

Miss Connecticut

Miss Connecticut and Miss Connecticut's Outstanding Teen 2021 Crowned at Mohegan Sun

Sapna Raghavan, Forever Miss Connecticut's Outstanding Teen 2015, Named Miss Connecticut 2021

Aicha Diallo Named Miss Connecticut's Outstanding Teen 2021

Connecticut, April 12, 2021 — The Miss CT Scholarship Organization, Inc., a non-profit scholarship program for women, announced today that a new Miss Connecticut and Miss Connecticut's Outstanding Teen have been crowned at Mohegan Sun this past weekend. The new titleholders are the first to be crowned in two years following the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the postponement of the 2020 Competition. Miss Connecticut 2021 is Sapna Raghavan of Ellington, and Miss Connecticut's Outstanding Teen 2021 is Aicha Diallo of West Haven.

"The Board of Directors and I congratulate Sapna and Aicha on winning these esteemed titles," said Ashley Reid, Executive Director / Treasurer, The Miss CT Scholarship Organization. "We were so thrilled to hold a competition in-person this year after postponing last year's due to the pandemic, and thank Mohegan Sun, all of our sponsors and volunteers for helping to make this happen."

Raghavan, 22, who served as Miss Pleasant Valley and Forever Miss Connecticut's Outstanding Teen 2015, will go on to compete at the 100th Anniversary Miss America 2021 Competition in December at Mohegan Sun. She has been awarded \$10,000 in scholarship. Her Social Impact Initiative is "Embracing Diversity: Overcoming Adversity," and her talent is Indian Classical Dance to an original composition featuring a self-written poem. Diallo, 16, who served as Miss Greater Hamden's Outstanding Teen and will go on to compete in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2021 Competition, won \$2,500 in scholarship. Her Social Impact Initiative is "Ensuring Access to the Performing Arts for Inner City Communities," and her talent is dance. Both will receive in-kind donations to support their year of service advocating for numerous charitable causes across the state of Conn.

Kara Mitchell, President of The Miss CT Scholarship Organization Board of Directors said: "The mission of the Miss America Organization is to prepare great women for the world, and to prepare the world for great women. We are focused on not only providing thousands of dollars of scholarship to support education, but preparing all of our candidates for their journey ahead in

whatever field they choose. While there is great excitement surrounding our first Competition in quite some time, we are focused on advancing women and supporting their goals 365 days a year.”

Phases of the competitions included a private interview with a panel of judges, Social Impact Initiative pitches in which the candidates spoke about a cause they are passionate about, talent, on-stage question and “Red Carpet.”

The two new titleholders follow Jillian Duffy, Miss Connecticut 2019 & 2020, who placed 4th Runner-Up at Miss America 2020, and Lindiana Frangu, Miss Connecticut’s Outstanding Teen 2019 & 2020.

###

About The Miss CT Scholarship Organization

The Miss Connecticut Scholarship Organization, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) operated by volunteers that supports the advancement of women in society by embracing diversity, education and civic action. The organization invests in the women of Connecticut to further their education and provides a platform to propel their futures. Candidates who participate are awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships and in-kind sponsorships each year. The Miss Connecticut competition is a preliminary to the Miss America competition.

About Mohegan Sun:

Owned by Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment, Mohegan Sun is one of the largest, most spectacular entertainment, gaming, dining and shopping destinations in the United States. Situated on 185 acres along the Thames River in scenic southeastern Connecticut, Mohegan Sun is home to two unique casinos, 1,600 deluxe hotel rooms, two world-class spas, a golf course, over 80 shops, restaurants and bars as well as three award-winning entertainment venues including a 10,000-seat Arena. Mohegan Sun is within easy access of New York, Boston, Hartford and Providence and located 15 minutes from the museums, antique shops and waterfront of Mystic Country. More information is available by calling 1.888.226.7711 or visiting mohegansun.com. Connect with us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @mohegansun, view us on YouTube and find us on Snapchat at username MoheganSun.

Contact: Kate Ottavio Kent, VP, Public Relations, kate@missamericact.org