

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF DEBORAH DAVENPORT TO SERVE ON  
THE OKLAHOMA REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

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**IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION**

**RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**TO APPROVE** a Resolution supporting the nomination of Deborah Davenport, Choctaw Nation Tribal Member and Choctaw Nation Senior Manager of Vocational Rehabilitation, to serve as a member of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council as a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council solicits nominations for a representative of tribal vocational rehabilitation programs;

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation"), the Chief has the power to "establish and appoint committees, members and delegates to represent the Choctaw Nation with the advice and consent of the Tribal Council.";

**WHEREAS**, Chief Gary Batton nominates Deborah Davenport, Choctaw Nation Senior Manager of Vocational Rehabilitation and Choctaw Nation Tribal Member, to serve as a member of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council to represent the Nation and vocational rehabilitation programs administered by tribal nations in Oklahoma;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Davenport's education, experience, and expertise as well as her commitment to serving in vocational rehabilitation for the Nation make her a great fit for this role;

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma supports efforts to build and grow the Nation's relationship with the State of Oklahoma, grow its relationships and partnerships with other governments around the state, and build strong relationships with other tribal nations;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Davenport is highly qualified and equipped to serve on this committee due to her commitment to serving the Nation's tribal members and utilizing her skillset to provide tribal members with disabilities and unique workforce needs with the training needed to enter and succeed in the workforce. Ms. Davenport is one of the longest serving program directors for tribal vocational rehabilitation in the state, and has the heart and expertise to truly make a difference. She will provide a unique and experienced voice to this role; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to support the nomination of Ms. Deborah Davenport to serve on the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council as a representative of the Nation.


**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for supporting the nomination of Ms. Deborah Davenport to serve on the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council.

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**CERTIFICATION**

*I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that eleven (11) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on October 14, 2023. I further certify that the foregoing Council Resolution CR- 01 -24 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of eleven (11) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.*

  
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Ronald Perry, Secretary  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
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Thomas Williston, Speaker  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Batten, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 10-17-23

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**Purpose/Need of Council Resolution:** The purpose of this Resolution is to support the nomination of Deborah Davenport, Choctaw Nation tribal member and Senior Manager of Vocational Rehabilitation, to serve as a member of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council. Ms. Davenport has worked in this area for the Nation for more than 20 years, making her extremely qualified for this role. Her role on this committee would positively affect rehabilitation services for Choctaw people and all Native people in Oklahoma. If appointed, she would be the only Native representative on the committee. This nomination would further the Nation's strategic goals of supporting service delivery as well as promoting and exercising sovereignty by giving the Nation a statewide voice in policy matters and achieve the Nation's legislative goal of Choctaw Tribal Members appointed to political positions.

**Title of Council Resolution: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF DEBORAH  
DAVENPORT TO SERVE ON THE OKLAHOMA REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

**Agency:** Government Relations

**Budget:** N/A

**Match Required:** N/A

**Request by:** John Hobbs, SEO Communications

**DEBBIE DAVENPORT**  
*PO Box 851 Hugo, OK 74743*  
(580) 317-7827 | [ddavenport@choctawnation.com](mailto:ddavenport@choctawnation.com)

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**Vocational Rehabilitation Services | Program Director**

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**A seasoned Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist and Program Director, who is a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Seventeen-plus years of experience in the management of highly successful federally funded program. Focuses on providing quality services to American Indians with disabilities, to prepare for, enter into, and engage in or retain successful employment.**

**Professional Skills:**

**Leadership | Program Regulation Compliance | Grant Program Management | Budgeting | Confidentiality | Cultural Sensitivity**

**Employment Experience**

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**Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation | Director – Hugo, OK**

*2006 – Present*

- ❖ Management of a federal grant
- ❖ Budget Planning and Management
- ❖ Supervision of Rehabilitation professionals in multiple field offices
- ❖ Development of program policy and provide training in policy interpretation
- ❖ Assist staff in consumer resolutions
- ❖ Review and sign off on eligibility determinations
- ❖ Perform case reviews
- ❖ Supervise and provide staff support and mentorship with the CNVR program.

**Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation | VR Counselor – Hugo, OK**

*1999 – 2003*

- ❖ Conduct in-take interviews with the applicants to determine eligibility.
- ❖ Evaluate the functional and vocational capacity of the applicant
- ❖ Provide assessments and evaluations to determine appropriate VR services
- ❖ Work with the consumer to develop a rehabilitation plan and aid in securing employment
- ❖ Manage case plans and make revisions as needed.
- ❖ Provide a referral source and stay informed of tribal, local, and state agencies to gain knowledge of services available for the consumers.

**Choctaw Nation Projects With Industry | PWI Counselor – Hugo, OK**

*1998-1999*

- ❖ Conduct in-take interviews with the applicants to determine eligibility.
- ❖ Provide assessments and evaluations to determine appropriate PWI services
- ❖ Work with the consumer to develop a plan and aid in securing employment
- ❖ Manage case plans and make revisions as needed.
- ❖ Provide a referral source and stay informed of tribal, local, and state agencies to gain knowledge of services available for the consumers.
- ❖ Maintained business contacts and networking

**Education**

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- **Bachelor of Science in Business Management** *1997*  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK

- **Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Certification** *2022*  
Northwest Indian College, Bellingham, WA
  - Completed 7-course track for TVR Studies certification

**Memberships**

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- American Indians Into Psychology – Board Member
- Better Beginnings Leadership Team – Board Member
- Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR)
- Oklahoma Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Council (OKTVR) – Co-chair