

Dear Pitzer Community,

Today, the second Monday in October, is Indigenous People's Day.

Native/ Indigenous people in the US have long called for the reevaluation and abolition of commemorating the still federally codified "Columbus Day," a celebration which commemorates a white supremacist false history of discovery, and erases the true narrative of settler-colonialism and genocide.

From the website of the [Indigenous People's Committee](#):

"The idea of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, held in Geneva, which passed that resolution. In July 1990, representatives from 120 Indian nations from every part of the Americas met in Quito, Ecuador in the First Continental Conference (Encuentro) on **500 Years of Indian Resistance**. The conference was also attended by many human rights, peace, social justice, and environmental organizations. **This was in preparation for the 500th anniversary of Native resistance to the European invasion of the Americas, 1492-1992. The Encuentro saw itself as fulfilling a prophecy that the Native nations would rise again "when the eagle of the north joined with the condor of the south."** At the suggestion of the Indigenous spiritual elders, the conference unanimously passed a resolution to transform **Columbus Day, 1992, "into an occasion to strengthen our process of continental unity and struggle towards our liberation."**

Indigenous People's Day is intended to disrupt the cycle of colonialism. On this day, we urge everyone to disrupt and engage critically with taught histories of Columbus and the colonization of America as a whole. What has been purposefully left out of this history? Who was this history written by? Who was this history written for? What was this history written to prove?

Furthermore, Pitzer College stands on the land of the [Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe](#) and we urge all individuals to understand that the institution of Pitzer College and all of us in the US are part of a larger American system of settler-colonialism. We have a responsibility to educate ourselves about the Tongva land upon which our institution sits, the Tongva people, how we can support them, and to be in solidarity with Native/ Indigenous peoples wherever we are. We encourage everyone [to locate whose Native land you are on by clicking here](#)



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and to commit to learning more about how you can support local Native/Indigenous movements.