



SAIGE Position on Derogatory Sports Mascots and Team Names

December 5, 2013

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) affirms its opposition to any use of the term "redskins." This word is pejorative and racist therefore we reject its use, particularly when used as an expression of "honor." The origin of this word is from the dark history of America when non-Indians were paid bounties for proof they killed indigenous peoples. A derogatory and inflammatory genocidal term has no positive meaning to American Indian or Alaska Native peoples. Purposefully using the term constitutes hate speech, is verbally abusive, a form of harassment, and creates hostile work environments for all informed Americans, including American Indians and Alaska Natives.

SAIGE will work to rid our Nation of the ignorance and hate associated with the use of this term.

SAIGE is the first and only national non-profit organization representing American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Federal, Tribal, State, and local government employees. SAIGE provides a forum on the issues, challenges, and opportunities of AI/ANs in all forms of government workplaces as we strive to foster an effective professional network among AI/AN government employees, our allies and supporters. We are mutually supportive of the positions taken by Native and non-Native organizations in opposition to the use of this term.