



AIR Newsletter

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SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Special points of interest:

- AIR Jr. to start 10/28
- New ideals for AI Rights
- Renee's Corner
- Analysis for Pre-Eval



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PALOMAR COLLEGE
Learning for Success

A new ideal for American Indian Rights

The start of our research project is coming up and there is a lot to digest here. Our first approach is to look at protests and political actions taken in the late 60's and early 70's that called attention to American Indian civil rights violations.



Our first two meetings discussed how members of AIM took over Alcatraz to bring light onto ongoing problems the American Indians faced. We concur that, at that time, this was the only means to call attention to the plight of the American Indian and the numerous treaty violations that have occurred. The take over seemed to be symbolic of all the wrongs that have occurred up until that point. But what if this action/protest occurred today? What if American Indians, using the same principals of Alcatraz took over federal lands in San Diego. We can only assume, that the result would not favor the American Indians. After September 11th this might be considered an act of terrorism. So what opportunities do American Indians have when attention needs to be focused on issues that hinder our American Indian rights? Do we depend only on gaming tribes to foot the bill with their attorneys?

A new ideal can be borrowed from the environmental movement which has chosen to work within the parameters of the laws to stop deforestation and development within our forests. What the environmental groups have done is to create coalitions between themselves and used the laws that have favored their cause. The example, can be found in the endangered "Spotted Owl". Groups that want to stop deforestation have coupled with animal rights activists and use the Endangered species Act to "save the spotted owl" from extinction in order to save our American Forests. Clever way for groups to build coalitions and use the laws to save our planet. But how would this be applicable to the American Indian.

Coalitions from environmental and American Indian groups can work together using NAGPRA and Sacred Sites legislation to prevent the destruction of culturally significant areas while preserving our environment. What rights do American Indians want to preserve: their culture. Destruction of many of our sacred sites are occurring due to development. Sacred sites are usually within undeveloped areas. Therefore, in order to save such areas and preserve culturally significant areas both Environmental groups and Tribes can work together to stop such destruction through the use Sacred Sites Legislation or endangered animal legislation.



AIR Jr. to begin Oct. 28, 2008 at SDSU

We have to apologize for the delay in the start of AIR Jr. on October 21, 2008. Due to some unforeseen issues that occurred we had to delay our program. However, we are ready to go this coming week with a great program. Our program will have the same concepts that occurred last Spring in introducing the student to the ideals of higher education through workshops, media, and exposure to fields of study within higher education. Overall, just great stuff. See you next week.

For more information go to our website at www.airprograms.org
Email us at: info@airprograms.org



Game plans and Education - "Just win baby..."



Well, many of you have heard the rhetoric on developing a game plan for life. Well that is only partly true in life. You also need to know the game rules. If you don't know the game rules from the start - then, more than likely, you are going to lose the first couple of games. This metaphor can be applied to college. If you do not know what a degree is, how much money you need, what a university is, what the campus is like, etc. then you will be put at a great disadvantage when you pursue higher education. You may even consider dropping out after the first semester. That is why we had our first workshop discussing what a degree is and differences between Junior Colleges and universities. It is important that when you go on to higher education you have all this in mind so you can concentrate on school as opposed to learning the rules while you go.



This is the first step in going to college and the more you know about college and its rules (as we call it) the better off you will be. This will reduce your stress level during the school year (more time to concentrate on studies) and you will be able to get a better accounting on your future (schedules and important due dates).

Overall, get to know what you are getting into, listen to these students when they give these workshops as these are the first steps in learning the ground rules of college.

So when you are actually in college you can (as Raider's Owner Al Davis would say) "just win baby"...





AMERICAN INDIAN RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

PO Box 880471
San Diego CA, 92168
info@airprograms.org

"Our mission is the promotion and success of American Indians within education."

www.airprograms.org



Renee's Corner

by Renee White Eyes

After our second meeting with AIR Sr., I started thinking a lot about what it was like being a senior in high school. It is such a scary but exciting time in one's life. You are ready to get out of high school and all the drama that came with it, but yet you are anxious about what is coming next. You are on the bridge of adulthood and ready to get out of the house and live your own life. But what are you going to do? For those who are going on to higher education, some are thinking about living in the dorms and the freedom that comes with living away from home. Others may be thinking about the dreaded job search! Others still may be thinking about going to school out of state, away from family. Some just may be thinking about moving out of the house, and the rest will come! Such an exciting time for our Seniors, and I encourage students to use AIR as a resource for learning more about college. We have all gone through the transition, and I am glad to see them so excited about their future.



AIR Pre-Evaluation

by Renee White Eyes

After looking through the results of the pre-evaluation of AIR Sr., we noticed that our Native youth do not really know what a BA/BS is. On the other hand, we also saw that a lot of our Native youth have had a family go to a higher educational institution. What does this mean? There is something going on where there is a communication gap to our youth about higher education. This leaves AIR wondering how we can get the family involved in the program. Our previous evaluation has stated this and the community has been saying this as well. This will be something that we will ponder and try to find a solution for.

Lastly, we have noticed a deficiency in male role models. We already know that there are not as many males in higher education as women...in general. However, we can really see this, even among our Native youth. We can even see this in our mentor pool this semester. Our program is premised on the ideals of diversity. Diversity of race, gender and tolerance is a positive experience and it gives our students an overall feel for what they can do. When we fall short of such an area within an area of importance we fail to give all our students a great aspect of motivation to pursue higher education. We will work on this are.

We have many, many questions that need to be answered. AIR will try to do their best to find solutions to all of these answers.



Thank you to Sycuan Resort and Tribe for your generous support towards our Fundraiser Banquet