



AIR SPRING PROGRAM 2015

AIR Programs

WELCOME TO THE AIR SPRING PROGRAM 2015

Special Points of Interest:

- *Research into empowering communities and current Native American Issues*
- *Academic support: through tutoring and academic workshops*
- *Community Partnered : University of San Diego, San Diego State University and University of California Los Angeles*



We welcome you to the AIR Senior Spring Program 2015, in our 22nd year serving the San Diego County region. Our program is established on the ideals of academic success for our American Indian participants through a philosophy of learning and teaching through culture. There are four main components to our program, which we use to service our participants.

Part 1: Academic workshops—help our students understand processes of higher education. They include: working with teachers and professors, study skills, what degrees are, applications, and much more.

Part 2: Research Assignment—We research American Indian issues through assistance of our mentor staff. The ideal is to give research methodology on an academic level that will benefit the student in their current and future academic settings. Additionally, our topic is geared to induce interest in our American Indian cultures and promote greater self-confidence for our student participants.

Part 3: Writing Workshops— We will help students prepare for academic settings through teaching them how to prepare essays.

Part 4: Familiarity with Higher Education— the ideal is to show and acclimate the students to the higher educational setting. We hope to give familiarity with the campuses and overcome the initial fears of the university environment.

These ideals are used in promoting academics and higher education within our program but it is not limited to these areas. Friendships and enjoying ourselves in a nurturing environment is also part of our goal. Overall, many of our students have gone on to pursue higher education and we hope that this spring you enjoy the program as those in the past have.

Fall Topic: “The Power of Indigenous Symbols”

Exploring our Native Culture and History through Indigenous Symbols

This Spring, we will introduce the topic of *The Power of Indigenous Symbols*. We will be researching symbols that are important in our and other communities and will be examining the sorts of impact they have. We will be discussing what constitutes as symbol, why symbols are important and will be creating our own symbols to represent ourselves! We want to explore the value in reconnecting with traditional symbols as well as the detriment negative symbols and representations can have on Native communities.

In order to accomplish this, as well as better prepare our students for higher education, we will be implementing a writing workshop as well as an academic workshop in order to not only teach students the material, but also be able to express themselves in an academic manner.



AIR SPRING PROGRAM 2015

Meeting 1 (USD): **3-30-15**
Location: Student Life Pavilion, Rm 320 **Time:** 4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Welcome to AIR Sr. Project (Introductions)
Scavenger Hunt (campus tour)

Introduce research topic: The Power of Indigenous Symbols
What are symbols? We will be discussing what we all think symbols are and then once we come to a consensus, we will discuss symbols in our communities.
Then, we will delve into why we think symbols are important and what purpose they serve.
This week we'll go over some basics about this topic as an introduction.



Meeting 2 (USD): **4-6-15**
Location: Student Life Pavilion, Rm 320 **Time:** 4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Introductions
Academic Workshop: What are A-G requirements or what are requirements
This topic covers what many think of as the "gameplan" to qualify for the UC or CSU system. A-G requirements are the courses that you must take in order to qualify for the UC and Cal State System. This topic should discuss how the mentors found out about this and what they did to qualify.

Writing Workshop: Brainstorming, outlines
Research: Symbols in California and Astronomy
In week 1, we learned what constitutes a symbol, and the kinds of symbols that exist in the past and present in our communities. Today, we will spend the day focused on California symbolism, tying it into what we see in other cultures, and learning the impact they have for the various groups. Special focus on Kumeyaay astronomy and sand paintings among the Kumeyaay and Luiseno.
Guest Speaker: Mike Connolly Miskwish



Meeting 3 (USD): **4-13-15**
Location: Student Life Pavilion, Rm 320 **Time:** 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm



Introductions
Academic Workshop: Financials and Need
This is important from our student mentors perspective. Here they will discuss how they got the money to pay for college, as well as what they expected and what they didn't expect in this process.. This is probably one of the most important workshops as money plays a big part in the educational system.

Writing Workshop: 5 Paragraph Essays, start projects
Research: Symbols in Stories and Rattle-making: Today we will focus on symbols in stories and songs (bird singing) in native California/American southwest. And we will be discussing the impact of learning what these symbols represent, and what participating in them does to empower individuals and communities.

Guest Speaker: Jacob Alvarado



Thank you to
Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
for your tremendous support of our Native
Students and their success through education



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Thank you Sharp Business Systems for your support for our program.



Thank you to the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians for your support throughout these many years.

Meeting 4 (Balboa Park)
Location: Museum of Man

Date: 4-20-15
Time: 4:30 am-6:30 pm

Research: Exploring Physical Symbols

Today we will be going to the Museum of Man to observe the kinds of physical representations of symbols communities have historically utilized and will discuss why keeping connections to those things are important. We will also be comparing and contrasting new and old symbols, and deciding when it is okay to create new symbols and when traditions should be kept.

Activity: Make Your Own Symbol

Meeting 5 (USD)

Location: Student Life Pavilion, Rm 320

Date: 4-27-15

Time: 4:30 am-6:30 pm

Introductions

Academic Workshop: What are degrees? What are Careers?

We will focus in on degrees are and what do they entail. You should know the goals of why you enter higher education. Here the mentors should discuss what a basic undergraduate and graduate degree are.

Writing Workshop: Computer Lab: Research & Beginning Our Essays

Research: This week we will be thinking critically about symbols as depictions of indigenous peoples and their cultures, asking if a symbol can be something negative. We will explore where these symbols originated, and if it important to resist against them. And finally, we will ask ourselves: How can we change the symbols we see in American Society that represent Indigenous nations poorly/inaccurately? *Respecting* symbols.

Guest Speaker: Ozzie Monge

Meeting 6 (USD)

Location: Student Life Pavilion, Rm 320

Date: 5-4-15

Time: 4:30 am-6:30 pm

Introductions

Writing Workshop: Computer Lab: Research & Essay Typing

Today we will be refining our research, finishing up our essays and printing out any pictures we want for our posters. We will be spending time creating our posters as well!

Meeting 7 (USD)

Location: Student Life Pavilion, Rm 320

Date: 5-11-15

Time: 4:30 am-6:30 pm

Introductions

Mini-Presentations: We will present our poster boards to share with everyone what we found out and wrote about!

What we have learned: We have learned many aspects of culture and about the need to protect our past while adapting for the future. This last meeting we will look at what we have learned throughout this semester. Finally, we'll celebrate everyone's accomplishments in the program.

Awards: awards for mentors and students, as well as all our wonderful community supporters!

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

We will be sending your essays back to you with valuable feedback from a Graduate student! Keep the folder we have put together with you handy, the handouts you have received and the writing you created may be useful in the near future!

Don't forget to keep an eye out for information on our website about our upcoming **AIR Summer Program** starting in June!