NCAI Presents Overview of National School Mascot Tracking Database; More Native "Themed" Mascots are Retired, Replaced

"This is an important issue of respect, and we will continue to work toward a fully inclusive and respectful environment in our schools."

-- Dr. Kevin Whitaker, Jamestown Public Schools (NY) Superintendent

NCAI Shares an Overview of Mascot Tracking Database at Mid Year Conference

At NCAI's 2021 Mid Year Conference, held virtually from June 20 to June 24, members of NCAI's Ending "Indian" Mascots team delivered a presentation on the National School Mascot Tracking Database. The overview of the database includes an updated accounting of Native "themed" mascots across the country, important contact information, and a brief Q&A session. A link to the video can also be found at NCAI's recently revamped 'Proud to Be' webpage.

Jamestown High School (NY) "Red Raiders"

On Thursday, July 1, the Jamestown Public Schools Board of Education approved a measure to discontinue any use of Native "themed" imagery associated with its "Red Raiders" mascot; the district will retain the moniker for the time being. The resolution calling for a new logo and mascot was presented by the Jamestown Public Schools Mascot Committee, which was tasked with reviewing the district's use of the "Red Raiders" mascot.

Cheyenne Mountain High School (CO) "Red-Tailed Hawks"

On Wednesday, July 7, the Cheyenne Mountain School District Board of Education officially adopted the "Red-Tailed Hawks" as its new mascot. The decision comes after the district voted to retire its "Indians" mascot in March, months before Governor Jared Polis signed into law the statewide ban on Native "themed" mascots. More than 2,700 alumni, parents, students, and other community members responded to the district's online poll of potential new mascots, with "Red-Tailed Hawks" garnering the most support.

Ending "Indian" Mascots is an informational service provided by the National Congress of
American Indians (NCAI), which is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. It has been leading Indian Country's movement to eradicate offensive "Indian" mascots from sports and popular culture for the past 50 years by educating schools, sports leagues, and the general public about the many harms they cause Native people. To learn more, please click here. To request NCAI’s assistance in your community, please email mascots@ncai.org.

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.