



Change the Mascot!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Change the Mascot Praises Actions Taken by Conrad Schools of Science to Remove R-Word Nickname

Oneida Nation Homelands (March 19, 2015) The Change the Mascot campaign, led by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Oneida Indian Nation, today is applauding Conrad Schools of Science in Delaware for taking action to change the school's R-word mascot. A recently released report from the Red Clay Consolidated School District superintendent stated that steps are being taken to replace the name and mascot for the school's athletic teams prior to the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

Conrad Schools of Science is the second high school to address the issue this week. On Monday evening, the Lancaster Central School District Board in New York unanimously decided to eliminate the use of the offensive racial slur at Lancaster High School.

NCAI Executive Director Jackie Pata and Oneida Nation Representative Ray Halbritter released the following statement in response to today's news:

"We applaud the Clay Consolidated School District Superintendent and the Conrad Schools of Science's Retire the Mascot Committee for taking pro-active steps to remove this dictionary-defined racial slur from their school. By standing up for what is right, their actions are a shining example of the American ideals of respect and tolerance."

All across the country, schools are making the determination to give up this offensive name. In 2013, students at Cooperstown High School in New York voted to drop the R-word slur as their school's nickname. In 2014, the Oklahoma City School Board and Houston Independent School District both also announced plans to remove their schools' R-word mascots.

Change the Mascot is a grassroots campaign that works to educate the public about the damaging effects on Native Americans arising from the continued use of the R-word. This civil and human rights movement has helped reshape the debate surrounding the Washington team's name and brought the issue to the forefront of social consciousness.

Since its launch last season, Change the Mascot has garnered support from a diverse coalition of prominent advocates including elected officials from both parties, Native American tribes, sports icons, leading journalists and news publications, civil and human rights organizations and religious leaders.

See story: Conrad dropping Redskins nickname, 3.19.15, delawareonline.com/story/sports/high-school/2015/03/19/conrad-taking-steps-drop-redskins-name-mascot/25019071/

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