



## Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Reveals Plans for Pope County Casino

**RUSSELLVILLE, ARK., (Oct. 2, 2019)** – Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma announced details of its proposal to build a four-diamond luxury casino and resort in Pope County today. Along with its plans to bring a world-class resort to the community, the proposal also includes an economic development package and scholarship program that will directly impact and meet the needs of the people of Pope County.



“We are pleased to finally have the chance to unveil our plan to bring a world-class resort to Pope County,” states Janie Dillard, senior executive officer for Choctaw Nation. “I have seen first-hand how our properties can positively change communities and generations for years to come. Our goal is to bring jobs and have an economic investment in the community just like we currently do in rural southeastern Oklahoma. We look forward to engaging with the

community and working alongside local businesses to bring an amazing experience to Arkansas.”

The \$247 million Choctaw Casino & Resort will include a premier gaming facility, luxury 4-Diamond hotel with spa and fitness center, outdoor amphitheater, conference/multi-purpose venue, three restaurants including a sports book, an entertainment bar, retail shop, and resort pool. The proposed casino will be located on the west side of Alaskan Trail just north of Hob Nob Road in Pope County. The project is expected to generate more than 1,000 jobs, and the estimated timeline for completion is 18-24 months.

The Choctaw Nation believes that education is a critical foundation in changing generations. This is evident by the many lives that have been changed by the Chahta Foundation, the Choctaw Nation’s education foundation. In this spirit Choctaw Casino & Resort will partner with Arkansas Tech University to establish a similar program to change the lives and families of Pope County residents for generations to come.

The scholarship fund that will be established is focused on helping to satisfy the unmet tuition needs of college students that will be attending Arkansas Tech University. The program would benefit full-time students who reside in Pope County, graduated from a high school located in Pope County, and are entering Arkansas Tech directly after graduating from high school. To date, the Nation has given \$16 million in education funding to more than 9,000 students all over the country.

The Choctaw Nation has historically worked with the communities it directly impacts to help meet the needs that result from its presence. The Choctaw Nation has pledged more than \$73 million in support to Pope County and the surrounding areas over a 10-year time period.

### **About Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Division of Commerce**

The Choctaw Nation is the third largest Indian Nation in the United States with close to 200,000 tribal members and 9,000 employees. The Division of Commerce manages an array of businesses including 20 gaming sites, three resorts, six hotels, a KOA RV park, six restaurant franchises, two country markets, a printing company, 17 travel plazas, 12 ranches and farms encompassing 65,000 acres where they manage 3,000 cattle and harvest 130,000 pounds of pecans. For more information visit, [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com).

###