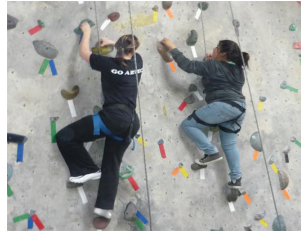


AIR News



24 April 2009

Proudly serving the San Diego American Indian Community for 15 years



AIR Program is honored with PSA Social Conscience Award

SAN DIEGO, California — The AIR Program was honored with the Pacific Sociological Association’s Social Conscience Award, given to a worthy community-based organization located in the

city in which the PSA Annual meeting is held. The honor is given to a community organization based in San Diego that is engaged in providing a much-needed social service in the community. The PSA was established in 1929 with the purpose of the promotion of both sociological research and the teaching of sociology in universities, colleges, community colleges, and high schools in the Pacific area.

We thank Dr. Belinda Lum (USD, Dept. of Sociology), Dr. Fritsvold (USD, Dept. of Sociology), and Dr. Reifer (USD, Dept. of Sociology) for their nomination and give special thanks to the Department of Ethnic Studies at USD and the Department of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University for their support these past few years. This award represents all the work that past and present AIR Program mentors and students have put into our program and we thank and congratulate each and everyone of our participants, its been a great 15 years...



What’s inside:

PSA Award	1
AIR Sr./Jr. Complete	2
Pursuing Higher Ed.	2
AIR Spring Stats	3
A Great Semester	3
Address	3



Thank you CSUSM for all your help in hosting our AIR Program this semester. We look forward towards many meetins at CSUSM.



AIR Programs Sr. and Jr. Complete



In tackling the ideals and issues of sacred sites we were definitely challenged with the time constraints that we have. There were so many things that we were attempting to accomplish that we fell a little behind. However, we feel that overall we finished just where we want to be.

The information given through our workshops is an integral part for our students because there are many things that students need to know when pursuing college and taking steps towards academic success. This means taking course work required for entrance to a California State University: Course work A-G. This also includes; financial aid, how to study, social climate, acclimation to the universities, and research skills.

Our research included a lot of information and discussion on culture and what makes our sites (within each of our tribes) sacred. This viewpoint was gained from having our guest speakers discuss aspects of culture through their own beliefs (from their tribes) and share with our students. This helped our students examine more closely the overall dynamics of culture and sacred sites and finally treatment of these sites by outside or non-native entities. The goal of our sacred sites research is to empower our students and inspire them to understand their own culture. This milestone will increase their self esteem, confidence, and sense of belonging therefore creating positives in all areas of their lives and in academic performance.

We want to thank all the guest speakers who gave their time and insight for the benefit of our student participants. This includes: Clint Linton (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, SDSU graduate), Carmen Lucas (Laguna Kumeyaay), George Zuniga (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, former AIR Student), Skye Shields (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, former AIR Student and current student at Palomar College), Darren Hill (Cahuilla Reservation, Native Monitor), Dr. Thomas Spady (CSUSM), Dr. Joely Proudfit (CSUSM), Tribal Liason Tishmall Turner (CSUSM), and Devon L. Lomayesva, Esq. (CILS).



Pursuing Higher Education and Assistance from Friends

by Rose Vasquez

Some Native Americans do not have the same motivation as I have had to pursue higher education. Most are unaware of the opportunities available to them. I am very lucky to not only know about these opportunities but also to have these resources within my reach. It is nice to know that there are organizations out there dedicated and truly concerned about American Indian education.

I was very fortunate to have both my ACT and SAT subject tests paid for in full by such organizations. I thank the San Pasqual Education Department for paying for my ACT which I took on April 4th. I also thank AIR for providing me with materials to study and paying for my SAT subjects in literature and U.S. history which I will be taking on June 6th. It helped me out financially to have both my tests taken care of.

Both of these organizations have always been there for me and continually encourage me to chase my dreams. I finally get it. Education is the key to success in this life, much can be done with a college degree. Why stop after high school? I realize there are organizations as well as people out there who want to help others succeed.

Realizing that education is so important, I am taking a step forward and hoping for the best. I am applying for scholarships. I have already applied for one the "Save Me a Spot in College" scholarship and am currently in the process of applying to the Nordstrom scholarship. I hope my hard work and dedication towards higher education will reward me in the end.



Thank you to Sycuan for your all your continued support

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



Thank you to the Department of American Indian Studies at SDSU for all your support .



AIR Program Spring 2009 Basic Statistics



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As an important step in serving our community, we report to our community as much as possible on our progress and the direction of our program. By doing this, we keep our community partners informed and aware that we are continuously working hard for our community and that all contributions given are contributing directly to our American Indian Youth.

AIR Jr: Overall Student Participation: 14 students Student Participating hours: 183
Overall Mentor/Community volunteers: 23 Mentor/Community Participating hours: 245
Average attendance per meeting: 24 (mentors/students)

AIR Sr: Overall Student Participation: 18 students Student Participating hours: 200
Overall Mentor/Community volunteers: 23 Mentor/Community Participating hours: 398
Average attendance per meeting: 31 (mentors/students)

AIR Tutorial/Family: Overall Student Participation: 11 students (overall-5 families)

Community Partners: University of San Diego, Department of Ethnic Studies / San Diego State University, Department of American Indian Studies / California State University, San Marcos / University of San Diego CASA / Administration of Native Americans / San Diego State University Library / San Diego Museum of Man / California Indian Legal Services / SD Unified School District American Indian Programs / Indian Human Resource Center



A Great Semester

The AIR Program is extremely thankful for all the student and mentors and community member volunteers who participated within our program. We can never say what the turnout for the programs will be, considering students drive over 50 miles (one way) to come to our program on a weekly basis! But we know the interest is there! Like one comment this semester "there are not enough meetings!" AIR is also very proud when we can call on past AIR students (from the 90's) to come in and speak to our program because they have become our community leaders.

There are so many telling signs that after school programs are needed for our community. An approach that is conducive to our community needs and setting long range goals are keys to continued success.

In the end it comes down to our student participants and the hope that they bring our future that is truly the great magic of our program. Working together with other programs within our community that share our vision makes progress even more reachable.

A special thanks to those students that drove with me to our program; you may have tried my patience, but I learned so much from you and will always remember you folks with fond memories. Finally, thank you to all the mentors and community volunteers that made our program possible; you truly have made our community greater.



Thank you to the Department of Ethnic Studies at USD for all your support and the University of San Diego CASA Program for your contributions to our students.

*Devon L. Lomayevsa (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel)
Board Chair/President*

*Larry Banegas (Barona Tribe)
Board Member*

*Natalia Orosco (Kumeyaay)
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