

Columbia's Recognition of its First Peoples

We stand together on lands which Sachem Uncas and his family used as a hunting and fishing preserve. These lands in Eastern Connecticut that encompass Columbia and neighboring towns were stewarded by Mohegan ancestors. We also recognize that our town has a highway that transects these lands, an Indigenous pathway connecting Connecticut's shore communities to the Connecticut tidal river in the northwest, used by Mohegans and their neighbors, the Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugusett, Nipmuc, and Lenape peoples. It registered the footsteps of the 90 or so Native students, boys and girls, from 11 tribes from eastern North America who came here to attend Moor's Charity School from 1755 - 1770. From the Occom Garden Blessing Ceremony – September 25, 2022