

Land Acknowledgement
Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts

Long Version:

We acknowledge that, here, we stand on Indigenous land, known to the original Algonkian Indian inhabitants as “Agawam,” or “Akawaham.” This Native locative name – which roughly translates to “low-lying lands” – encompassed a large region where canoes could easily land along both sides of the *Kwinitewk* (now called the Connecticut River) from present-day Enfield to the Holyoke Range. These Native people, known by the tribal name of Agawam, engaged in regular trade and diplomacy with other Indigenous people, most notably: the Quaboag to the East; the Podunk to the South; the Woronoco to the West; and the Nonotuck, Pocumtuck, and Sokoki to the North.

In 1636, when Agawam people first invited English colonists to trade and to settle a small town, they also attempted to preserve, in a written document (deed), Indigenous rights to hunt, fish, plant, and live on Native lands. Yet, the Agawam and their neighbors were eventually displaced by the English colonists who claimed this land for their own and re-named a portion of it as “Springfield.” We acknowledge the memory of these Indigenous nations who, despite having inhabited this land since the last era of glaciation more than 10,000 years ago, were decimated and dispersed during the 1600s to 1700s as a direct result of settler colonial trade, deceit, disease, and warfare. Although the survivors sought refuge with other Native nations in the northeast, very few direct descendants of the Agawam people live in Springfield today.

We acknowledge, however, that many other Native nations survive and still exercise sovereignty over their traditional homelands in parts of the area now called “New England.” We acknowledge, in particular, these Algonkian nations: the Nipmuc and the Wampanoag to the East; the Mohegan and Pequot and Schaghticoke to the South; the Mohican to the West; and the Abenaki to the North. Recognizing that the entirety of the North American continent constitutes lands that were once original Indigenous homelands, we affirm, honor, and respect the sovereignty of these and hundreds of other Native American nations that survive today.

Pronunciation Guide:

Algonkian [al-gone-kee-en]	Agawam [aa-gah-wahm]	Akawaham [ah-kah-wa-hahm]
Kwinitewk [kwin-eh-tek-wuh]	Quaboag [qua-bog]	Podunk [poe-dunk]
Woronoco [wore-oh-no-co]	Nonotuck [non-oh-tuck]	Pocumtuck [poe-come-tuck]
Sokoki [soh-koh-kee]	Nipmuc [nip-muck]	Wampanoag [wamp-ah-nawg]
Mohegan [moh-he-gahn]	Pequot [pee-kwaht]	Schaghticoke [scat-ti-coke]
Mohican [moh-hee-kuhn]	Abenaki [a-ben-a-kee]	

Short Version:

We acknowledge that Springfield College stands on the traditional homelands of the Indigenous Algonkian people known as “Agawam.” The Agawam were closely related and diplomatically

connected to the Quaboag to the East; the Podunk to the South; the Woronoco to the West; and the Nonotuck, Pocumtuck, and Sokoki to the North. We acknowledge the memory of these Indigenous nations who, after having inhabited this land for more than 10,000 years, were displaced in the 1600s to 1700s by English colonial settlers who exploited Native generosity and provoked warfare.

We acknowledge the surviving Native nations of what is now called “New England”: the Nipmuc and the Wampanoag to the East; the Mohegan and Pequot and Schaghticoke to the South; the Mohican to the West; and the Abenaki to the North. We affirm, honor, and respect the sovereignty of these and hundreds of other Native American nations across North America that survive today.