



# Theta Nu Xi

## Multicultural Sorority, Inc.

For Immediate Release  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### **STATEMENT: Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. Stands in Solidarity With Sisters of Native American, Indigenous, and First Nations descent; Indigenous communities; and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in the Fight Against Environmental and Social Injustice**

Chapel Hill, NC -- On this day when much of the country is celebrating a day designated as “Columbus Day”, and with Halloween around the corner, Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. takes the opportunity to stand in solidarity with the organization’s sisters of Native American, Indigenous, and First Nations descent; Indigenous communities across the country and continent; and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; in the fight against cultural appropriation and environmental injustice.

Recently, over 200 sovereign tribes came together in unification to protect the water and the lands of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. This act, which stemmed from the youth of the tribe, has grown into a vital and critical awakening of how our land is suffering from big companies, feeling a responsibility to protect Mother Earth. There is not a guarantee that the pipelines will remain intact. Should they break or burst, the oil will contaminate the waters of the Missouri and Cannon Ball River, which affect millions of lives. Water is a precious resource that is necessary to sustain life for all people. Not only will the pipeline affect drinking water, but will also desecrate sacred lands, such as burial grounds, and stone features that are important to the culture of the Standing Rock Sioux people.

We stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, the Standing Rock Protectors, American Indian and Indigenous members of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc., and all Indigenous communities, given that these environmental justice issues impact us all, Native and non-Native alike, and the responsibility falls on all of us.

We also publicly pledge, in accordance with our mission, to promote a culture within our organization where sisters refrain from participating in the appropriation of American Indian and Native culture. Headdresses, totems, “spirit animals”, and other American Indian symbolisms have sacred meaning rooted in various cultural traditions. Dressing as a Native American is particularly offensive as each tribal regalia has cultural significance.

The Native American, Indigenous, and First Nations sisters of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. include at least 27 sisters from 25 distinct tribal nations. They do not represent a monolithic “Native American” identity, but wish to ensure that the sisterhood and the country as a whole understand that after 500 years of colonialism, systematic oppression, and the lasting impact of historical trauma, they are not extinct. They remain, and they remain committed to protecting not just their communities, but our land as a whole, and we as a sisterhood stand by them in solidarity.



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**For more information or to speak to a representative of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc.,** please contact Tanya S. Ardit at [director.communications@thetanuxi.org](mailto:director.communications@thetanuxi.org).

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*Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. was founded on April 11, 1997, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a mission to promote leadership, multiculturalism, and self improvement through academic excellence, involvement in and service to the campus and community, as well as being living examples of sisterhood across different races, cultures, religions, backgrounds, and lifestyles. To learn more about Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc., visit [www.thetanuxi.org](http://www.thetanuxi.org).*