

# AIR News



7 January 2009

Proudly serving the San Diego American Indian Community for 15 years

## AIR Fall Semester Complete!

The news that the AIR Program completed the Fall semester (2008) is great news, but more important, the AIR Program has completed one full year under a federal grant. The AIR Program has always maintained one program, what is called AIR Sr., but through an Administration of Native Americans Grant, the AIR Program was able to create two new programs AIR Jr. (servicing Native students 6th through 8th grades) and AIR tutorial (that specifically serves to tutor Native students). Through these developed programs the AIR Program, during the 2008 year, has been able to provide academic services to over a hundred Native students within the San Diego County region.

The Fall semester had a rocky start this year, due in part to pending funding and budget cuts, however, the AIR Program staff was able to pull off a successful semester in all three programs. The AIR Jr. program was modified to address the rocky start and it turned out to be a good semester, overall.

The AIR Jr. and Sr. programs, during the Fall semester, was to develop mini-films on what they accomplished during the semester. The overall film was to be derived from their research and experience of their semester within the AIR Program project. Well, it didn't turn out to be exactly that way but there was enough film footage to put together a mini-documentary style film. No Oscars or Academy Awards for anyone this year.

Currently, we are finalizing all three programs for the Spring 2009 semester. All programs are slated to start in February 2009. Each program will work on the same principals that the AIR Program has had since its conception, provide academic services and enrichment to our American Indian communities. Happy New Year and we will see all of you soon.



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### AIR Tutorial to Start in February



We have found great success in our AIR tutorial program. Many of the students that have participated within the program have had great academic progress. Therefore, we will continue our program at the University of San Diego, Department of Ethnic Studies, at the start of February. The tutorial program will be on Tuesday and Thursdays during the academic semester and it will be by appointment. See you there.

Please contact Renee White Eyes at: (760) 315-3940 for additional information.



To contact the AIR Program email us at: [info@airprograms.org](mailto:info@airprograms.org) or visit up on the web at: [www.airprograms.org](http://www.airprograms.org)



# AIR Programs Fall 2008 Stats

AIR Programs statistics are given to give our American Indian Community as an accounting of our community service. This accounting was made during our Fall 2008 academic semester and located at the University of San Diego and San Diego State University. All records are on file at our AIR Programs office.

## AIR Sr. Fast Facts:

AIR Sr. participants for Fall 2008: 16 student participants (Overall)  
9 students (average per meeting)

Overall hours students attended the Program: 175 hrs (eight meetings-overall)

AIR Mentor/Community Participants: 24 (overall)  
14 (average per meeting)

Overall hours mentors attended the Program: 290 hrs (eight meetings-overall)

## AIR Jr. Fast Facts:

AIR Sr. participants for Fall 2008: 13 student participants (Overall)  
7 students (average per meeting)

Overall hours students attended the Program: 65 hrs (four meetings-overall)

AIR Mentor/Community Participants: 11 (overall)  
7 (average per meeting)

Overall hours mentors attended the Program: 42.5 hrs (eight meetings-overall)

## AIR Tutorial Fast Facts:

AIR Tutorial participants: 10 students

The AIR Program is partnered with the University of San Diego, Dept. of Ethnic Studies. Thank you for these many years of support and your contribution to our Community.



# AIR Sr. and AIR Jr. End of Program Celebrations

by Renee White Eyes

As you all know, after the end of each semester, AIR celebrates the hard work that the students have put in to the program. This was my first time to be in attendance, and I must say, it was a lot of fun. When one goes to college, it is a LOT of hard work. However, it is also just as important to reward yourself for putting in a grueling semester. It is important to celebrate with your family or friends about surviving through all the papers, tests, and homework. This gives you a sense of accomplishment because that is what it truly is...an accomplishment. We handed out awards to all of the students, and the mentors all mentioned what stood out, to them, about each student. The mentors were also awarded with letters of recommendation for volunteering their time to mentoring the students. We also looked at some of the rough footage of our filming. We all had some good laughs about what we saw. As always, our program wouldn't be successful without the help of Dr. Michelle Jacob, Dr. David Kamper, and Dr. Sara Unsworth. A special thank you goes out to our mentors for giving their time to this program and to the drivers who bring the students to our meetings. Of course, AIR wouldn't be in existence without the students. You all take time out of your daily lives to attend our meetings. We appreciate your dedication and hope to see you back with us next semester!



The AIR Program is a proud recipient of ANA Funding for 2008

Thank you to the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation for your support over these many years



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
Learning for Success

The AIR Program is proud to be partnered with San Diego State University, Department of American Indian Studies. We thank the Department for their belief in our American Indian Community and our program. Truly, our community is stronger with their support and determination.

Palomar is a partner of the AIR Program. Thank to the Palomar College, Dept. of American Indian Studies for all your help.



# College Applications & FAFSA

For our students in the 11th grade, please keep in mind that the application period for colleges and universities are coming up! Please take advantage of our tutorial hour during AIR Sr. This will be the perfect opportunity to have one of the mentors go over the application process with you and give you feedback. The application process is a lengthy one, and we guarantee that there will be questions that you do not understand. What better way, than to ask someone who has gone through the process? We cannot express how IMPORTANT it is to have someone read over your application. Too many students are denied every year because they made a mistake on their application. Additionally, this will be the same period to fill out and turn in the FAFSA. The FAFSA is extremely difficult to fill out. I cannot tell you how many headaches I received because of this application. You have mentors at your disposal to help you out, so please use this time wisely and ask us for help! We want to help you out as much as we can, and we want to see you get in to college. So keep this in mind when you don't have any homework to bring.



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## AIR Programs Spring Programs are Coming



AIR Jr. Students at SDSU

The AIR Program will be starting our Spring programs at the end of February. AIR Sr. is projected to start February 23, 2009 at the University of San Diego and continuing at San Diego State University throughout the semester. AIR Jr. is projected to start on February 24, 2009 at San Diego State University. Both programs offer tutoring, academic workshops, cultural exposure through our research methodology project, and interaction among all our Native youth through San Diego County.

This semester we will cover our examination of sacred sites and their destruction through pollution and recreational use. It is important that we keep well informed on this topic as our sacred sites are our link to our past and our culture. Along with this we will offer our workshops that discuss both how to pursue higher education and how to succeed in your current academic pursuit.

Overall, we plan to have a great semester. Visit our website for more information or contact us at [info@airprograms.org](mailto:info@airprograms.org) or

Contact Renee White Eyes at: (760) 315-3940

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