

# AIR News



9 July 2009

*Proudly serving the San Diego American Indian Community for 15 years*



## AIR Summer is at its halfway point

SAN DIEGO, California — The AIR Summer Program is more than half way through and the feedback from the students is great! We never imagined that we would have so many students coming to our program from so many regions within San Diego County. Our students range from 7th through 12th grades and come from 60+ miles away, from East County, to 40 miles from North County San Diego. They all are unique individuals but all have the same

confidence, in that, they can succeed in whatever they choose to do.

As mentioned in previous articles, we started our program by taking the students through teamwork exercises to have them become familiar with each other and our mentors. Next we introduced cultural components to develop identity within our program. This was accomplished through guest speakers discussing many issues with our students. Finally, we have taken the students to culturally significant locations within this region. The program is going fast during the summer and we hope all are gaining a lot of information from our program. At the very least, we hope the students are having fun and from the look of our pictures they seem to be on target. On a side note the students have no fear as they are willing to accept any challenge we have given them especially on the high ropes course (see pictures below).



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## Kelsey Novi Say's...

*Kelsey Novi is one of our Youth Service Specialist's from San Diego State University and will be giving periodic updates and information on our program's progress during the summer. We are fortunate to have her join our team. This article's topic was advice for incoming college freshmen and the importance of talking with you professors.*

The best advice I could give anyone coming into college is to be confident and go to every class. First, being confident will get you far because you should not be afraid to talk to a professor or your peers for help and this will help you succeed. There are many opportunities that come to people who are willing to take a chance, and not be afraid to work with others or lead a group. Also, I cannot emphasize enough to go to every single class! There is a lot of information given in class and it is important not to miss it because the reason you go to college is to learn and get a degree.

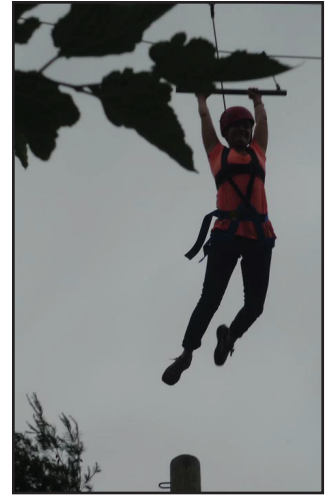
## A Message from Wallis...

*Wallis Levin is one of our Youth Service Specialist's from San Diego State University and will be giving periodic updates and information on our program's progress during the summer. This week we asked both our YSS on the challenges that school has posed for them and what is one of their keys to success.*

In undergrad, I had a hard time finding a school where I felt I fit in. I started off at UC Irvine for my freshman year and then transferred home to the University of Tennessee. Now that I'm a graduate student at SDSU, and after completing admission (and transfer) applications 5 times now (!), I feel like I have a unique perspective and knowledge about the applications process. I also believe that it is important to feel a sense of community and pride for your campus, something I did not find my freshman year at school but have found at SDSU. Several of the students in the AIR program will be applying for college this fall and I'll be right there with them, signing on for a PhD program!



**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**



**Thank you CSUSM for all your support that you have given us in the past and we look forward to working with you this upcoming semester**



**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Thank you to the Department of American Indian Studies at SDSU for all your continued support and commitment to our program...**





*American Indian  
Recruitment  
(AIR) Programs  
P.O. Box 880471  
San Diego, CA 92168*

*www.airprograms.org  
info@airprograms.org*



*The AIR Program is a proud  
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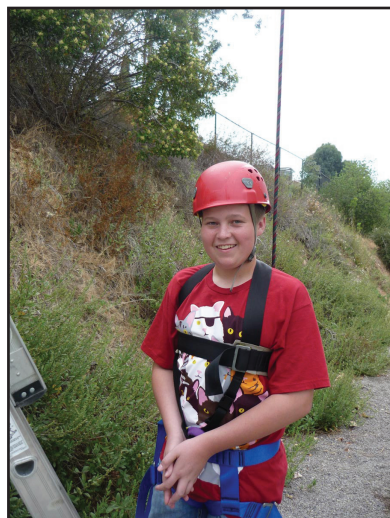


## Upcoming Workshops

Continuing our workshop series we will be discussing College transfers (from a junior college to a 4 year university). This is a difficult route to take when pursuing a degree as many students (1 in 4) are ever able to transfer. Although this is a more difficult route to take, if you understand this route and its difficulties then you will have a better opportunity to succeed by understanding the pitfalls of a junior college and enrolling in various "TAG" programs that will qualify you to transfer on time to a four year university.



Finally, there are some things that are just right for you and there are some things that are not. Colleges are like that. In our last workshop we will discuss choosing a college that is right for you. Sometimes people do not like going to colleges that have more than 35,000 people there or participating in classes that have 300+ students. Therefore a smaller college may be right for you. Choosing the right college is important because if you choose a college that is not suited towards your needs it will pose a distraction and even some resentment which may lead to withdrawing from college altogether. To alleviate this we have some tips on choosing the right college so that you can think about what college you may want to attend. Remember that you want a less distracted path in obtaining your degree so by taking some proactive step you can reduce such obstacles.



## Bobby Levi Says...

Bobby Levi is a first time student within the AIR Program and has agreed (from time to time) to write on his progress in the AIR Program.

Hello, my name is Bobby Levi, I am Cahuiila and Hopi from the Torres Martinez Reservation. When I first heard about this program, I didn't know what to expect. My Uncle told me it would be about peon. It's a long drive from Alta Loma, which is in the Inland Empire, to San Diego State University. I am a semi-quiet guy and I knew meeting new friends would be hard. The first week started off with a lot of new faces that I never met. It is surprising sometimes that when I first met some of the students they were pretty nice.

This program turned out to be pretty exciting. We started off with introductions and games to make new friends and to build teamwork. The staff was introduced and they told us of the purpose of the program. The purpose is to help Native American students to learn more about culture and to pursue and motivate towards college. In all, we are having a good time listening to cultural aspects on Native Americans, doing a lot of hikes and activities, and just having fun.



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