



AIR Programs

2010-2011

“Our mission is the promotion and success of American Indians within Education”



The AIR Program was created in 1993 and has continuously served our San Diego American Indian community and Native youth through our after-school mentoring programs. Incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2002, our program was initiated in response to low educational attainment among our Native youth and we have developed our mission as, "the promotion and success of American Indians within education".



The AIR program uses a “Teaching through Culture” model where Native youth learn about their culture and issues affecting our tribal communities. They contemplate the root causes and deliberate possible solutions with the help of college mentors (native and non-native) on many of these issues.

Pictured: Students at UCSD Fall 2010 (top) and SDSU Library Fall 2010



AIR Programs Methodology

Cultural identity is said to be a strong indicator for American Indian persistence and academic performance in college. The more students are immersed in their own language and culture, the better they achieve academically, socially, and economically. The program provides Native youth with an understanding of the uniqueness and diversity found among the American Indian population. Native students are encouraged and prepared to be active community problem-solvers.



Group Picture: AIR Summer Program at UCLA



Group Picture: At Kumeyaay Village of Pauwai Summer 2011

We are proud of our students who have gone through the AIR Program; as many are active in their own Native communities. Students have gone on to become nurses, law enforcement officials, tribal council members, and more. These students have also been accepted and have gone on to SDSU, CSUSM, UCSD, UC Davis, Brandeis University, Stanford, Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona, and many more. Our program continues to flourish as we teach Native youth using a philosophy of learning and teaching through culture. Mentoring provides our Native students with the tools and resources to pursue higher education and despite the barriers Native students struggle with, we continue to prepare our students to achieve success in higher education.



The AIR Program has an academic calendar from Fall through Summer. All data and statistics are generated by our AIR calendar year.

Statistics that are generated through the year are provided to our community to demonstrate:

- Our accomplishments
- How funds are generated and allocated
- And to give recognition to those who have contributed and supported our program

AIR believes in creating positive change for our Native community by providing academic services and inspiring our future leaders to pursue higher education. Our staff and mentors are primarily volunteers and it is well demonstrated that AIR invests the majority of our funds directly into the students. The AIR Programs sincerely thanks all those volunteers within our program and those within our community that provide us ongoing support.

Group Picture: At UCSD Fall 2010

AIR Fall 2010 through Summer 2011



During the 2010 through 2011 AIR Programs we offered three components: AIR Sr., AIR Tutorial, and AIR Summer Project.

Student Participation (overall) within each of these projects were:

- AIR Sr.: designed to serve 9-12th grades (Fall and Spring) 42 student participants
- AIR Tutorial and Family Forum (Spring) 19 student participants
- AIR Summer Program (Summer) 27 student participants

Total student participation: 88



Top Picture: At UCSD Campus Tour Fall 2010
Bottom Picture: SDSU Library Spring 2011

AIR Community Volunteers



Mentor/Community Volunteer Participation (overall) within each of these projects were:

- AIR Sr. (Fall and Spring) 60 student participants
- AIR Tutorial (Spring) 12 student participants
- AIR Summer Program 20 student participants

Total Mentor/Community Volunteer participation: 102

Top Picture: AIR Summer 2011 Village of Pauwai / AIR Spring UCSD 2011
/ AIR Summer 2011 Joan Kroc Center
Bottom Picture: USD Fall 2010

Financials



Mentor/Community Volunteer Participation projected
leveraged costs: **\$37,111.56**

1558 volunteer hrs

Note1: No Employee hours and time within calculations
Note2: Volunteer hours calculated using Independent Sector rates
http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

In-Kind Costs: **\$34,500.00**

In-Kind costs incorporates donated Office space and rooms at UCSD/USD/and SDSU throughout the entire year.



Grants/Donations: **\$23,000.00**

Grants and donations are obtained throughout the fiscal year to cover:

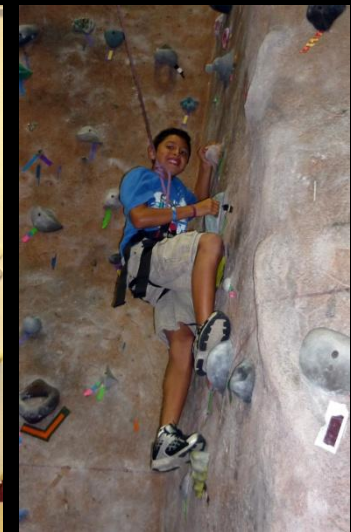
- food at each AIR Sr. and Summer Meetings
- Snacks and supplies for Tutorial
- Field trips during summer programs
- Supplies for AIR Sr. and Summer Programs
- Mileage reimbursements for community volunteers for field trips and AIR Business
- Administrative fees

Top Picture: David Kamper. Ph.D. at SDSU Spring 2011
Bottom Picture: Library Computer Lab SDSU Spring 2011

Community Support

Community support is the underlying foundation of the AIR Programs. We are proud and grateful for all those who have chosen to support our program and our achievements. The following is a list of our community support:

All Tribes Charter School/ Barona Band of Mission Indians/California Indian Legal Services/Mesa Grande Tribal Youth Programs/Native American Lawyer's Association/Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians/San Diego State University, Dept. of Psychology/San Diego State University, Dept. of American Indian Studies/San Diego Office of the President/San Manuel Band of Mission Indians/San Pasqual Band of Kumeyaay Indians/SHARP Business Systems/Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay/Tribal Star/University of San Diego, Dept. of Ethnic Studies/University of San Diego, CASA/University of San Diego, Office of Outreach/University of California, San Diego, Native American Student Alliance/University of California, San Diego, Office of the Chancellor/Viejas Band of Mission Indians Youth Programs



Top Picture: AIR Summer 11 at SDSU
Bottom: UCSD Vice Chancellor Gary Mathews at UCSD
Fall / Student during AIR Summer SDSU

AIR Programs



This last year, our program has had a widely successful year within all our projects. Our success is due to those who have volunteered within our program where they have served our community, inspired our future leaders (our students) who will someday lead us all to a greater future. Our success is also due to our community support and those who believe in the potential of our young Native students.

Although our program operates with minimal funding we maintain the ability to provide quality wrap-around services to our students as we believe that no amount of money can replace the loss of a child's potential and therefore we will always continue to operate and serve our Native community. Our future depends on what we accomplish right now with our students, and with such great support and dedication from our community, we feel our future will continue to be bright for us all.