

AIR News



6 February 2009

Proudly serving the San Diego American Indian Community for 15 years

Damage to our Sacred Sites



NOGALES, Ariz. — Homeland Security destroyed 69 graves of Tohono O’odham ancestors in one location alone while constructing the US/Mexico border wall south of Tucson, in violation of all federal laws created to protect American Indian remains.

The AIR Program has looked into research on Sacred Sites legislation before and found that many issues regarding protection of graves and culturally significant areas have had increased protection since the early 1980’s. With this our attention has gone on to other issues effecting our American Indian Nations. So when we read the headlines that sites have been destroyed it took many of us by surprise. How can this occur? How, after all the legal and political maneuvering throughout these many years could this have occurred?

Such a topic is on the minds of many of us in the American Indian community as what happens on one reservation effects or will eventually effect all of us. That is

why our program will re-examine the topic of Sacred Sites as part of our program for this upcoming Spring semester. As many realize, it is our land and these sites that give many of our tribes both a historical and cultural context on our identity as people. The graves of our ancestors give us the reminder of our heritage and past so that we may look forward to a greater future. However, many locations have come under attack through pollution, recreational activities of non-Natives, and economics.

We hope that the examination of this issue will spark the interest of our young natives to examine our cultures more closely and look to protecting these cultural resources for our future generations.

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AIR Program Mentors Start at USD



AIR Program Mentors have started our training for our upcoming programs. This is one of the largest pools of volunteers for our program. It is a great sign for our community that our future leaders are taking the time to volunteer and mentor those who are disadvantaged. Thank you to our mentors for their contribution to our program.

For more information, please contact: Renee White Eyes at: (760) 315-3940 or email: rwhiteeyes@airprograms.org



To contact the AIR Program email us at: info@airprograms.org or visit up on the web at: www.airprograms.org

When to apply for college?

by Renee White Eyes

For our soon to be seniors, time to apply for college is just around the corner. For the CSU (California State University), the application period is around October 1, 2009 to attend Fall 2010. For the UC (University of California), the application period is the whole month of November 2009. This is just a GENERAL filling period for the UC and CSU. You really need to do your research because some schools may have a different filling period for CERTAIN majors. Keep in mind that I did NOT include private universities. Private universities work completely on their own and all have their own deadlines. This is why researching, where you want to go college, is so important! You may think, "Wow, I have a lot of time to apply... no need to stress about it!" However, if you want to go to college, I would really recommend you start your search NOW! The reason why I suggest this is because you need to find the University that best matches YOUR needs. Here are some things to consider: Does the university have the major that you want? Is the university known for that major (is it highly recommended)? Does the program have a good reputation? What is the campus like? What do the current students have to say about the campus and the professors? What is the surrounding area around the campus like? Will you have the support you need at that campus? What is the student/teacher ratio like? If it is a big campus, will you be comfortable in a classroom with a hundred students or more? What kind of help do the recruiters give you? What is the tuition like? What are the residence halls like? What is the student population like? What are the counselors like? What kind of jobs are available to students? What is their career center like and can they give me help when it comes time to find a job after school?

These are all things you should start considering when thinking about where you want to go. You are going to spend four years there, so this needs to be a place that you can call home! You need to do your research and visit these Universities. It is important to know which schools have the major you want, and out of these schools, narrow down your favorites. I encourage you to have at least three schools that you want to apply to. The competition is stiff out there, so you need to have backups. This can be a very scary process and seem like a lot of work, but you do not want to spend four years of your life where you will not be completely happy.

Also keep in mind that you can apply to the community college at ANY time. They do not have an application deadline. However, if you want to have a chance at some of the classes that you need, I recommend that you apply after you graduate, unless you are planning on going to summer school.

Remember, your mentors at AIR have been through this process. We know how daunting this can be for you. We are here to help!

AIR Program has a New Website

The AIR Program has developed a new website to help our student participants, mentors, and community to have information on our program. We have always felt that we are accountable to our community on what we do. That is why we have reported on what we have done and will continue to do so through our newsletters and website updates.

Within our website you will find links to our partnered colleges and universities that we are working with and websites that may assist you. Further, we will post downloadable bulletins on our events and how to get there. We realize that sometimes instructions on how to get somewhere may get unorganized in translation therefore these bulletins are designed to help parents and drivers to get to our locations easily.

For our viewers we will also have some news items that impact our community. These items will be teasers and a link to the story will be given. Overall, we hope that this site helps you in getting to know our program and our mission in servicing our American Indian Community.



Thank you to our community partner USD, Dept. of Ethnic Studies for many years of your support.



PALOMAR COLLEGE
Learning for Success



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

Thank you to CSUSM for your support and participation within our Program

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.



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY



*American Indian Recruitment
(AIR) Programs
P.O. Box 880471
San Diego, CA 92168
www.airprogram.org
info@airprograms.org*

AIR Sr. to Start on Feb. 23 and AIR Jr. to Start on Feb. 24

The AIR Program Spring projects are starting soon. We have an exciting schedule that will cover our topical approach in motivating and improving our student participants academic pursuits. We look forward in partnering with the University of San Diego, San Diego State University and California State University, San Marcos. Finally, we look forward in seeing our new and returning students.



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



Thank you to California Indian Legal Services for your support

AIR Tutorial Program

The AIR Program Tutorial Program has started and will continue to operate through the Spring. For more information please contact:

Renee White Eyes, Youth Service Specialist
(760) 315-3940 or email: rwhiteeyes@airprograms.org

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



On meeting Senator Inouye by Dwight K. Lomayesva



Senator Inouye speaking at the Tribal Leaders Forum

Indian Country has met no better champion in public office than Senator Daniel Inouye. Born to immigrant parents in Honolulu, Senator Inouye volunteered for the Army after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and was assigned to the Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Army Captain, Inouye, lost his right arm in a German grenade attack in Italy in April 1945. Upon his return and after law school, Senator Inouye would become one of Hawaii's most popular politicians.

As a Senator, he became an ally of American Indians as chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs from 1989 to 1994. Truly, he has given our community a friendly ear within our US Government.

In meeting the Senator, as a Hopi, I didn't expect him to know of my Tribe or customs. So when I met him, he recognized the long Hopi name (they all seem to be more than 3-4 syllables) and then proceeded to tell me how he had went to Hopi and was able to see our dances in our Kivas. What impressed me was not that he knew about my Tribe but he knew of the culture and our problems that are facing my tribe. It also occurred to me (some time later that evening when he was talking to the crowd) that true leaders, in serving their constituents, most know who they serve and are aware of the greater challenges facing them. By knowing my culture, he knew who I was, and by knowing of our tribal problems he knew that we have anguish and must pursue some remedy to fix it.

Our Tribal Nations will face greater problems, as our worlds will merge more and more with the non-native society, and we will look to our leaders for a greater understanding of whom we are as Tribal people, so they understand our anguish. We must thank Senator Inouye for his service but also look at his leadership so that we, as Natives, can emulate and serve our nations for a greater future.

*Devon L. Lomayesva (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel)
Board Chair*

*Larry Banegas (Barona Tribe)
Board Member*

*Natalia Orosco (Kumeyaay)
Board Member*



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*Dwight K. Lomayesva (Hopi Tribe)
Executive Director*