City Rests On Hallowed Ground

BY SORINA SZAKACS

10,000 years ago, the City’s campus land grew lush with fields of grasses and wildflowers, wild grapes, wild rose and wild lettuce. The willow and sycamore trees lined the bank of a freshwater creek full of rainbow trout and king salmon. What once was the land of the Tongva villages is now covered in concrete and asphalt. Buried deep under the campus, City’s origins cannot be ignored. The college lives on hallowed ground, and each part of the 49-acre campus pays tribute to what was once part of a vast Indian Country.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variations on the name including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month” have been issued each year since 1994. The initiative highlights the contributions of the first Americans to the establishment and growth of the United States.

Marisa Page, First Nations development officer, says the celebrations should last longer than a month.

“What we know at First Nations — and what some people just now seem to be realizing (at least since 1990) — is that Tribal people have been here since long before the beginning of the US.”

— Marisa Page

“We helped colonize powers throughout the history of North America. We assisted the Spanish in the development of major cities in the Southwest and gave aid to the pilgrims to survive those first long winters. We taught the colonizers how to farm on unfamiliar lands, and we showed them how to track animals. Our contributions have made this country what it is today.”
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What we know of First Nations — and what some people just now seem to be realizing (at least since 1980) — is that Indigenous people have been here since long before the beginning of the US.

— Alphonse barrage

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