



# AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER- CHICAGO

3401 W. Ainslie St. | Chicago, IL 60625  
773-275-5871 | [www.aicchicago.org](http://www.aicchicago.org)

Dear University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign community,

The American Indian Center of Chicago is writing this letter of support as our endorsement for the adoption of the Kingfisher as the new mascot of the University of Illinois. As the oldest Native American serving institution within the state of Illinois our organization strives to be a primary cultural and community resource for Native people. We believe that in order to have a more equitable future we must adhere to our mission and support understanding and communication between Native and non-Native peoples. The adoption of the Kingfisher aligns with our vision of a more equitable future and the start of reconciliation between the University of Illinois and the larger Native community.

The American Indian Center stands in full support of adopting the Kingfisher as the new mascot of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and we urge the University administration and Board of Trustees to take prompt and decisive action so that our communities may heal, reconcile and move forward.

Sincerely,

**Fawn E. Pochel (Saulteaux Cree),**  
Education Coordinator American Indian Center-Chicago