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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 Summer Complete Fall Program Begins

(SAN DIEGO) The AIR Program has enjoyed great success within our Summer program as 38 Native students participated within our program along with over 25 community members/

mentors/ and university representatives working towards the promotion of higher education for our students during the summer months. We cannot express enough thanks to all our community supporters who made our summer program possible, especially the *San Manuel Band of Mission Indians* who sponsored our summer program (*thank you!*). Every year we are amazed that so many of our Native students express their desire to pursue higher education, to accomplish more within their current academics and to preserve their own identity through our program.

As summer ends, our Fall (AIR Sr.) program begins. This year we will explore the ideals of hate speech and our environment. As hate crime and discrimination practices arise we look to this issue to find answers and the differences that are pulling our communities apart. Along with our research project we give our students academic workshops on various topics designed to give them what is needed to pursue higher education and to have greater academic performance within their current level of education. Finally, it is always the simple ideas that are the best, in which our program creates new friendships between our communities (urban and reservation, mentors and students, between reservations, and more) where by the end of our program we are able to realize that we are all ahead of the game because of it.



AIR Programs 17th Annual Fundraiser Banquet

Hosted by

The San Pasqual Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Thursday, November 18, 2010
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



We thank all of you who have supported our American Indian Recruitment Program for so many years. Such community support has helped our program in servicing hundreds of our American Indian youth pursuing higher education. Someday we will look to these students to lead our many American Indian Nations and our communities to preserve the rights of Native Americans throughout the United States. Today, we look for your support to help maintain our program so that many more Native American youth may participate and hopefully achieve the success as many have done in the past. While our AIR Program has diversified our funding through Federal and private funds, we still look for support from our local community, and again ask for your support.

This year, the AIR Program would like to invite you to become a sponsor of our program by attending our Annual Fundraiser Banquet to hear and see what our program has accomplished over these many years. You may find our sponsor form with detailed information about the banquet, which will be held on November 18, 2010 at the San Pasqual Band of Kumeyaay Indians Tribal Hall, on our website: www.airprogram.org. Without the help and support of our community we would have never achieved the success that we have had this last year and look forward to our upcoming year.

Again, please visit our website at www.airprograms.org to see the exciting activities our students have engaged in over the years. We hope you find our accomplishments as exciting as we do. We can be reached best via email at info@airprograms.org

We look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Dwight K. Lomayesva
American Indian Recruitment Programs
Executive Director



Kate's Review - Summer 2010

From time to time we have our students and mentors contribute to our newsletter by giving their thoughts on Native issues and events. Here, Kate Gordon (USD Alumni/AIR Mentor/Coordinator has agreed to contribute to our newsletter.

When I met with Dwight last spring to plan for AIR summer, I envisioned a small program of seven or eight students. With no funding to pay for staff, I didn't want to plan anything too extravagant. But just in case, if we beat the odds, and there was a larger turnout, we reserved three classrooms at USD.

Before I knew it, Tobin and I had a list of 15 potential students who wanted to participate in the program. We passed around ideas on how we would structure the meetings, discussing different field trips we could take and experiments we could do. Thankfully, with the support of Dr. Sarah Unsworth and a National Science Foundation grant, as well as a donation from *San Manuel Band of Mission Indians* and NASA at UCSD, we were able to cover the costs of a field trip for every week of the program.

Once AIR summer began, I learned quickly what worked and what didn't in terms of getting the students and mentors involved. The first meeting consisted of empty stares and me explaining a power point-- I somehow forgot that watching a lecture is not exciting-- for any age. But after the first week, the program picked up and with each meeting students got more excited about the topics we were covering and the places we were visiting. By the second week of the program, we were using all three rooms and had students rotating through different hands-on experiments with the guidance of their mentors. We also did team building activities, science projects and discussion groups with an emphasis on American Indian culture and issues affecting the Indian community. During week four, the mentors led students through workshops about college and future careers.

After the five weeks came to an end, we had gone to the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, the Zoo, Sea World, and my favorite—Torrey Pines, which was our final field trip and ended with almost everyone in the ocean (with our clothes on). I loved spending time with students, families, and mentors on each of the field trips and there were many, many funny moments, which I will not forget for a long time. Thank you to the mentors and community members who made the program a success!

I'm so grateful to have been a part of the AIR community in which I've learned so much from the students, mentors and community members. Through my work with AIR, I've had the chance to get to know many really inspiring people.





As our Fall Program Starts and a new year- We Revisit our last Year's Statistics

With the completion of our Summer Program we complete another Academic Year for the AIR Program. Although we have no funding we have expanded to include San Diego's three major

universities: San Diego State University, the University of San Diego, and the University of California, San Diego, to help our Native students succeed in their academics and be motivated to pursue higher education. We have kept our Summer Program and Tutorial Program but due to lack of funding we could not support our AIR Jr. Program. The following is a brief statistical record of our Program. *More stats can be found on our website.*

AIR Sr.: Serving 9-12th grades (Fall and Spring):	38 student participants
AIR Tutorial (Fall and Spring)	19 student participants
AIR Summer Program (Summer):	38 student participants
Overall Student Participants (within all programs):	95 students participants
Non-Duplicative:	62 students participants
Grades Served:	K through 12th
Tribal Nations Represented:	24+

Projected Service of 40 students-we exceeded all expectations!



AIR PROGRAMS

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Thanking the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for the support for our program. Your help has given our students a greater ability to reach their greatest potential.



Wynona's Corner - Why I mentor???

From time to time we have our students and mentors, from our program, contribute to our newsletter giving their thoughts on various parts of our program, Native issues and events. Here, Wynona Peters (USD Senior/mentor has agreed to contribute to our newsletter.

Hi everyone, my name is Wynona Peters and I am Tohono O'odham from the San Xavier district near Tucson, AZ. I'm currently a senior at the University of San Diego majoring in Ethnic Studies and Sociology. As a fellow mentor in the AIR program I have been involved with the program for four semesters including one summer session since my time here in San Diego. Through my participation with the AIR program I have gained the experience of what a mentor should be and why I continue to work with the program. AIR gives me the opportunity to work and provide any type of support for American Indian students as they look to attain or think about higher education. Whether it be from giving workshops about A-G requirements to finding support systems on campus, as a mentor were here for the students and will always be here for them for anything they need. The reason why I continue to mentor with AIR is basically because I enjoy working with the students and being able to help them in any way possible. I'm able to give and receive with the students by providing my support but also receiving their support as well. By working with AIR, mentoring to me is much more than just providing my help and support but rather it helps me be more confident in the work I do as a student. The students give me more reasons to take on that leadership role we desperately need for our communities. They provide me with that determination to finish and continue my education because besides being a mentor we also set an example for them. Which is great because it allows them to have the confidence in knowing American Indians can obtain higher education and are able to succeed. Without the AIR program I don't know where I would have been able to find my community support away from home. I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Jacob and Roberta Garcia who got me involved, Dwight for allowing me to participate in AIR and most importantly the students who allow me to gain the experience of a mentor as well as provide their support.

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Thanking all our Community Partners for their support of our program, Native Children and bringing hope and future for all our American Indian Community.



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