Celebrating Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Message from Kimberly M. Goff-Crews, Secretary and Vice President for University Life [1]

Members of the university community are marking Indigenous Peoples’ Day on Monday, October 9, and Indigenous Peoples’ Month throughout November. Indigenous Peoples’ Day is an opportunity to honor the native peoples of the Americas and to reflect on their rich and continuing cultural heritage.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Native American Cultural Center (NACC) as an independent center on campus that serves undergraduates, Graduate, and professional students and is a community hub for faculty and staff.

Several events are scheduled to mark Indigenous Peoples’ Day, November’s Indigenous Peoples’ Month, and the anniversary. The Native and Indigenous Students at Yale (NISAY) have planned events throughout the week of October 9. November events include the Henry Roe Cloud Conference, the 10-year anniversary of the NACC, and Indigenous Arts Night. You can find more details as they are added on the NAAC Instagram account at @YaleNatives [2].

I invite all members of the Yale community to celebrate and reflect on Monday and again in November, and to recognize the vibrant history, diverse cultures, and meaningful contributions of the indigenous peoples of our community and our country. We especially honor the Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Niantic, and the Quinnipiac nations and other Algonquian-speaking peoples for stewarding through generations the lands and waterways of what is now the State of Connecticut.
Members of the Yale community have many backgrounds, interests, and identities, and they may mark and celebrate October 9 in different ways—as Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Columbus Day, and Italian Heritage Day—even as classes, research, and work on campus continue.

For all of us, these commemorations can prompt reflection on the complicated history of the United States and our unfinished journey toward “liberty and justice for all.”

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