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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Akron, Ohio. September 27, 2016) The oldest landmark in Summit County gets its own modern mobile “app” this month as students from The Lippman School, Portage Path CLC, and the Northern Cheyenne Nation dedicate a new way to navigate Akron’s Portage Path.

Originally created by Native Americans, who populated the area for millennia before the first Europeans arrived, the Portage Path today exists as one of the oldest, most visible landmarks on the North American continent – crossing the watershed divide between the Cuyahoga River and Tuscarawas River.

On Monday, October 10 at 1:00pm, students from the three schools will gather on Portage Path at South Highland Avenue for a symbolic walk. The event is the culmination of a year-long project involving students from the three communities. Together, they created the content for a web-based mobile “app” that provides extensive information about the Indian trail, including its history and the natural world that it traverses.

The project was supported by an Educator Initiative Grant from Akron’s GAR Foundation. The app is “live,” and can be accessed at www.walkportagepath.org. The October 10 ceremony includes remarks from City of Akron officials and representatives of The Lippman School, Akron Public Schools, and the Northern Cheyenne Nation. Signage along the path will be unveiled outside of Portage Path CLC School. The marker bears a QR code that directs walkers and cyclists along the path to the app.

The event is co-sponsored by the Summit County Historical Society, which in 1999 marked the trail of the Portage Path for the first time, with monumental sculptures at each terminus of the Path, connected by fifty markers along the re-surveyed trail, in the shape of historic Indian blades.

The ceremony occurs on a public holiday that traditionally has honored Christopher Columbus. Some American cities have used the day to celebrate “Indigenous Peoples Day,” to honor the original inhabitants of the continent before European contact. The Akron ceremony will also feature traditional Northern Cheyenne drumming and singing.

The walk will begin at 1 p.m. one block south of the school to be followed by the dedication program and the unveiling of the trail marker and the mobile app. The public is welcome to attend. For more information please contact Sam Chestnut, Head of School, schestnut@thelippmanschool.org, 330-835-0071.