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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**President Obama to Appoint MBCI Chief Phyliss Anderson
to Key Education Post**

CHOCTAW, Miss. – (February 22, 2016) –President Barack Obama announced Friday his intent to appoint Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE).

In a press statement released from the White House, President Obama said, “I am honored that these talented individuals have decided to serve our country. They bring their years of experience and expertise to this Administration, and I look forward to working with them.”

Chief Anderson will serve alongside 14 other members. The council advises the Secretary of Education on funding and administration of programs as it relates to Indian children and adult education under Title VII, PART A of Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

“The responsibility of education in our tribal communities is very important to our future. I am extremely honored in President Obama’s confidence in my leadership and I look forward to serving alongside the other gifted and capable members of this council,” said Chief Anderson.

Chief Anderson is currently serving her second term as Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, an office she has held since 2011. As Chief, she serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Tribal Government and, among other tasks, oversees the Tribe’s gaming, hospitality, and family destination resort industry, multiple business enterprises and economic development initiatives, comprehensive educational and healthcare systems, Reservation-wide law enforcement and police protection, Choctaw Tribal Courts, social services programs, recreation and community development, and natural resources. Chief Anderson is also responsible for the administration of more than \$450 million in annual Tribal budgets and Reservation-wide program operations for the benefit of all Tribal citizens. Previously, she was Tribal Council Representative for the Red Water Community from 2003 to 2011 and Director of the Tribe’s Department of Natural Resources from 1984 to 2003. Chief Anderson chairs the boards of the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, Choctaw Health Center, Chahta Enterprises, the Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise, and



the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise. She is a member of the boards of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., the National Congress of American Indians, Choctaw Missions, and the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Advisory Board. She received an A.A. from East Central Community College.

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the leadership of Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, has an enrolled membership of more than 10,000 people and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in Choctaw, Miss., the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The tribe provides a range of governmental services including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, and a center for the elderly, among many others. Phyliss J. Anderson serves as the first female Chief in Mississippi Choctaw history.

