

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion December 3, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Public Streaming Link (with live captioning): <http://ait.uconn.edu/bot>

(A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website <https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/> within seven days of the meeting.)

Call to order at **3:00 p.m.**

1. Public Participation (limited to agenda items)*

*Individuals who wish to speak during the Public Participation portion of the Tuesday, December 3, meeting must do so 24 hours in advance of the meeting's start time (i.e., 3:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2) by emailing BoardCommittees@uconn.edu. Speaking requests must include a name, telephone number, topic, and affiliation with the University (i.e., student, employee, member of the public). The Committee may limit the entirety of the public comment to a maximum of 30 minutes. As an alternative, individuals may submit written comments via BoardCommittees@uconn.edu, and all comments will be transmitted to the Committee.

2. Minutes from the December 11, 2023, Special Meeting

3. Minutes from the July 15, 2024, Special Joint Meeting of the Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Student Life Committee

4. Welcome and Introductions of Committee Members – Dr. Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Vice-Chair

5. ODI Updates – Dr. Jeffrey Hines, Interim Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer,
Office for Diversity and Inclusion

6. UConn Tribal Education Initiative Memorandum of Agreement – Dr. Anne D'Alleva, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Sandy Grande, Professor of Political Science and Native American and Indigenous Studies, Rodney Butler, Tribal Council Chairman, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and Beth Regan, Chairwoman & Justice, Council of Elders, Mohegan Tribe

7. Cultural Center Transition to the Provost Office Update – Provost D'Alleva

8. University Senate Representative Report

9. Executive Session

10. Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: *If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations, please e-mail the Board of Trustees Office at boardoftrustees@uconn.edu prior to the meeting.*



Tribal Educational Initiative

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Tribal Nations – UConn

Memorandum of Agreement

Establishes the terms of **relationship** between the Signatory Tribes and the University of Connecticut

Recognizes UConn's establishment on the **traditional homelands** of the American Indian peoples who have lived in this region since time immemorial

Attends to the history of **Indigenous dispossession** instantiated by the Morrill Act (Land Grant)

Provides a structured framework for a **mutually beneficial** and **collaborative partnership**, whereby the Signatory Tribes and UConn will work together to build **vibrant Indigenous** communities, a **better University**, and a **thriving Quinnehtukqut** (Connecticut)

The Backstory

BEGINNING IN 2020...



Land-Grab Universities

A High Country News Investigation

By Robert Lee, Tristan Ahtone, Margaret Pearce, Kalen Goodluck, Geoff McGhee, Cody Leff, Katherine Lanpher and Taryn Salinas.

Overview

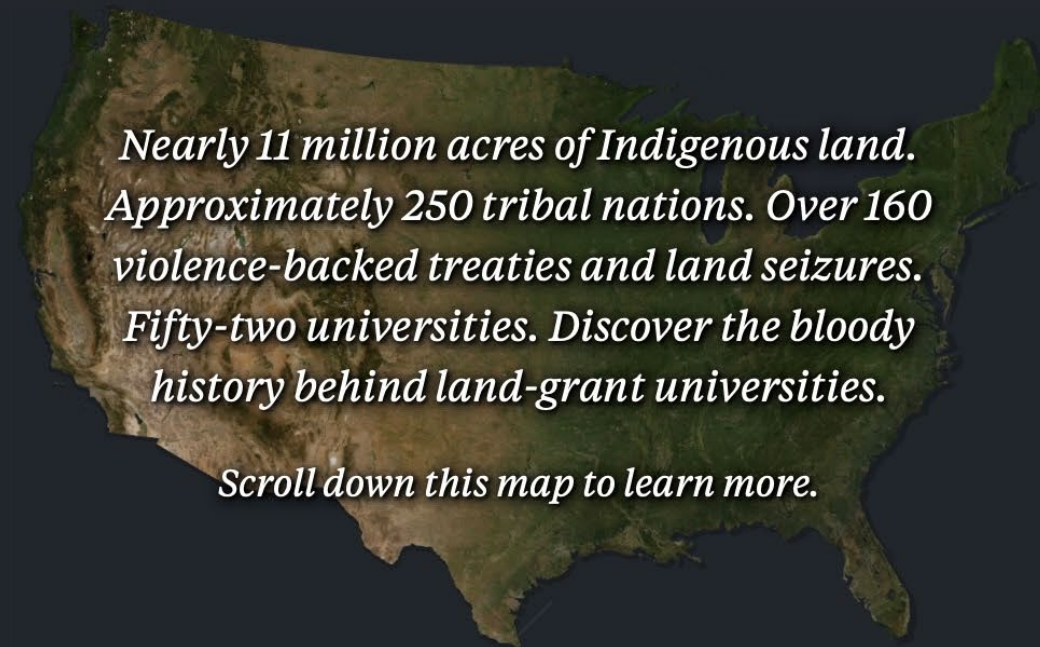
Universities

Tribal Nations

Lands

Stories

How the United States funded land-grant universities with expropriated Indigenous land.



Nearly 11 million acres of Indigenous land. Approximately 250 tribal nations. Over 160 violence-backed treaties and land seizures. Fifty-two universities. Discover the bloody history behind land-grant universities.

Scroll down this map to learn more.



LAND GRAB CT

GLEN MITOMA

SAGE PHILLIPS

GREENHOUSE STUDIOS

Through the Morrill Act, **Connecticut** received **180,000 acres** of land across 12 states, which it sold for **\$135k** (\$4.6 million today)

Proceeds **funded scholarships** for CT students to attend **Yale**, the first land-grant college (1863-1893)

In 1893 the Connecticut General Assembly **transferred land-grant** status and revenue from Yale to **Storrs Agricultural College**

1893-Present **UConn** continues to receive revenue related to the Morrill Act

The donated “public lands” were part of and remain the **homelands** of the **five Signatory Tribes**: the Eastern Pequot, Golden Hill Paugussett, Mashantucket Pequot, Mohegan, and Schaghticoke

Native American and Indigenous Studies

First cohort hire 2020



UConn

Tribal Educational Initiative

Build good relations

Develop understanding

Amplify research

Teach Native American Studies

Engage Tribal Communities





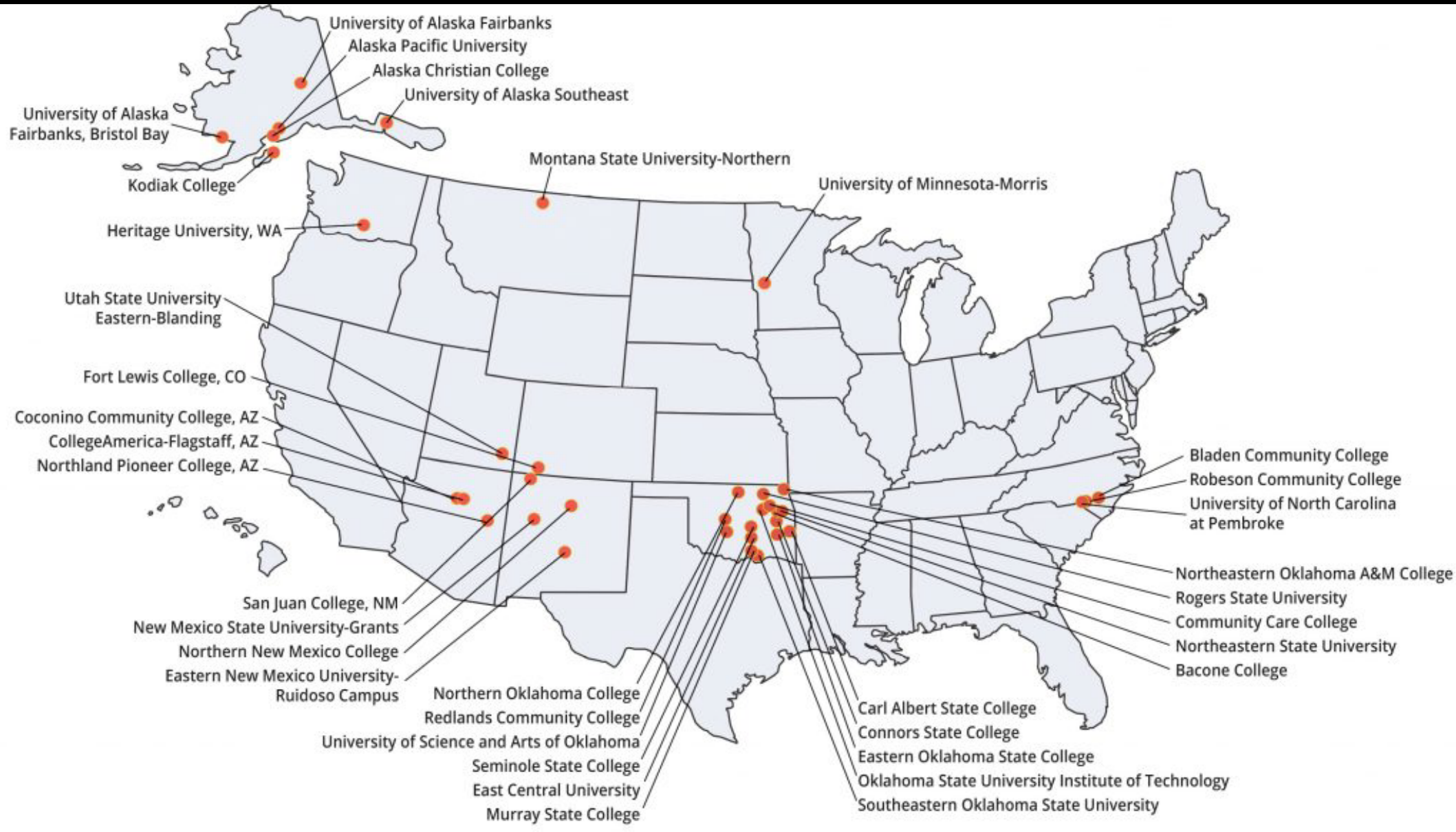


UConn | AVERY POINT





Tribal Colleges and University's (TCUs) in the U.S.



Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions

Memorandum of Agreement

MARCH 2024-NOVEMBER 2024

What does the MOA do?

Acknowledges historical harm

Establishes terms for good relations

Provides framework for Tribal-University Partnerships

Innovates higher education

Makes history...?

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

For Collaboration Regarding Educational Services, Research, and Economic Development

By and Between

The University of Connecticut and the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, Golden Hill Paugussett, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the Mohegan Tribe, and the Schaghticoke

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the history of land-grant institutions resulted in the dispossession of American Indians and enacted harm against their peoples and communities; and

WHEREAS there is a national reckoning among land-grant institutions to fully acknowledge their history and actively work to make amends with American Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS the mission of the University of Connecticut (UConn) as the state's flagship, land- and sea-grant institution, promotes "the health and well-being" of all citizens, "through enhancing the social, economic, cultural and natural environments of the state and beyond."

MISSION

The University of Connecticut and the five recognized Tribal Nations in the state of Connecticut – the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, Golden Hill Paugussett, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the Mohegan Tribe, and Schaghticoke (hereafter the "Signatory Tribal Nations") will work together to strengthen their relationship, striving to ensure that Native American and Indigenous students, staff, and faculty at UConn are provided with the intellectual, academic,

University History

First university in the eastern U.S. to sign an MOA with Tribal Nations

First Land Grant Institution in the eastern U.S. to sign an MOA with Tribal Nations

First Native American-Serving Nontribal Institution (NASANTI) in the Northeast

“Our
History
is the
Future...”

2026 the **250th Anniversary** of the signing of the
Declaration of Independence

The colonial violence of the **Pequot War** and
Mystic Massacre (1637) made U.S. state
formation possible

UConn Avery Point is situated approx. five miles
from the historic site of the Mystic Massacre

The **rededication of Avery Point** as a NASNTI
by 2026 would not only place UConn at the center
of 250th commemorations, but also of national
efforts to **recast history** toward more just and
democratic futures

12.11.24



UConn (Re)Makes History