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# AIR News

## *focus*

“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.*

### *AIR Announces Mentor Honorees: Phillip Espinoza & Danielle Chung*



### *AIR Programs Announces our 2011-12 Mentor Leadership Awards...*

(San Diego) Today we are honored to announce the 2011-12 Mentor Leadership honorees within our AIR Program. Mr. Phillip Espinoza (Mesa Grande Tribal Member, University of California, San Diego graduate and former AIR student) and Ms. Danielle Chung (Native Hawaiian and University of San Diego, Senior) will be honored at our 19th Annual Fundraiser Banquet at San Diego State University, at the Parma Payne Godall Alumni Center, for their outstanding efforts within our program in assisting and mentoring our Native youth within San Diego.

Both mentors have participated within AIR Programs for over two years and have often gone beyond the simple ideals of mentoring to perform greater community service in helping those who are in need. We cannot say enough about our honorees; we offer them great accolades in their work and desire to succeed in education and their support towards community service, which demonstrates their utmost character. We are proud that we have been able to be a part of their lives as their contribution to our AIR Programs and to our Native community has not only changed the ideals of our students but their efforts will lead to a greater future for all our Tribal Nations and communities.



***AIR Student Leaders Honorees: Kiowa Montoya and Racheal Venegas***



# The American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Programs

19th Annual Fundraiser Banquet

Thursday, October 11, 2012, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

San Diego State University - Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center

Co-Sponsored by the Office of the President, SDSU



AIR Programs has proudly served the San Diego County region for over 19 years, through our mentoring and tutorial programs. Our programs provide our Native youth the tools needed to compete and succeed within the academic setting and create opportunities to expose them to higher education. Support our AIR Program by becoming a sponsor of this year's 19th Annual Fundraiser Banquet! The evening's events will include presentations highlighting this year's accomplishments and awards for our students, mentors, and community members. If you cannot attend please support our program through a donation towards our Native youth and academic programs.



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

For additional sponsorship information please visit our website at [www.airprograms.org](http://www.airprograms.org) or email us at [info@airprograms.org](mailto:info@airprograms.org)



*We thank our community partners who have donated and support our Native students under our AIR Program. We cannot express our gratitude enough how these organizations, Tribes, and Universities have supported our program through these many years.*



## Mentor Awardee Phillip Espinoza (UCSD graduate and Mesa Grande Tribal Member)

We are especially proud that Phillip Espinoza will be one of our honorees. Phillip graduated from the University of California San Diego, with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and a Minor in Music and Philosophy. Previously our program had been at UCSD but as a matter of limited resources we focused our program at only two universities. Phillip's approach was simple and he asked that AIR Program continue at UCSD. His efforts showed that he had the desire to help his community and demonstrated his leadership in bringing Native programs to the university and outreach to our Native American community to bridge the gap between the university and our community.

Phillip was also a student participant within our program and we have fond memories of his time with us. We are exceptionally proud of his success and that we were able to meet this exceptional person. His success truly demonstrates his great desire to overcome obstacles that many of our native people face when coming from our Tribal reservations into the universities. As a mentor, Phillip has shown great care and dedication in working with our students. Where it is sometimes

difficult to garner the trust of our students he has broken down these barriers to become a mentor who our students look forward to seeing and working with.

Phillip is from the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians and plans to go to Law School where he will study Tribal Law in order to become a lawyer and bring back the useful skills needed to help out his community in Mesa Grande.

Truly, Phillip is an exceptional person and we look forward to a brighter future with people like him leading our Nation.



We thank Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP, one of the largest business law firms in Southern California, for their sponsorship of our American Indian Recruitment Program. Procopio is part of a public interest collaboration serving the Native American Community. For more information, contact Procopio's Native American Practice Group Leader, Ted Griswold, at [ted.griswold@procopio.com](mailto:ted.griswold@procopio.com).



## Mentor Awardee Danielle Chung (USD Senior / Native Hawaiian)

We are honored to have Ms. Danielle Chung, a Native-Hawaiian, as a Mentor Leadership Honoree within the AIR Programs. Originally, she found our program due to requirements within her Native-Hawaiian scholarship to perform community service within indigenous communities. Upon the

completion of these required hours she continued to volunteer because of her dedication to our Native American youth and to our program.

In her tenure within the AIR Program we have been deeply impressed by Danielle's drive to have our students reach their greatest potential through her assistance, mentoring, and advice. We have been so much impressed that we have asked her to assist in coordinating our Tutorial program where she has seen our students achieve goals, improve grades and gain more self-confidence in who they are. Where our program has little resources she has preserved and improved our program to become a place where our students excel academically. The extraordinary part is that she has done this while enrolled at the University of San Diego as an undergraduate within the Department of Ethnic Studies.

Her belief that education and community support can both work together and allow our students to better navigate through life, is strong. To say we are thankful for Danielle's work within our program would be understated as she represents the ideals, the care and the dedication towards our Native community and the ideals that the AIR Program attempts to reach.




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*Cast your votes before Sept. 19, 2012!*

<http://apps.facebook.com/chasecommunitygiving/charity/view/ein/91-2156681?ref=b002aa9351>

## Cast your votes for AIR Programs with the Chase Community Giving Competition

Go to our Chase Community Giving site and vote for our program. Chase Community Giving is a program where you, the fans, help decide what matters—and help our program to receive grants from Chase. We have till the 19th to cast that vote. Remember to like us too on facebook.

## AIR EOY Report on Website

Today our students have or are pursuing higher education at Stanford, CSUSM, University of Arizona, SDSU, UCSD, Brandeis University, UC Davis, NAU, and many more. Our success comes directly through the implementation of methods we have developed through the years and the cooperative efforts that have been established with our community.

Because of our success and our community support we feel it is our responsibility to share what we have accomplished every year with those who have given financial and community support to our program. This is our obligation to our community as we are proud of our success and our students and the ability to give back.



Thanking the Administration for Native Americans for their work and support for our program. The AIR Program is a 2011-12 grantee under ANA.



Thank you to Sharp Business Systems for your support of our program.

