

NCAI 2004 "Renewing Connections, Strengthening Self Determination"



Major Event in September — Kurt Russo (standing) who works for the Lummi Nation in Washington checks out the Museum of the American Indian exhibit booth at this year's mid-year National Congress of American Indians conference in Uncasville, Connecticut. The booth was manned by the museum's Amy Van Allen and Muskogee Tribal member Justin Giles of the Creek Nation. The museum's opening is scheduled for September of this year.



International — NCAI Recording Secretary Juanita Majel-Dixon of the Temecula Band of Luiseno Mission Indians addresses the crowd at NCAI during the International Indigenous Peoples Meeting. NCAI is in its sixth year of trying to advance rights of Tribes all over the world in regards to self determination, land rights, education and taxation.



Successful — Foxwoods Casino, which is owned and operated by the nearby Mashantucket Pequot Tribe in Mashantucket, Connecticut (just eight miles from Uncasville) is the most successful casino operation in the world. The property has six casinos, several hotels, a number of restaurants and a shopping mall.



Blown Glass — This artistic blown glass art is a feature attraction inside the Mohegan Sun Casino - the site of this year's NCAI mid-year conference. The conference was hosted by the Mohegan Tribe. The piece stretches from the floor to the ceiling and was created by Northwest blown glass artist Dale Chiluly. According to Tribal sources, the piece cost \$1 million and it cost \$3 million to move it to Connecticut. In the background is an awesome indoor waterfall that fronts for the casino's Tuscany restaurant. To get to the restaurant you walk through the waterfall.

**Photos by
Brent Merrill**

Tall Glass — The Mohegan Sun Casino is seen from outside as it reaches into the sky. The casino is the pride and joy of the owners and operators — the people of the Mohegan Tribe. The Mohegan Sun features several casinos, restaurants, hotels, shopping malls, cultural exhibits and an arena that is home to the WNBA's Connecticut Sun.

