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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**MBCI to Start Airing First Nations Experience**

CHOCTAW, Miss. – (March 2, 2016) – On March 1, 2016, the Choctaw-run MaxxSouth channel returned to the air full time with First Nations Experience (FNX). FNX is the first and only public TV network in the U.S. dedicated to Native American content.

“I am so pleased that our Tribal channel is once again be on the airwaves,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. “As an added plus, our new programming provider, First Nations Experience, will feature Native American programming. Channel 5 has been off-air since TLC left in early 2014. We are opening an exciting new chapter for our viewing audience.”

This partnership between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Choctaw Video and FNX will still allow for Choctaw News to be aired at 12:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Special programming specific to Choctaw will be aired on a pre-emptive basis.

The creation of Choctaw Video and airing Choctaw programming on Channel 5 began on July 1, 1990 by the late Bob Ferguson. The Learning Channel (TLC) was just beginning, and Ferguson used their daily programming in between his news show “WHTV Pictorial Report”. Today, Choctaw Video records and edits footage of many Tribal events that take place throughout the year. These events are featured in Tribal news broadcasts and for DVD sales.

FNX was created at KVCR Public Television in San Bernardino, California, through a gift from founding partners, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. It went on the air on September 25, 2011. FNX is currently carried by stations broadcasting in 9 states from Alaska to Illinois, including the metro areas of Chicago and Los Angeles.

“FNX is thrilled to have the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians join our family of national affiliates, said Alfredo Cruz, General Manager of FNX. “We look forward to serving the community and strengthening our programming partnership. FNX is committed to being a vehicle for indigenous voices across the Americas and around the world. I hope the Choctaw Tribal audience finds our programming to be a valuable addition to their viewing options and that FNX enriches the hearts and lives of all who watch.”

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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.*