

# MASSASOIT

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Social Justice Capstone: Bridges to Just Peace

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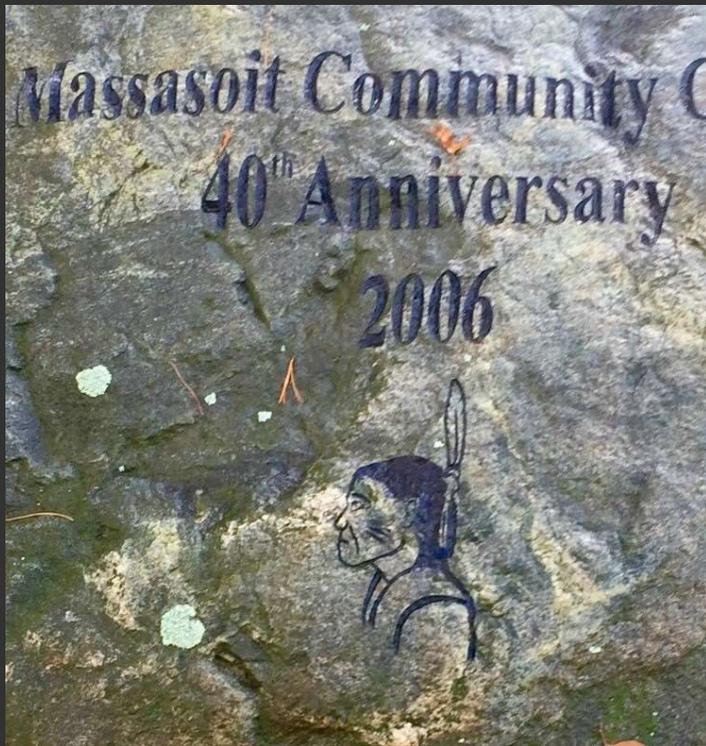
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# Background

A complaint was lodged against the school for misuse of the Massasoit name and unflattering image of Chief Massasoit on a monument dedicated to the college.

The monument was altered without consultation of the local Wampanoag community.

# Massasoit Ousamequin or Yellow Feather



# Native American Series

The President's Council for Diversity and Inclusion (PCDI) was charged with investigating an offering recommendations to the Board of Trustees for evaluation. To begin conversations, the PCDI brought together:

- Native American employees at Massasoit

- Members of the President's Council for Diversity and Inclusion (PCDI)

# Native American Series

The PCDI leadership interviewed two Native American employees and relevant issues that needed to be discussed. Their feedback suggested several stereotypes:

- What being Native American looks like

- That Native Americans are lazy and just live on government benefits

- That they need help and are helpless

# Native American Series

To begin discussions, a three-part series was designed to understand these key issues:

- Two discussions to engage the Native community and listen to their perspectives on image and identity

- An exhibition to highlight and experience Native culture

**Discussion Series:  
Image and Identity**

“I was taught in school that the Natives were the aggressors, trying to kill and take the land from the white men.”

“I didn’t realize there were any local Native tribes.”



# Native American Series

During the discussion several key issues became critically apparent:

- Native Americans are often invisible

- Have to prove minority status

- Blood quantum

- Extinction

- Culture vs. Opportunity

“As a woman of color, I am embarrassed that I didn’t know any of this.”

# Native American Series

## Challenges

Identifying Native Americans on campus either employees or students

Lack of awareness

## Successes

Energy and momentum

The support

The need for action

# Native American Series

## Recommendations

Correct the pronunciation of the college

Create two courses on Native American studies

Repository of case studies to use for embedded curriculum

Appoint a Native American to the Board of Trustees

Continue series discussions

Celebrate Indigenous People's Day and month

Grants department proposal for funding

# Mission Statement

Massasoit Community College is a dynamic, diverse learning community that supports all students in their education, leading to a career, transfer to four-year institutions, and the pursuit of lifelong learning. Faculty and staff are committed to student success and strive to offer accessible and innovative programs with comprehensive support services to prepare students for membership in a global society.

Massasoit Community College has a commitment to student success, affordability, access, diversity and inclusion, community, civic engagement, and regional economic development.