created the Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS) Program. This program is funded by a small grant received from the NCDHHS/Office of Economic Opportunity, Community Services Block Grant.
WHAT IS THE SUPPORTING UNDERGRADUATE NATIVE STUDENTS (SUNS) PROGRAM?

The Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS) Program is a college educational access and retention program sponsored by the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, Economic Development Program.

The SUNS Program is designed to identify qualified American Indian students enrolled full-time in an accredited North Carolina based community college or university and assist them in the pursuit of their educational goals. Students must meet 100% federal poverty income guidelines to be eligible to participate in the SUNS Program.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES
The SUNS Program is designed to provide financial assistance to income eligible American Indian students during the fall and spring semesters only. We assist approximately 50 students each year in pursuit of their educational goals.

**Book Voucher Reimbursement & Semester Completion Incentive Payments:** Financial assistance consists of a book voucher reimbursement payment for the fall and spring semesters. In addition, students will receive a semester completion incentive payment for each successfully completed semester. Book voucher reimbursements will be up to $500.00 per semester, and the semester completion incentive payments will be up to $120.00 per semester.

**Academic Excellence Incentive Payments:** Academic Excellence Incentive payments will be presented to the student/students with the highest overall grade point average. Students must comply with all SUNS Program Guidelines in order to be eligible to receive this incentive. Amounts vary depending on the number of students eligible and the amount of funding received.

**Graduation Incentive Bonus Payment:** A Graduation Incentive Bonus payment will be provided to all seniors who successfully graduate with a 2.0 or higher overall grade point average. Amounts will vary depending on the number of students eligible.

**Supportive Services:** We have limited funds available to assist eligible SUNS Program participants with a one-time financial assistance payment for unexpected expenses such as emergency childcare, car repair, or other needed services, so they may remain enrolled in a college or university.

**Annual Academic Success Workshop:** The SUNS Program sponsors an annual Academic Success Workshop. This required one-day workshop provides SUNS Program participants with an opportunity to learn about a variety of topics from special guest speakers. Students have the opportunity to network with other native students from across the state in a casual atmosphere while learning the skills necessary to be successful.

The SUNS Program is contingent upon availability of program funds. Benefit amounts will vary depending on the number of students eligible and the amount of funding received. Terms and conditions are subject to change without notice.
EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

The Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program provides one-on-one educational and career counseling to 635 Indian youth ages 11 to 27 in the counties of Columbus, Halifax, Hoke, Sampson, and Warren. Program guidelines require that two-thirds of the program’s participants be first generation college and come from families with low incomes. High dropout rates, low competency test scores and high unemployment rates are all characteristics of the Indian population in the program's target counties.

Talent Search staff made visits to schools in each target county and presented workshops designed to help students improve their academic performance, enhance their self-esteem, broaden their career awareness, and understand financial aid. Study skills improvement workshops were conducted in each of the program's target counties, and high school students in each county had the opportunity to participate in workshops designed to teach test-taking skills for pre-college admission tests such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

The program sponsored campus tours of North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and East Carolina University. During the tours, students met with representatives of each institution's admissions and financial aid offices to discuss enrollment requirements and campus life.

Financial aid workshops were conducted in each tribal community in February and March for juniors and seniors along with their parents. The purpose of the workshops was to inform students and parents about the different types of financial aid available and how to apply for federal aid. Counselors assisted parents in the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on a one-on-one basis throughout the spring.

Students from all counties were afforded the opportunity to attend numerous conferences and cultural events. Twelve young ladies attended the 8th Annual American Indian Women of Proud Nations’ conference held in Raleigh, North Carolina. Twelve students attended the Youth Legislative Assembly and were afforded the opportunity to act as a state representative, debate and vote in a mock legislation session. Sixteen students attended the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) conference in Portland, Oregon during the summer.

Forty-three seniors were hosted on a four-day trip to Cherokee, North Carolina and Gatlinburg, Tennessee. During the trip the students attended a College Survival Skills workshop focused on providing information to ensure a successful transition from high school into college life. A highlight of the trip included a round table discussion of expectations and fears about college life and a discussion of the freshman year by two Indian students one who had just completed their freshman year of college and one who had just graduated from college. Students were given the book “The Tiny Warrior” written by DJ Vanas. While in Cherokee, NC the students attended the outdoor drama “Unto These Hills” and toured the Occonuluftee Indian Village.

The program director is the adult adviser to the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO) and coordinates their annual conference, which was attended by 285 youth and chaperones on the campus of the Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

The Educational Talent Search Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is staffed by a project director, two counselors, and one secretary.
AMERICAN INDIAN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Commission's employment and training program funded under Title I, Section 166 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provides job training and employment opportunities to unemployed, underemployed, and low-income American Indians in North Carolina. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013-2014, the program service area was 59 of the 100 counties of the State. Two North Carolina Indian tribes and three urban center organizations are designated as Indian WIA grantees by the U.S. Department of Labor to serve the remaining 41 counties. The program served 53 participants in SFY 2013-2014.

Skills Training

This component emphasized vocational training for the program's target population. There are 58 community colleges in the State. Each community college designs its own areas of vocational training based on local business and industry needs and employment opportunities of the area served. The choice of vocational training is left to the individual participants with the guidance and approval of program staff and community college guidance counselors. Throughout SFY 2013-2014, the WIA sponsored American Indian students in nine different occupational curricula at eleven different community colleges.

Adult Work Experience

Many of the program's applicants lack a high school diploma. Under the Adult Work Experience component, participants with a high school diploma were placed in 40-hour-per-week work experience slots. Those Adult Work Experience participants without high school diplomas were placed in 25-hour-per-week work experience slots and attended adult basic education classes 15 hours per week. The majority of Adult Work Experience participants continued in the WIA program by enrolling in the Skills Training component.

The WIA Director also serves as staff support to the Commission's Economic Development and Employment Committee. A director and two manpower developers staffed the WIA program in SFY 2013-2014.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designated the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs as a public housing agency (PHA) in 1976. This designation gave the Commission authority to provide rent assistance through the operation of a Section 8 Housing Assistance Program to eligible Indian and non-Indian families through Annual Contributions Contracts (ACC) with HUD. The purpose of the Section 8 Housing Assistance Program is to provide safe, decent, sanitary housing for eligible families regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation. Program funds are used to subsidize the difference between the cost of rent and a maximum of 30 percent of the household’s adjusted gross income. Currently the program has an ACC for 1 “Choice Voucher” project. To be eligible to receive Housing Choice Voucher assistance the gross income of a family must fall within established HUD guidelines.

Program Components

The Commission’s housing program is allotted 936 housing vouchers. Voucher contracts allow the program to pay up to the fair market rent for a rental unit. Under the “Choice Voucher” Program the family must pay their portion of the rent as outlined in the program contract with the landlord.
Service Area

The Commission provides rent assistance in the counties of Granville, Hoke, Person, Sampson and Warren. It also provide rent assistance in specific areas of Columbus and Halifax counties through a special agreement with local PHAs.

The program was administered by a director, three housing inspectors, and three clerical support staff SFY 2013-2014.

STATE RECOGNITION

Since 1976 the Commission has administered procedures for the state recognition of previously unrecognized American Indian tribes and organizations in North Carolina. Authorized by N.C.G.S. 143B-406, the Commission administers tribal recognition procedures, as established under Chapter 15 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. A twelve-member Recognition Committee, composed of representatives of each American Indian tribe and urban American Indian organization, makes recommendations on recognition matters to the full Commission. The Meherrin Tribe of Hertford County was granted state recognition under these procedures in 1986. In 1997, the historic tribal group known as the Indians of Person County had their recognition status reinstated by the North Carolina General Assembly, and are now recognized as Sappony. In March 2000, the Commission officially recognized the Raleigh-based urban Indian organization, Triangle Native American Society, Inc. In February 2002, an Orange County Superior Court Order, issued in accordance with a decision rendered by the North Carolina Court of Appeals, granted legal recognition of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation.

The Commission is now considering the status of a group from Maxton (Robeson County) calling itself the “Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina.” The Commission’s Recognition Committee began its preliminary review of the group’s petition in March 2013.

Key factors addressed during the North Carolina tribal recognition process include the petitioning group’s ability to trace its ancestry back to American Indian tribes indigenous to North Carolina prior to 1790 (1 NCAC 15.0203[a]); the petitioner’s submission of its membership lists (“tribal rolls”) of its interrelated members (1 NCAC 15.0209[6] and 15.0202[5]), which must be consistent with submitted genealogical charts and information; and the petitioning group’s satisfaction of five of eight criteria that address various aspects of continuous historic American Indian tribal identity in North Carolina (1 NCAC 15.0212).

The rules which govern the process for state recognition of American Indian tribes may be found at the following website:

CONFERENCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Each year the Commission co-sponsors many activities and events in collaboration with tribes and organizations. Additionally, the Commission provides staff support for Indian conferences, workshops, and other special events.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE

The 40th Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference was held in Raleigh, North Carolina on March 2014. United Tribes of North Carolina sponsored the conference in collaboration with the Commission and tribes and organizations. The conference attracted over 400 participants. Commission staff coordinated various conference activities such as the exhibition and conference facilities; served as facilitators, moderators, recorders and/or speakers at various workshops and general assemblies; assisted with conference registration; and supervised conference security.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN YOUTH UNITY CONFERENCE

The 35th Annual North Carolina Indian Youth Unity Conference was held June 15-18, 2014, at Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina. Co-sponsored by the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO) and the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs’ Educational Talent Search Program, this event was attended by over 285 Indian youth and adults representing Indian tribes and organizations from across the State of North Carolina. The highlights of the conference included a powwow, Mister and Miss NCNAYO pageants, talent show, basketball tournament, an awards banquet, and art and essay contests. Two $500 and three $300 college scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors at the conference. Additionally, the North Carolina American Indian Fund Scholarship Program awarded sixteen $1000 scholarships to deserving North Carolina American Indian students.

INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina, proclaimed the month of November as American Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina by an official proclamation during the fiscal year. In collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources/N.C. Museum of History, the 2014 American Indian Heritage Month celebration was held at the North Carolina Museum of History. The annual event was attended by more than 10,000 people, and is the largest event held at the museum. United Tribes of North Carolina commissioned a poster for American Indian Heritage Month, and the Commission coordinated numerous activities associated with American Indian Heritage Month.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN SENIOR CITIZENS CONFERENCE

We continue to support the efforts of the North Carolina Indian Senior Citizens Coalition Annual Conference held the first Friday in November in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Highlights of the event included a special presentations, workshops focusing on health, nutrition, physical fitness, and personal safety. There is also a quilt exhibit, vendors, and a highlight of the evening is the banquet and pageant.
NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (NCIEDI)

The NC Indian Economic Initiative (NCIEDI) is a 501C-3 corporation established in 2001 by a Commission Task Force. The NCIEDI was an outgrowth of the Commission’s Year 2000 Strategic Plan and was developed for the purpose of addressing Indian Economic Development issues to provide direct services such as business assistance, business planning, financial guidance, etc. Their offices are located in Raleigh, North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN INDIAN FUND INITIATIVE

The North Carolina American Indian Fund Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Commission and Indian tribes and organizations in North Carolina. The fund was established because the resources for meeting the human and economic needs of Indian communities are very limited. Additionally, the creation of the fund is in response to the need for dedicated funding for scholarships, health, human services, education, and tribal organizational infrastructure programs. The Triangle Community Foundation, located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, manages the American Indian Fund. The North Carolina American Indian Scholarship Fund awarded sixteen $1000 scholarships to deserving North Carolina American Indian college students during the June NCNAYO Youth Unity conference.
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs
SFY 2013-2014

Officers

Ruth Revels, Chairman  
Shirley Freeman, Vice Chairman  
Faline Locklear Dial, Secretary/Treasurer

Members

STATE OFFICIALS  
State Officials serve on the Commission by virtue of their elected or appointed position in state government (NCGS 143)

North Carolina Department of Administration  
Secretary Bill Daughtridge  
Designee: Bill Bryan

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Secretary Dr. Aldona Wos  
Designee: Sherry Bradsher

North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources  
Secretary John Skvarla  
Designee: Brad Ives

North Carolina Department of Labor  
Commissioner Cherie Berry  
Designee: Tina Morris-Anderson

Employment Security Commission  
Secretary Sharon Decker  
Designee: Dale Folwell

President Pro Tem Appointee  
Daniel Locklear

Speaker of the House Appointee  
Faline Locklear Dial

AMERICAN INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES  
American Indian members are elected to the Commission by tribal or community consent (NCGS 143)

Coharie Intra-Tribal Council  
Isabell Freeman Elliott  
Charlene Jacobs

Cumberland County Association for Indian People  
Gladys Hunt  
Roy Maynor

Eastern Band of Cherokee  
Sam Lambert  
Marvel Welch

Guilford Native American Association  
G. Devane Burnette, Sr.  
Ruth Revels

Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe  
Jeffrey Anstead  
Charles Richardson

Lumbee Indian Tribe  
Furnie Lambert  
Larece Hunt  
Daniel Jones

Meherrin Indian Tribe  
Chassidy Hall

Metrolina Native American Association  
Walter Baucom  
Jesse Jacobs

Occoneechi Band of the Saponi Nation  
Sharn Jeffries

Sappony Indian Tribe  
Dorothy Crowe

Triangle Native American Society, Inc.  
Brett Locklear

Waccamaw-Siouan Indian Tribe  
Shirley Freeman  
Elton Ray Jacobs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

North Carolina Native American Youth Organization  
Halona Benjamin, Female Co-Chair  
Tyler Wester, Male Co-Chair

North Carolina Native American Council on Higher Education  
vacant
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

September 13, 2013       Raleigh, NC

December 6, 2013         Teleconference with Executive Committee

March 13, 2014           Held in conjunction with the NC Indian Unity Conference
                         Raleigh, NC

June 6, 2014             UNC Pembroke, Pembroke, NC
# STANDING COMMITTEES
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

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TRIBES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Coharie Indian Tribe
7531 N. U.S. Hwy. 421
Clinton, N.C. 28328
Gregory Jacobs, Tribal Administrator
PHONE: (910) 564-6909
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FAX: (828) 497-7000

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Rick Oxendine, Director
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FAX: (336) 272-2925

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Tony Hunt, Tribal Administrator
PHONE: (910) 521-7861
FAX: (910) 521-7790

Meherrin Indian Tribe
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Winton, N.C. 27910
Wayne Brown, Chief/Tribal Administrator
PHONE: (252) 252-209-0934

Metrolina Native American Association
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