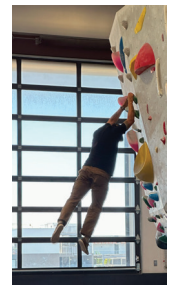




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AIR News

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"OUR MISSION IS THE PROMOTION AND SUCCESS
OF AMERICAN INDIANS WITHIN EDUCATION"

*Celebrating 31 years of community service
to our Native Communities*



Congratulations to our 2024 Student Leadership Awardees

We are pleased to announce our 2024 "Student Leadership Honorees". We are honored that we have been a part of their lives as they seek to create a greater future for themselves and their communities through higher education. These awardees have been selected based on their academic standing, their participation in AIR Programs Projects, their ability to inspire and motivate others, their dedication to community, and their determination to pursue higher education. This year's awardees are:

- Antonio A. Amado (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel)
- Jacob Arellano (Pechanga Band of Indians)
- Kailyn S. Culpeper (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians)
- Isabella Guevara (Algonquin Descendent)
- Jocelyn C. Silva (Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria)
- Huyana Vasquez (Pechanga Band of Indians)

This year our Honorees participated in our collaborative project with Intertribal Court of Southern CA as Native Youth Peer Jurists. As a jurist, they assisted in developing a wellness plans for their fellow community members. Their care and dedication to our Native Communities show that our Native Youth will someday lead our Tribal Nations to a greater future.



AIR Programs 31st Annual Awards and Fundraiser Banquet / 2024

Date: October 30, 2024 **Time:** 5-8 pm

Location: University of California, San Diego Extension / Park and Market (San Diego / Downtown)



Please join us for our 31st Annual Awards and Fundraiser as we honor our Native Students and mentors from our programs. This year we have had outstanding results from our Restorative Justice Certification / Youth Court programs as well as our last class of students who enter college from our program. Thank you to all who assisted us this year in creating positive change for our Native Youth and communities. We invite you to join us as a sponsor for our Native Youth Banquet where you can celebrate and hear from the fantastic Native Youth we will honor. For more information on our Banquet please go to: <https://www.airprograms.org/air-fundraising>

Student Honorees Bio's

Antonio A. Amado

(Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel)

Haawka Enyaa Antonio Wee'nitchu'he. Enyaa Maat Elly'kwa'naan Ko'pai. Enyaa Paipa Shumulth Ko'pai.

My name is Antonio A. Amado. I am a proud tribal member of the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel where I have lived my entire life. I have attended Warner Unified School District since preschool and I will graduate this June. As a student I've played three years of Varsity football, basketball and baseball. My honors include being elected as our school CIF student council representative as well as our schools ASB sports liaison. Culturally, I participate in traditional activities such as Bird singing and playing Peon. This has allowed me to travel to many different reservations, participating in our traditions to sing birdsongs at our gatherings and powwows, including the Grand Canyon and Alcatraz Island. My lifelong passion is playing sports as I love being active. As a kid, I can remember thinking, "when is the bell going to ring so I can go play", however, as I got older, mathematics started to grow on me more than other subjects and I started to enjoy it more and more. It's hard to believe that same kid is taking a statistics class this year.

I have been a part of the AIR Program for a couple of years now and have been taking courses from SDSU and UCSD in Restorative Justice and Tribal Governance. My hopes and dreams are to be the first out of my brother and mother to attend a university. My dream is to attend San Diego State University and to obtain a business degree. I also want to be an electrical engineer. Who knows what I can do as I look forward to a great future. But one thing I will do is utilize my skills and go back to my reservation and give back to my community.

I thank my mother, Bettina Paipa, and my grandparents, Lester Ace Paipa and Shirley Mae Siva. And, I thank those who helped raise me, my Nana and Papa, Mary and Don Carlson.

Thanks to the AIR program that has given me so many opportunities to make it here through education as I know my dream will come true. (Oohai Yaay a'haan) Thank you.



Kailyn S. Culpeper *(San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians)*

Haawka, Kailyn Culpeper nechuhii. I am a descendant of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians.

I'm 17 years old and a senior at Valley Center High School. I live on the San Pasqual reservation with my parents and 3 younger siblings. Outside of school, I work a part-time job and serve as Chairwoman for my reservation's youth council. Throughout my time serving, I've found my passion in uplifting the future generations. As a council, we've hosted numerous community events such as fundraisers, toy drives, and our on-going garden project. These events have taught me the values in leadership and giving back to my tribe. While balancing this role, I've maintained a 4.3 GPA across my high school years. I hope to continue to advocate for native empowerment in my collegiate career and be a role model for the next generation.

My interests include chemistry, engineering, and mathematics. I want to pursue a higher education at a four year university and possibly major in chemical engineering.

Kailyn has taken both SDSU and UCSD coursework and has passed. She qualifies for the AIR/ICSC/UCSD Micro-Certificate 2024 Awardee.



Isabella Guevara (Algonquin Descendent)

Hi everyone! My name is Isabella Guevara and I am a proud Algonquin descendant.

Being a part of AIR has helped me grow closer to my Native culture in hopes of giving back to the underserved Native community. Without AIR I would not be the person I am today. I have been able to take university level classes and pass them, which, at first was a complete shock to me, but then I was able to realize that I am just as capable of succeeding as anyone else is. All these opportunities have allowed me to understand the importance of education. AIR not only has helped me with my academics, but it has also allowed me to become a more well-rounded person. With AIR allowing me to take classes and learn more about Restorative Justice and Tribal Governance, and allowing the opportunity to serve on the Tribal Youth Court, I have been able to develop wellness plans for individuals who needed guidance.

While being a part of AIR I am also very involved in my school community. I serve as president for my school's medical pathways club. This club has allowed me to express my love for medicine. My goal is to help people. I am also a member of the National Honors Society, Treasurer for our class cabinet, and part of AVID. All these opportunities have allowed me to prepare myself for when I attend university as a first-generation student. I also play water polo with the position of goalie. I have always considered myself a mermaid and you will always find me near water. As I am going into my senior year, I am excited to attend university and increase the statistics of Native students in attendance. I hope to be able to make the program proud with my future endeavors of becoming the first native physician in my family, and to be able to give back to the Native community. It is an honor to be selected as an AIR Honoree. I look forward to making the community a better place along with my other amazing peers selected.

Isabella has taken both SDSU and UCSD coursework and has passed. She qualified and received the UCSD Micro-Certificate 2023 Awarded. Currently serving as a jurist in our Tribal Youth Court.



Huyana Vasquez (Pechanga Band of Indians)

My name is Huyana Vasquez. I am 17 years old. I am a proud member of the Pechanga Band of Indians and a Senior at Great Oak High School.

Involvement in the community, both tribal and non-tribal, is something that has always been encouraged by my parents. I never minded though! Just recently, I have really broken out of my shell and that has pushed me to try and thrive in all kinds of areas. I serve on the Pechanga Youth Council and am currently serving my 4th term. As I have grown, I have learned the true power that lies within my voice and the voices of tribal youth. I strive to be encouraging to all, as many once were to me. Ever since joining AIR, I have been inspired to pursue areas of leadership that lie outside of my Native community. For instance, I joined school leadership and became a commissioner within my Peer Leader program at Great Oak High School, which is something that I once never had the confidence to work for and accomplish. Reflecting on my accomplishments and dedication is something I rarely do, but acknowledgment of my growth and how it can always continue is something I will never lack. As of recently, I have become super interested in pursuing Tribal Government, ensuring I can give back to my community. In order to do this, I plan on majoring in Political Science and/or Communication and minoring in Native American Studies, not only broadening knowledge that is important in being a good leader, but also gaining an elevated understanding and empathy toward my own people. My motivation to succeed is not only fueled by those I love, but also those I don't yet know, as I will also need to be devoted to them. I am excited to graduate at the end of this school year and take a vital step in the direction that will kickstart my contribution to my people.

Huyana has taken the UCSD coursework and has passed with above average grades. Currently serving as a jurist in our Tribal Youth Court.



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.





Jacob Arellano (*Pechanga Band of Indians*)

My name is Jacob Arellano. I come from the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, otherwise known to our people as Payómkawichum or ‘Éxvayum, and knowing who my people are gives me nothing but pride.

My family has taken a supportive role towards my goals and achievements ever since I was a little child. Their support is my motivation to keep pushing forward, along with many of my other role models. Knowing who I want to become and where I come from is a big aspect of my accomplishments. I want my future to be full of leadership and participation in my community, the same as those I look up to. To me, being a leader is being connected to your community, but I know the term “leader” can mean so many different things. Anyone can be a leader in their own way. It is unfortunate that those before us have had to forge their way through so many hardships and obstacles to become a sovereign tribe. The benefits that came after have most certainly helped me and those around me create our goals for our future, and I am forever grateful for my tribe’s hard work in keeping our community together. I do not plan to ever stray from this path. I want to use the knowledge that my teachers have given me to shape what our community will become and then pass it down when it is time to do so. The AIR program has taught me many valuable lessons and aided me in my preparation for college. I plan to use this knowledge to better focus myself on how I want to give back to my community. After learning much about tribal law, it will help me better understand the way we handle situations regarding our tribe. This is something I see as a vital form of education to have, as I believe there is no such thing as a wrong path when it comes to learning the law to help others. Well, I still consider

myself very young, so my path could change the more down the road I go. One thing for certain though, I will live a life that I am proud of. If my ancestors can adapt to the major changes that this continent has undergone, then I can adapt to the major changes after high school!

Jacob has taken UCSD coursework and has passed. He culturally participated in Luiseno based Bird singing at various cultural events (most recently at SY and Rincon). Currently serving as a jurist in our Tribal Youth Court.

Jocelyn C. Silva (*Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria*)

My name is Jocelyn Silva. I’m 17 years old and a Senior at Elk Grove High School.

Over the past four years, I’ve been deeply immersed in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program, where I’ve had the unique opportunity to raise and market a hog. This experience has been incredibly rewarding. Beyond FFA, I’ve also taken on a leadership role within my school, where I was honored to be selected for the school council. In this position, I’ve had the opportunity to help shape our school’s direction by managing social media content and coordinating school events. This leadership experience has been a great way for me to give back to my school community, while also practicing my communication and organizational skills. I’m also very connected to my tribe, which plays a significant role in my life. I regularly attend cultural events, take classes, and participate in volunteer activities that allow me to give back to my community. In my free time, I enjoy simple pleasures like reading and getting coffee. These small moments allow me to unwind and recharge, providing balance to my busy schedule.

I believe that these experiences have shaped me into a more well-rounded individual, and I’m committed to making the most out of my high school journey as I prepare for the next chapter of my life.

Jocelyn has taken both SDSU and UCSD coursework and has passed. She qualifies for the UCSD Micro-Certificate 2024 Awardee. Currently serving as a jurist in our Tribal Youth Court.



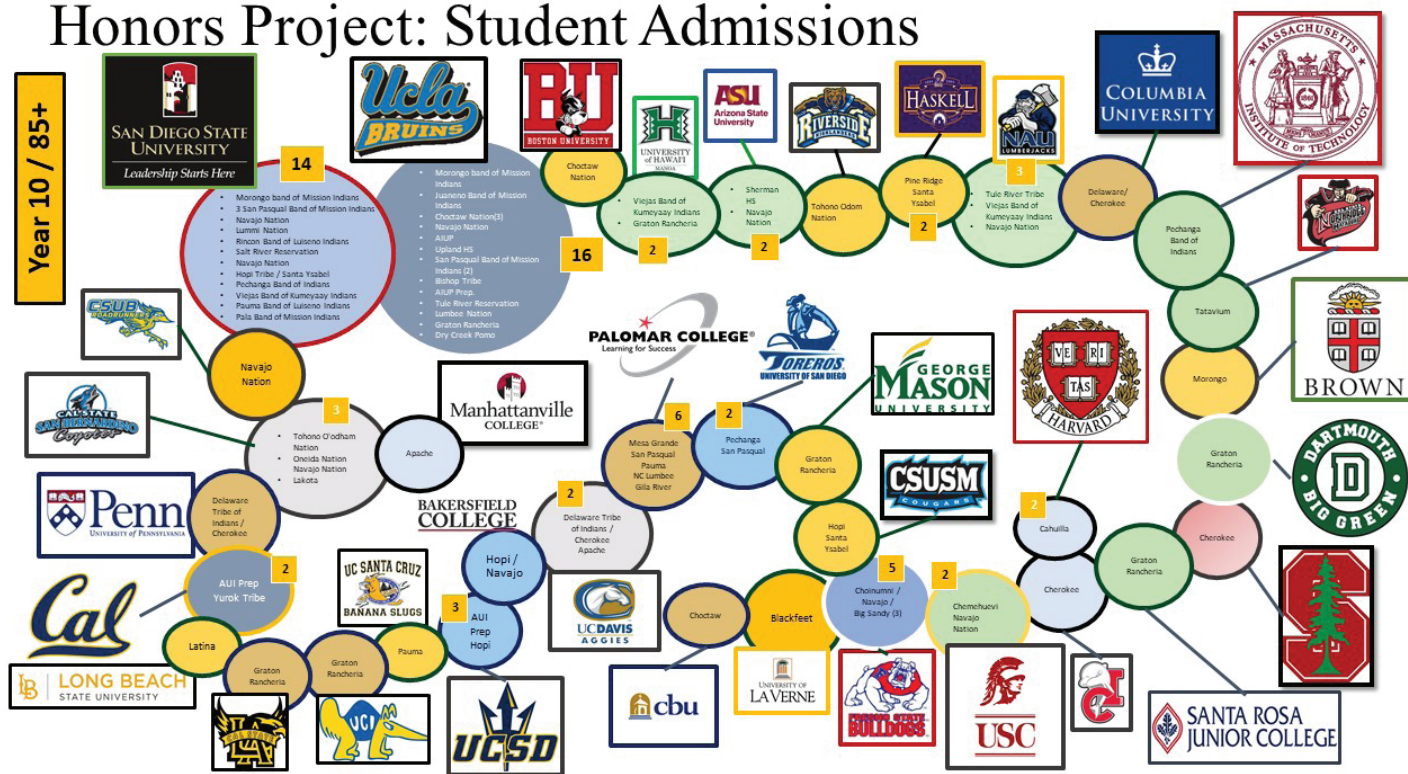
Thank you SCTCA for your support and your great crew for participating in AIR Summer. Finally thank you SDSU and the great “Crew” over at USD Extension, you folks truly are the best!!!!



UC San Diego

10 Years of AIR Honors and TYC

Honors Project: Student Admissions

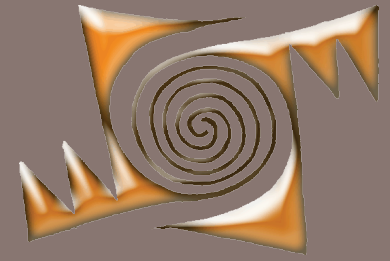


TRIBAL YOUTH COURT

It has been a decade since the first ideals of developing a Tribal Youth (Peer) Court started. Today, AIR Programs and Intertribal Court of Southern CA, has started to implement our Tribal Youth (Peer) Court model, marking a major milestone since its inception in 2014. This significant moment featured the utilization of Native Peer Jurors, who have received training through our Restorative Justice Project. This training/coursework has been a major component of the TYC's project and has allowed our Peer Jurist to understand the ideals of Tribal law while emphasizing the pivotal role peers play in youth decision-making. A peer jury capitalizes on the influence of positive peer pressure to help divert the participant away from further misconduct. Overall, our Peer Jurist demonstrated a remarkable level of professionalism, applying their training with confidence and bringing valuable youth perspectives to the proceedings. Their contributions not only enhanced the fairness through Tribal understanding but also reflected their commitment to the well-being of their communities. The involvement of the PDMs is a testament to the strength of youth engagement and the potential of the TYC program to shape positive outcomes for both the court participants and the community at large.

We are proud of our work in developing the TYC, as this is a massive project that involves our regional universities (UCSD and SDSU), our Tribal Court, San Diego County Juvenile Courts, our Consortium Tribes and numerous volunteers. Among many of our “firsts” that AIR Programs has had, this project is one of the first in Indian Country done in this unique model. Congratulations to our team, our community and all those who worked on this project!





AIR PROGRAMS

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Congratulations to Intertribal Court Chief Judge on State Judiciary Appointment

We want to congratulate our AIR Programs Co-Founder and Chief Judge of Intertribal Court of Southern CA on her appointment to the CA State Court Judiciary. The Honorable Devon L. Lomayesva (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel) has dedicated her time to our Tribal and Southern CA communities for over 30 years, as a member of the CA State Bar and practicing attorney, an instructor at San Diego State University, the Executive Director of CA Indian Legal Services, and as the Chief Judge of Intertribal Court of Southern CA. Her work also includes vesting her time working with her Tribe as a former Tribal Council member, attorney and promoting Iipay culture as the Committee Chair of the Santa Ysabel Gathering that has been annually held for over 25 years. Finally, she is the proud mother of three.

When AIR started, we were unsure how we would develop, but our hearts were there and were willing to help in any way we could, for our Native communities. It was her leadership that led us, along with her positive determination. Thirty years later, we are still going and we seem to have had some success (*ha*)!

There is so much to say about her contributions to our communities! She will be greatly missed, however, the greater outlook is that our Tribal and Native communities will have representation among our state judiciary. We are so proud of Mrs. Devon L. Lomayesva as she joins the State Judiciary as one of the first California Tribally enrolled Native women on the bench. Congratulations on all your work and your dedication to our communities!

https://cswl.edu/news/alumni/devon_lomayesva_appointed.html

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2024/10/09/governor-newsom-announces-judicial-appointments-10-9-24/>



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