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An Open Letter to the Lumbee People from Tribal Chairman Milton Hunt

On behalf of the Tribal Council, it is with great pride and honor to write this first open letter to the Lumbee people, where ever you may live, locally, across North Carolina, or across the nation. Realizing the great path before us, the Council is extremely proud of completing and moving forward on many tasks.

Collectively, we have passed a resolution to inform funding sources regarding our position as the new governing body. Realizing that the transition process is complex in nature, we are working closely with Lumbee Regional Developmental Association (LRDA) in that transition process as it relates to programs. Recently, the Council received a letter from Mr. Leroy Freeman, Chair, LRDA Board of Directors thanking the Tribal Council for stepping forward to serve the Lumbee people and lending the organization's support to the Lumbee Tribe. In addition, we have acquired a website that will be the "official" site for the Lumbee tribe.

Public Hearings for the Constitution are underway. These are data collection only. Once the Council has developed a proposed constitution, there will be an open period for public comment by all tribal members. At the end of the comment period, the council will make the final revisions before submitting the Constitution for a vote.

The Council is also developing proposals for programs such as housing and other much needed programs that will help create jobs and bring additional revenue to the tribe.

We realize that the needs of our people are great. If it appears that

things are moving slowly, I assure you that is not the case! I am truly proud of the dedication and commitment the Tribal Council members have in diligently doing what is required, from filing appropriate documents for our nonprofit status, meeting with program officials and other tribal leaders to address critical issues. From seeking financial resources, to soliciting those with expertise to assist us, whether it is in legal, social, or political capacities.

Believe me when I say that the goal of the Tribal Council is for the betterment of the Lumbee people, which includes the health, safety, welfare, adequate housing, education, economic and employment opportunities, and preservation of our cultural resources. We are committed to advocate and embrace what is right and fair for all Lumbee people. The achievement of this requires and necessitates a desire and will for positive change and progress. Imagine our strength and the good we will do together, when moving as one!

In closing, I would encourage you to communicate with us, either by writing, e-mail, or attending our monthly council meeting, and our committee meetings, to express your thoughts and concerns. We also welcome your support and expertise. The website address is Lumbeetribe.com. Our mailing address is Post Office Box 2709, Pembroke, NC 28372.

Again, thank you for your support, faith, and confidence in your new government.

Sincerely,
Milton Hunt, Chairman
Tribal Council of the Lumbee Nation



Shown left: Art Woolsey, National Native American Indian Inmate Support Project; and James Locklear-Brooks.

Lumbee Indian Prisoner Creates Art With A Heart

by Elizabeth Christine Brooks

James Locklear-Brooks, also known as James Fading Eagle Two Brooks, is a Lumbee Indian currently in prison in the State of Pennsylvania. Since 1996, he has been at the forefront of the struggle for Authentic Native Advisors and a complete American Indian religious service in Pennsylvania prisons. Consequently, he has spent over half the time he has been in prison in "the hole" for his efforts.

Locklear-Brooks expresses his love for the Lumbee and heritage that comes with it through his paintings, which he feels allows him to "speak" with positive results. James' artwork has been shown throughout the United States and also abroad by various organizations, including Wolakota, Renegade Artists, Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Lockdown Prisoner Art and American Indian Movement Prisoner Services among others.

Recently he had several of his paintings printed in poster form by AIM to support efforts to protect a

sacred burial site in Morgantown, West Virginia where Walmart has planned on building a store.

Last year several of his paintings were on display at Edinboro State College in Pennsylvania. Locklear-Brooks has donated over 100 paintings to charities throughout the United States to benefit Native prisoners and/or Native children. He continues his artwork and the struggle for Native prisoner religious rights from his prison cell at the State Prison at Albion.

Anyone wishing to contact my brother, may do so by writing: James Locklear-Brooks or James Fading Eagle Two Brooks, #CX-9954, 10745 Route 18, Albion, PA 16474.

For those Lumbee brothers and sisters in prison needing support on Native religious issues, please feel free to contact Mr. Matt Sherman, National Field Office of the American Indian Movement, Prisoner Services, PO Box 06167, Columbus, Ohio 43206.

In closing, if you are involved with a Native support project or Native children's charity there in Pembroke, I am sure Locklear-Brooks would love to hear from you.



Shown left to right are William E. Locklear, WIA Director; Pamela Locklear, WIA Participant; and Zona Locklear, WIA Counselor.

LRDA's WIA Participant Recognized for Excellency

A Lumbee Regional Development Association's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program participant was recently awarded a Five-Hundred dollar (\$500.00) check at the twenty-third (23rd) National Indian and Native American Employment and Training conference in Reno, Nevada.

This conference was held during the week of April 9-13, 2001. This annual gathering of Native American grantees, representing 185 Native American organizations from all 50 states, is a forum for the sponsoring agency-United States Department of Labor, division of Indian and Native American programs- to collaborate with staff who are charged with providing employment and training services to the Native American Communities.

Pamela Locklear, who was a participant in the classroom Training program was nominated by LRDA's WIA Staff, based on established criteria.

Pamela was selected by the screening committee to receive the "Doyle Tubby Scholarship Award"; this award is given annually to a WIA participant who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in their chosen field of study; as Doyle Tubby did during his many years of service to the Mississippi band of Choctaw Indians, as the employment and training administrator.

Overcoming many barriers, Pamela received an LPN degree from Southeastern community College, Whiteville, NC, and is currently employed with Pembroke Family Practice in Pembroke, NC. Pamela is married to Von Locklear and has one child. Her goal is to obtain her R.N. degree while working at Pembroke Family Practice.

On behalf of the LRDA Board of Directors, Staff and Community, we salute Pamela for her achievement and wish her luck in pursuing her RN degree.

Ms. Jane O. Chavis participates in Distinguished Teachers Forum II

Ms. Jane O. Chavis, a Kindergarten teacher at Union Chapel School was selected to attend the 2001 Distinguished Teachers Forum II sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, NC. The purpose of the forum was to discuss issues of recruitment and retention of teachers in North Carolina. The Forum also honored Ms. Chavis and others teachers who have been recognized at the national level for their educational expertise and leadership qualities.

It has been estimated that nationally

over 2 million new teachers will be needed over the next decade because of an increasing student population, teacher retirement, and initiatives to reduce class size. North Carolina will need approximately 80,000 new teachers over the next decade, a number almost equal to our current teaching force.

The Honorable Governor Michael F. Easley attended the Forum and shared his initiative and priorities for education in North Carolina with this select group of educators.

Child support amnesty declared for May 7 to 11

Laurinburg, NC - Parents who are behind on their child support are getting a chance to pay up without legal action. On May 7 through 11, the Scotland County Child Support Enforcement Office is holding an Amnesty Week for parents who are behind paying support for their children.

"Child support enforcement is about getting children the support they need. We hope an amnesty can help make that happen for the over 1500 children in our county whose parents are behind in their child support," said Jan Elliott, director of the Scotland County Department of Social Services. "We invite par-

ents to come in and work it out. We'll try to make it easier for you to meet your child support obligation."

In Scotland County, 809 parents have been invited to come in and make arrangements to pay their child support. To make it easier for

them, the office is going to be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM that week. Besides giving parents a chance to catch up, we will have our establishment unit available to assist with other child support needs. This week is also a chance for parents to make sure the county has up-to-date information in its

records. For those parents whose support order is in another county, you will have to go to that county to discuss your payment options. Many of the counties around Scotland are participating in this effort.

For absent parents who need a job to help fulfill their child support requirements, the Child Support Enforcement Office will have staff from Richmond Community College Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Employment Security Commission available to assist.

You can locate the Child Support Office at 1405 West Boulevard in the County Government Complex.



April Whittemore

April Whittemore named AIO Ambassador for 2001/2002

April Whittemore is one out of sixteen new Ambassadors selected out of over 200 applicants. The Americans for Indian Opportunity Program is celebrating its 30th year. This is a full scholarship program and selection as an Ambassador is a great honor. Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of past experiences and community involvement as well as achievements. Part of the application process involves a Community Initiative Proposal for the Indian community the Ambassador is from.

Whittemore received notification in January, 2001 that she had been accepted into the program. The letter was signed by Ladonna Harris, Executive Vice-President of AIO. It stated: "Your Community Initiative Proposal was outstanding, and you have been selected as one of the sixteen to receive the full academic gift for the next two years."

Whittemore received her first class assignments in February and the first gathering was held March 26-31, 2001 in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico for one intense week of learning. The next gathering will be in Washington, D.C. Each Ambassador will have the opportunity to meet with the Nation's leaders to include a session with the President. The Ambassadors will meet quarterly for the next two years. The gatherings will include participation in the NCAI Conference in Spokane, Washington, then Alaska, and New Zealand in the Spring.

The purpose of the program is to nurture, encourage and strengthen the leadership capabilities of a new generation of Native American leaders. More than 120 emerging leaders have successfully completed the program. The graduates of the AIO are making a difference in influencing policy and providing pro-active leadership throughout the United States.

Three other Lumbees are past Ambassadors. These are Darren M. Hunt, Virginia State Trooper, Commonwealth of Virginia (class of 1996); Kerry Bird, Consultant, Minneapolis, MN (class of 1994) and Pamela G. DeRenis, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. (class of 1993).

This year's Ambassadors Program, has been extended for two years. The purpose of the expanded program is to allow the Ambassadors more time to absorb the information and experiences of the program, more networking opportunities and opportunities to work with the program advisors.

Whittemore would like to thank James Hardin of LRDA, Pembroke Mayor Milton Hunt, Patricia Clark of Charlotte and Bird Runningwater, Beverly Hills, Sundance Film Company for their letters of nomination.

Whittemore is currently employed with the North Carolina Department of Administration with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs as an Educational Talent Search Counselor. She is assigned to Cumberland, Hoke and Harnett Counties.

Other Ambassadors are: Andra Agli (Aleut) Shareholder Administrator, Bristol Bay Native Corporation; Lisa Brown (Chickasaw), Special Assistant, Chickasaw Nation; Leslie Caye (Kootenai), Field worker, Teen Fatherhood Involvement Program, John Hopkins University; Vincent Cooke (Makah), Environment Health Specialist, Makah Tribe; Megan Hill (Oneida), Director of Individual Giving, American Indian College Fund; Shawna Kirsten (Washo/Paiute), Tribal Court Advocate, Renok Sparks Indian Colony; Stephen Lewis (Gila River Indian Community), Tribal Gaming Commissioner; Ron Martinez (Isleta Pueblo/Taso Pueblo), Artist; Miles Miller (Yakama/Nez Pierce) Board member Native American Arts Alliance; Tom Okleaski (Inqiat Eskimo) Assistant Vice President, Kawerak, Inc.; Melissa Sanchez (Acoma Pueblo/Laguna Pueblo), National Accounts, Four Wind Trading Co.; R.J. Smith (Ojibwe-Assiniboine), Coordinator of Urban Natives of Chicago, NAES College; Terry Snowball (Ho-Chunk Prairie Band Potawatomi) Museum Specialist, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian; Rebecca Thompson (Navajo) Special Work Case Manager, University of New Mexico Health Services Center; and April Tinhorn (Hualapai/Navajo/Chinese) Computer Scientist, U.S. Department of Science.



April Whittemore is shown above with the New Class of Ambassadors while on the Santa Ana Pueblo Reservation during the first gathering in March 26-31, 2001.