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The land where we find our Hartnell Campus sites was once called [Popeloutchom](#) and occupied by the Ohlone Tribes of [Amah Mutsun](#), [Costanoan Rumsen](#), Esselen, and Chalon, the indigenous people of the Central California Coastal area. These peoples existed peacefully in this region in at least nineteen documented villages for thousands of years before Spanish missionaries arrived in the 1760's. The ancestral lands ranged from San Francisco Bay to Big Sur, and through the Salinas River Valley, numbering at least 15,000 inhabitants before European contact.

According to Mutsun culture, the Creator, in his infinite wisdom, placed the Mutsun in the lands of Popeloutchum, their homeland, as the protectors and stewards of the lands, waters, plants, and other creatures of this place. The Creator blessed the Amah Mutsun with these magnificent lands. They were given a mild climate, bountiful foods from the land and sea, and a landscape that – even today – is considered among the most beautiful in the world.

Today the Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation and the Amah Mutsun Tribe each have over 600 members. They are emerging to reclaim and protect their cultural practice, language, and ancestral lands, while letting others know of their continued existence, concern for the environment, and desire for unity amongst all peoples.

Hartnell Community College District is grateful for the stewardship of the indigenous peoples over this beautiful land and we encourage everyone to honor these peoples and learn more about their traditions.

Recommended use:

As part of the history of Hartnell college

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