

**RESOLUTION FROM THE EMERGENCY SUMMIT OF SCHOLARS AND ACTIVISTS  
DEFENDING CRITICAL THINKING AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES  
LAWRENCE, KS, SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2006**

WHEREAS Indigenous Peoples continue to defend their sovereignty and resist ongoing efforts to eliminate their (our) peoples, cultures, lands, resources, and histories, and we recognize that access to, and promotion of, historical truths and analyses that challenge the oppressive aspects of the status quo are essential to the survival of all of all Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and youth; and

WHEREAS the University of Colorado has expanded its attacks on Professor Ward Churchill to encompass not only his critique of U.S. foreign policy, but to undermine his analysis of the history and lived realities of Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS the University of Colorado is attempting to fire Ward Churchill based upon pretextual charges of research misconduct which have been “investigated” by a committee of non-Indigenous academics, none of whom are experts in American Indian Studies; and

WHEREAS the University of Colorado’s investigative committee has chosen to reinforce mainstream “truths” concerning the 1837 smallpox epidemic and other matters while accusing Ward Churchill of “disrespecting American Indian oral traditions” despite extensive testimony by Indigenous scholars supporting Professor Churchill’s historical interpretations; and

WHEREAS the biased nature of the University of Colorado’s investigation into Professor Churchill’s scholarship can be seen in the University’s repeated violations of its own rules and in its committee’s insistence that Professor Churchill be held to arbitrarily chosen standards which have not applied to other scholars; and

WHEREAS the University of Colorado’s investigative committee has justified the severity of its recommended sanctions on the basis of Professor Churchill’s “bad attitude,” i.e., his refusal to recant his understandings of historical truth; and

WHEREAS the attacks on Ward Churchill, one of the most prolific scholars in the field of American Indian Studies, are being used to chill the expression of counterhegemonic truths, to re-impose a “consensus” history dictated by the perspective of the colonizers, and to fuel racist attacks on students and scholars of color; and

WHEREAS we recognize that the attacks on Ward Churchill are part of a national and international movement to undermine the disciplines of Indigenous, Ethnic, and Gender studies which emerged as a result of protracted community-based struggles in response to the failures of mainstream disciplines to accurately reflect our collective histories and realities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars and activists, call upon those who value academic freedom, the unconstrained pursuit of truth, and true diversity in education to join us in urging the University of Colorado to: (1) acknowledge that its investigation was deeply flawed, (2) rescind the report of the investigative committee, (3) fully reinstate Professor Churchill, and (4) acknowledge the value and necessity of perspectives which challenge orthodoxy in the pursuit of truth.

**Signatories:** (institutional affiliations listed for identification purposes only)

Liz Aaronsohn, Ed.D, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain  
Norma Alarcon, Professor Emeritus, University of California-Berkeley  
Elizabeth Ammons, Harriet H. Fay Professor of Literature, Tufts University  
Faith Attaguile, Activist  
Andrew Austin, Assoc. Professor, Social Change and Development, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay  
C. George Caffetznis, Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern Maine  
Robert S. Chang, Professor of Law, Loyola Law School  
Michele Cheung, Adjunct Professor, University of Southern Maine  
Roland Chrisjohn (Oneida), Professor of Native Studies, St. Thomas University, New Brunswick  
Sumi Cho, Professor, DePaul University College of Law  
Aziz Choudry, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University, Montreal  
Todd Tamanend Clark (Onodowaga-Lenape), Artist, Cultural Historian, and Minister of Information, Autonomous American Indian Movement of Pennsylvania  
Kathleen Cleaver, Senior Research Fellow, Emory Law School; Lecturer, African American Studies, Yale University  
Dana L. Cloud, Assoc. Professor of Communication Studies, University of Texas  
James D. Cockcroft, State University of New York-SLN  
Sandi E. Cooper, Professor of History, City University of New York  
Jim Craven (Blackfoot), Professor Economics, Clark College, Vancouver  
Michael Davidson, Editor and Professor, Boca Raton, Florida  
Elisa Facio, Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado-Boulder  
Terri Ginsberg, Ph.D., Cinema Studies, Ithaca College  
Deena J. González, Professor and Chair, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, Loyola Marymount University  
Gil Gott, Assoc. Professor and Graduate Director, International Studies, DePaul University  
Larry Hampshire, Activist  
Jennifer Harbury, Attorney, Author and Activist  
Bill Ong Hing, Professor of Law and Asian American Studies, University of California-Davis  
Ruth Y. Hsu, Assoc. Professor of English, University of Hawai'i-Manoa  
Evelyn Hu-DeHart, Professor and Director, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Brown University  
Abdeen Jabara, Attorney  
Derrick Jensen, Author and Activist  
Bruce E. Johansen, Professor of Communication and Native American Studies, University of Nebraska-Omaha  
George Katsiaficas, Professor, Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Robert Kirkconnell, Me'tis Nation of the South, Academics for Justice  
Eiko Kosasa, Lecturer, Political Science, Leeward Community College, Hawai'i  
Holly Maguigan, Professor of Law, New York University Law School  
Chris Mato Nunpa (Dakota), Assoc. Professor of Indigenous Nations & Dakota Studies, Southwest Minnesota State University  
Barbara Mann (Seneca), Author and Lecturer, University of Toledo  
Peter McLaren, Professor of Education, University of California-Los Angeles  
Russell Means (Oglala Lakota), Activist, Author and Attorney  
Dale Minami, Attorney and President, Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans  
Glenn T. Morris (Shawnee), Professor of Political Science, University of Colorado-Denver  
Carlos Munoz, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California-Berkeley  
Marcy Newman, Visiting Professor, Center for American Studies and Research, American University of Beirut  
Nancy K. Ota, Professor of Law, Albany Law School  
Jim Page, Musician  
Vince Petronio, Asst. Professor, Communication Studies, University of Rhode Island  
Kamala Platt, Lecturer, English, University of Texas  
Barry H. Rodrigue, Assoc. Professor of Arts and Humanities and Indigenous Studies, University of Southern Maine  
Michael M. Rooke-Ley, Emeritus Professor Law and Visiting Professor, Santa Clara University School of Law  
Suzanne Ross, Asst. Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Natsu Taylor Saito, Professor of Law, Georgia State University College of Law  
Grace Shimizu, Director, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project  
Eric Shragge, Assoc. Professor, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University, Montreal  
Glenn Spagnuolo, Progressive Italians to Transform the Columbus Holiday  
David Stannard, Professor of American Studies, University of Hawai'i-Manoa  
Rene Still Day, Executive Director, N.A.T.I.V.E.S.  
Tink Tinker, Professor of American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions, Iliff School of Theology, Denver  
John Hayakawa Torok, Ph.D. candidate, Ethnic Studies, University of California-Berkeley  
Haunani Kay Trask (Kanaka Maoli), Professor of Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawai'i-Manoa  
Edward Valandra (Sicangu Lakota), Asst. Professor of Native American Studies, University of California-Davis  
Sharon Venne (Cree), Attorney and Author, Edmonton

Robert A. Williams, Jr. (Lumbee), Professor of Law and American Indian Studies; Director, Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program, University of Arizona

Michael Yellow Bird (Arikara/Hidatsa), Assoc. Professor of Indigenous Nations Studies, University of Kansas; Director, Center for Indigenous Peoples' Critical and Intuitive Thinking