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AIR News

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“OUR MISSION IS THE PROMOTION AND SUCCESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS WITHIN EDUCATION.”

Created in 1993 the AIR Program has set out to create a greater future for our American Indian Community through education.



2021 Grads are Off to College

We congratulate all our students on their great work in 2021, from their 2021 graduations, to their acceptances to various colleges around the nation. In short, of the 15 graduating seniors we were able to track 14 of them, 11 have accepted admissions to universities across the nation including SDSU, Columbia, Dartmouth, UCLA and more. Three of our students are pursuing college through community colleges.

From our last course we had a 90% passage rate among students taking our San Diego State University course AMIND 120. It is a great accomplishment as these are extremely challenging times within education and in life.

We also congratulate our mentors who have worked hard on assisting our students towards earning passing grades and understanding Tribal Governance and leadership. We cannot express enough how our community and our program appreciate their service. Truly, these mentors have leadership and qualities that our community needs to help all of us towards a greater future.

Finally, our collaborative project with the Intertribal Court of Southern California has had its third moot court hearing as we prepare to hold hearings within the year. We thank both SDSU and UCSD for their work in assisting in developing our trainings. Lastly, and if not of greatest appreciation, we thank those cohort/education coordinators from the various reservations education centers who helped us in recruitment and working within the cohorts! Definitely, our work together is creating change for our Native youth in Indian Country.



Another Year without AIR Summer Programs

We have thoughts on this every day as we had hoped that we would have a summer program in where would roll out a summer program on Tribal Governance and Contemporary Issues. Each year, we explore contemporary Native issues that affect our Tribes in a thoughtful and exploratory manner. As an example, our last summer topic (held 2 years ago) focused on water rights with the region extending from Vulcan Mountain to Del Mar.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel this last year due to Covid-19 restrictions and the delta variant. With the new variant, we felt it unsafe to have our summer program as our youth under 12 cannot receive the vaccinations. As a Native program, we are part of the Native community and our responsibility towards the safety of the community is important. We feel we should be part of the solution and not part of the problem that could spread this dangerous Covid-19 variant.

We again say, "We look forward in seeing you 2022", within our AIR summer program.



Native Youth Court holding Mock Hearings in preparation for start in Fall 2021

The American Indian Youth Engagement Court (AIYEC) project, in partnership with the Intertribal Court of Southern CA, is a diversion-based project that will serve our San Diego County Tribes which are challenged with incidents of juvenile delinquency. Here, Native youth peers will hear and assist in adjudication of the juvenile offender. This includes the development of the Native Youth Peer Decision Makers (Peer Decision Makers) training program engages our Peer Decision Makers to guide them in their decisions within the Youth Court and provide them greater academic understanding on Tribal law and governance.

As we approach the two year mark, we have held three mock hearings in preparing to hold hearings this Fall. Our first mock hearing came just as the Covid-19 restrictions started. This was an in-person mock hearing taking health precautions recommended by the CDC at that time. Our next hearing was a virtual mock hearing that tested the strength of technology and our competency of utilizing a virtual format. Finally, our last mock hearing was a hybrid utilizing Covid-19 precautions for those in-person and those who were virtual. As stated, we are projecting starting the first hearings in Fall 2021.

In review of our training we are instituting a pre-course class on Study Skills to help our student prepare for the rigors of the coursework/training. We are hoping to support those who did not have as much success as others through these study skills trainings. Finally, we are working hard with our various cohort groups to institute these trainings around the San Diego/Riverside County and Northern California regions. We are hoping these efforts assist our students in their trainings/courses as well as their current academics.



We thank Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP, and SCTCA for their sponsorship of our American Indian Recruitment Programs.



84%
Passing

70+
Students

40+
Mentors /
Coordinators

12+
Community
Partners

3
Mock
Hearings

1
Goal

Youth Court at the 2-Year Mark

As mentioned before, we are approaching our 2-year mark in developing the peer court and preparing our Native Youth to understand the ideals of restorative justice and its differences compared to the U.S. legal System. We accomplish this by collaborating with regional universities in developing our trainings/courses in Native Restorative Justice and Tribal Governance. Although these trainings/courses are online, we have developed cohorts that act as small classes in learning the materials that meet at least once per week. Supplying our college mentors to assist the students in digesting the materials is also a key component to student success.

Has our methodology worked? Yes, with great results. Passage for online adults in Community College, in CA (in a 2015 study): ~60-65%. "Programs with 70%+" are considered high achieving (https://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_615HJR.pdf)

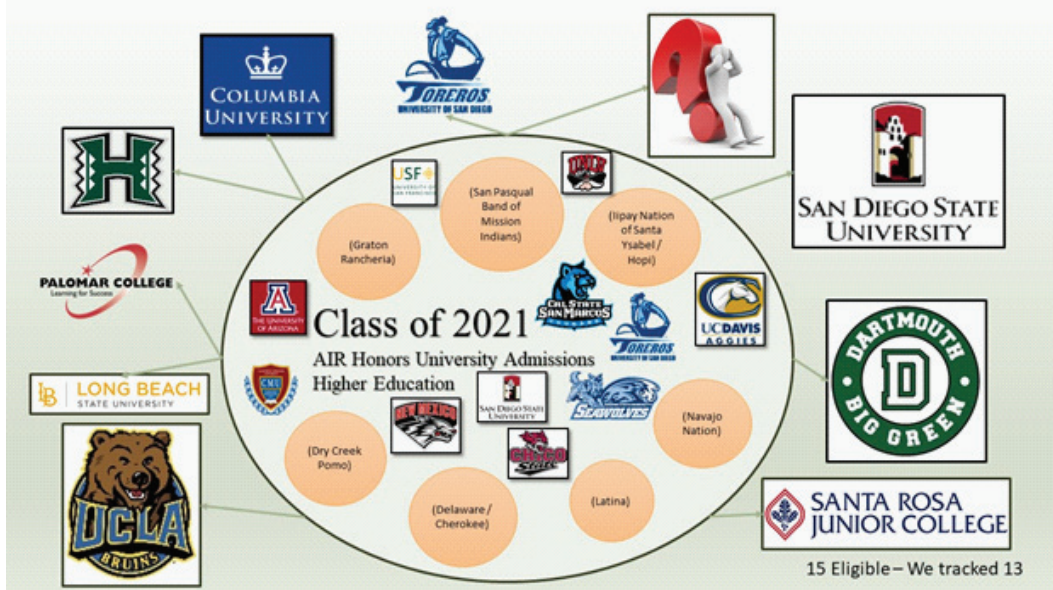
Passage for AIYEC/Honors Courses on Average: ~84% (this was accomplished during Covid-19)

What are students gaining through this? They are gaining the following:

- Students are gaining Academic Credits at the universities in American Indian Studies
- Students are gaining dual credit at most (not all) High Schools based on articulation policies of the school district
- Students are gaining knowledge in Tribal Restorative Justice ideals, Tribal Governance and Leadership
- Our Youth Peer Court collaboration is creating an extensive pool of Peer Decision Makers who may utilize this as community service
- Students are gaining a second look within university admissions based on university coursework. (See below)

After the first two years of our project, we are seeing encouraging results and we are circling back to those who had challenges in succeeding in our project. In Fall 2021, we will be back to developing our in-person cohorts and our live midway and final moot court meeting, if health conditions permit. Additionally, we have developed a study skills course to specifically guide our students on how to effectively study and prepare for upcoming trainings/courses. Our hope is to reach 90%+ passage in all courses for this upcoming academic year.

Our final note on this work is the joy we see in our students considering their pursuit of higher education and where they can aspire to go in their lives. Here are results of our students' admissions for 2020-21:



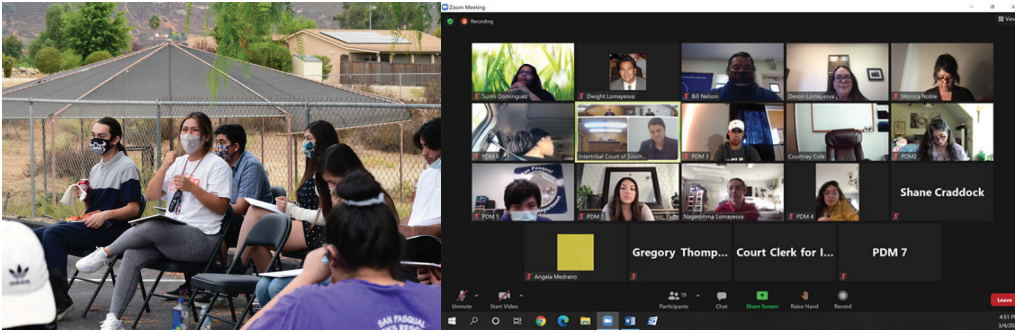
At the time of our tracking

1. Students had multiple admissions offers from many universities (inner circle)
2. Other students had already accepted admissions to the colleges / universities on the outer circle.
3. At the very least, our students are having choices...

SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

We thank the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians for supporting our AIR Programs, bringing needed services to our Native Communities.





Native Youth Court Training/ Courses starting on September 7th and continuing through December

AIR Programs is proud to announce that we will be starting our AIYEC Project Training/Courses on **September 7th**. These trainings/courses, are designed to provide our Native Youth participants greater understanding on Native restorative justice ideals. By accomplishing this we will utilize our participants as a peer court jury to assist the Intertribal Court of Southern CA, Youth Peer Court develop wellness plans for juveniles who were diverted from the Tribal juvenile justice system.

Although we have been successful in our trainings/courses, we will now recommend our participants take a pre-course study skills training for each specific course to ensure that they understand what is expected and how to study for these trainings/courses.

The following courses are offered through our collaboration with the University of California, San Diego:

- (Primary Course Offering) Introduction to the Legal System Course (Law 40000/1 Unit)
Starting: Sept. 7th Ending: Sept. 25th, 2021
- Study Skills - Introduction to the Tribal Legal Studies/Part 2 (EDUC 90062/.5 Units)
Starting: Sept. 27th Ending: Oct. 2nd, 2021
- (Primary Course Offering) Introduction to the Tribal Legal Studies (Law-40074/3 Units)
Starting: Oct. 4th Ending: Dec. 11th 2021

(Please visit our site website for additional information on our courses and ***we are still taking applications*** so please visit our website to learn more about our program, at:

<https://sites.google.com/airprograms.org/airprogramshonorsproject/home>



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