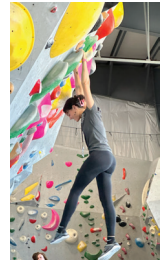




▶ HONOREE ANOUNC	1
▶ SAVE THE DATE	2
▶ HONOREE BIOS	2
▶ HONOREE BIOS	3
▶ HONOREE BIOS	4
▶ 11 YEARS OF HONORS	5
▶ MICRO CERTIFICATIONS	6



AIR News

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

Celebrating 32 years of community service to our Native Communities



Congratulations to our 2025 Student Leadership Awardees

We are pleased to announce our 2025 "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:

- Jaselle Fugitt (Rosebud Sioux Tribe)
- Ali Marie Chacon (Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, San Gabriel Kizh)
- Scarlett Rose Reed (Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians)
- Sequoia Kwa'maay Conway (Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation)
- Enalicia Gutierrez (Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria)
- Daniella Adkins (Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation)

This year our Honorees participated in our collaborative project with UCSD and SDSU and Intertribal Court 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 32nd Annual Awards and Fundraiser Banquet - 2025

Date: October 23, 2025 **Time:** 5:00 -8:00 pm

Location: Rincon Government Center



Please join us for our 32nd 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

Jaselle Fugitt *(Rosebud Sioux Tribe)*

Hi! My name is Jaselle Fugitt and I am a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. I am currently a senior in a High School near Santa Rosa. I'm involved in many leadership programs at my school but often felt disconnected from my culture as I live far away from many of my Native American relatives. I am grateful for the people at Graton Rancheria allowing me to have the opportunity to be included to learn more about Indigenous culture through their programs. Their work is incredible but also their collaborative efforts with many programs, it is here, they introduced me to their collaborative partner AIR Programs. AIR allowed me to not only get involved in understanding Federal and Tribal law but also taught me the fundamentals on college. During the AIR Program I took university courses at SDSU and UCSD to learn about the Tribal Legal System and Restorative Justice. Although I participate in many academic programs I also participate in many other programs including AVID, the varsity cheer team, and IB. I have not only learned how to be a leader for my school but now my culture. I am extremely grateful for all the opportunities that have been available to me and finally achieving an in depth understanding of my culture. After high school I would like to major in Forensic Science or Biology with a possible minor in Indian American Studies and have a future career as a Forensic Investigator. I want to say thank you to my mom and dad for always pushing me to do my hardest and achieve the most. I also want to thank Mrs. Johnson, an Education Specialist whom has helped me in my academic journey. Mrs. Johnson has been my mentor for many years and helped me grow as a person and my cultural community. Thank you everyone at Graton and AIR that gave me this opportunity to take these classes and a special thank you to my AIR mentors!



Jaselle has completed both SDSU and UCSD coursework and has qualified and received the UCSD Micro-Certificate (2025 Awardedee).



Sequoia Kwa'maay Conway *(Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation)*

Howka my name is Sequoia Kwa'maay Conway from the Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians. My parents are Lance and Shay Conway. My Grandfather is Ron Conway from Campo and my Grandmother is Rowena Elliott from Manzanita. I have a unique experience in life, as I entered public school during 11th grade in for first time ever. Before I was home schooled.

Today, I play volleyball for my High School while participating in my Tribe's cultural activities. It seems like I have participated in AIR programs for years. Mostly through AIR summer where I participated in the ropes course, kayaked, hiked, and learned about cultural ideals. More importantly, I participated in their Restorative Justice project where I learned about Tribal Law and Governance. With that, I participated in the Tribal Youth Court as a jurist.

My focus this year is becoming more self-directed and meeting goals I set for myself. The plan for after graduation is to attend San Diego State University and to come back to work within our Tribal communities, especially with our youth. Finally, I am looking forward to the future and what life is after high school and maybe looking into Law.

Sequoia has completed both SDSU and UCSD coursework and has qualified and received the UCSD Micro-Certificate (2025 Awardedee). Sequoia is currently serving as a jurist in our Tribal Youth Court.



Scarlett Rose Reed *(Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians)*

Míyu míyu Nomóki notúng Scarlett Rose Reed yaqáa. And I am an enrolled member of the Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians and descended from the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians and the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. I am the youngest of eight children, and my family and cultural roots play a huge role in shaping who I am today. I am currently a senior in high school

and part of a dual enrollment program, taking classes through Grand Canyon University and Palomar College. This opportunity has allowed me to challenge myself academically while preparing for my future. My goal is to attend a university next fall, where I plan to major in American Indian Studies and minor in Dance. Looking forward, I aspire to earn a teaching degree so that I can return to my community and give back in meaningful ways. I hope to teach our language, preserving and passing on traditions that are essential to our identity, or open a studio based on the reservation to teach multiple styles of dance, but hopefully both.

Dance has been a part of my life since I was three years old. It is more than just movement for me; it is a way to connect to myself, my mind, and my soul. Through dance, I find balance, strength, and a way to express who I am. My passion for it is something I hope to carry into my studies and eventually share with others. My leadership is rooted in cultural pride, service, and a vision for the future. I represent the next generation of Native leaders grounded in tradition, yet unafraid to embrace new challenges in order to create opportunities for my community and make my elders proud. No\$uun 'liiq looviq Hati"ax

Scarlett has successfully taken our SDSU Tribal Governance course and is currently enrolled in the UCSD Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies course. Scarlett is currently serving as a jurist in our Tribal Youth Court.



Ali Marie Chacon *(Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, San Gabriel Kizh)*

Miyiha aweskone xaa' eqwaha netwanyane Ali Marie Chacon, meaning "hello everyone, my name is Ali Marie Chacon". I am a tribal member of the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, San Gabriel Kizh. It was amazing to have taken AIR courses throughout my freshman and sophomore year! I couldn't have been so grateful for this opportunity to guide my focus to the career I want to pursue. I've taken both UCSD and SDSU courses and passed them to my surprise as a freshman who knew nothing about taking University level classes before attending High School. I am currently a Senior and actively participating in clubs and activities within and outside of school. I'm an open person to do anything. I love the arts, crafting and performing. I have been in my school's Drama Club since my freshman year. I sew and crochet outside of school and tend my garden. I participate in student government and in my District's Youth Advisory Council. Being part of student led organizations helps encourage leadership skills and my opportunity to express my ideas within a community full of strong-willed students. I've always been the shy type when it comes to group discussions and presentations, but thanks to AIR I've grown out of my shell and was able to raise my voice to be heard. I've been involved in my native community from a young age, I've been to meetings my tribe holds, ceremonies and powwows, even lectures specifically for Native Law as I got older. It marked the beginning of my interest in wanting to pursue my knowledge in Tribal and Environmental law, and with the help of AIR I have gained access to their resources specifically for Native American students like myself. I've gained a better understanding of current situations, the injustice of Natives and termination of Indigenous land. It became a realization for me that my community needed someone to make a change, so I decided to step up. Thank you to Dwight; AIR Program Director for all his support and my cousin for telling me about this opportunity: as well as my family for staying up late with me submitting my assignments. This was my chance to be more committed to learning tribal law and my tribe; furthering my education to greater heights.



Ali has completed both SDSU and UCSD coursework and has qualified and received the UCSD Micro-Certificate (2025 Awardedee).

We thank Procopio for all support and charitable giving for these many years. Your support has not only strengthened our work with Native Youth but has made them future leaders among our Tribal Nations.



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Enalicia Gutierrez *(Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria)*

Hi, I am Enalicia Garcia, a senior at a High School on the outskirts of Santa Rosa. I want thank everyone involved for being recognized for this academic achievement and leadership honor. I am passionate about volunteering within my community, which includes, American Cancer Society, CASA, and several Sonoma County nonprofits. Additionally, I was able to be certified through the Red Cross for CPR.

I am proud to be a participant the Restorative Justice Project through the AIR Programs, and University of California, San Diego, and San Diego State University. Here, I completed the micro certification program on restorative justice which has prepared me to help others within the Tribal Youth Court. Within the Tribal Youth Court, I can participate as a jurist utilizing my understanding of tribal communities and law.

Additionally, I have participated in the Sonoma State University academic talent search program and have participated, completed the Graton Writing Project, and earned a Certificate of Achievement in STEM with the AVANZADO Program, an extension of the Santa Rosa Junior College, where I also took dual enrollment classes. As far as high school, I am a varsity cheerleader and cross-country athlete balancing my academics with school spirit and teamwork!

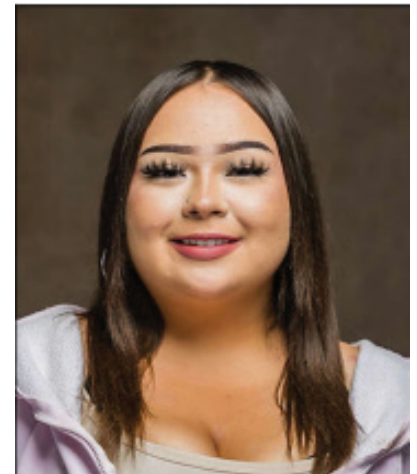
Enalicia has completed both SDSU and UCSD coursework and has qualified and received the UCSD Micro-Certificate (2025 Awardedee).

Daniella Adkins *(Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation)*

Hello there, I am Daniella Adkins I am from the Manzanita Band of The Kumeyaay Nation. My interests are making my environment a better place for the future generations, giving a helping hand, heavy lifting and trying different makeup techniques in my free time. I want to pursue in law I would love to go to a law school to become a lawyer and eventually becoming a judge. Being a judge has always inspired me since I was young.

My cultural heritage is an important part of who I am and inspires me to honor my traditions and community. I take pride in my roots and enjoy learning more about the history and stories of my people. One of my biggest passions is cooking, especially exploring new recipes and techniques. My favorite things to make are cookies, Rice Krispies, and breakfast soups. Cooking allows me to express creativity and bring joy to those around me, whether it's perfecting a recipe or sharing a meal with loved ones. It's also a way for me to connect with my culture and family traditions, especially through preparing comforting and meaningful dishes. Academically, I am motivated to succeed in high school so that I can pursue higher education at a university after graduation. While I'm still exploring my specific career path, I know that attending college will open doors for me to achieve my goals and make a positive impact in the world. Looking ahead, I am excited about opportunities to learn and grow, both academically and personally. I hope to continue exploring my passion for cooking, strengthening my connection to my cultural roots, and taking steps toward a bright and meaningful future.

Daniella has completed both SDSU and UCSD coursework and has qualified and received the UCSD Micro-Certificate (2025 Awardedee). Daniella is currently serving as a jurist in our Tribal Youth Court.



Thank you to SDSU Dept. of American Indian Studies for working with us from the start and the SDSU Native Resource Center. Finally, a tremendous thank you for the great "Crew" over at UCSD Extension, you - folks truly are the best!!!!

UC San Diego

11 Years of AIR Honors and TYC

Honors Project: Student Admissions



Tribal Legal Education and Juvenile Justice

It has been over a decade since the first ideals of developing a Tribal Youth (Peer) Court started. We started with this journey at UCLA and continued our march towards juvenile justice through our collaborative efforts with UCSD Extension and San Diego State University Dept of American Indian Studies. After year 4 we came up with the development of a Tribal Youth Peer Court model, utilizing our Native youth as 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.

Our first hearing occurred in year 8, and our Peer Jury 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.

We are proud of our work in developing this is a massive project. It 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!





Congratulations to our Micro Certificate Awardees

Congratulations to our Native Youth who have earned their Micro Certifications through our Restorative Justice Project. Our restorative justice series is intended for participants to gain a broad understanding of restorative justice concepts and their importance in wellness and healthy functioning of individuals, families, and communities.

These courses provide an overview of the Tribal, State and Federal legal systems along with Tribal Governance structures. Included in these courses, students will understand important Tribal legal studies ideals, including tribal government and court structures, the history of tribal court systems and implementation of tribal court criminal and civil jurisdiction.

Courses begin with an introduction to concepts of legal studies and progress into understanding restorative justice through our Tribal Legal studies course with an emphasis on contemporary tribal legal issues. The program curriculum blends skill building and facilitation development with academic, cultural, and spiritual understandings of restorative justice ideals and dispute resolution for implementation and sustainability.

- Daniella Adkins (Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation)
- Sequoia Kwa'maay Conway (Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation)
- Violet Darlene Thompson (Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation)
- Jaselle Deloris Fugitt (Lakota Sioux ~ Rosebud Reservation)
- Sophia Mercado (Tigua / Santa Ana Cohort)
- Enalicia Rose Gutierrez (Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria)
- Kathryn Minnier (Pechanga Band of Indians)



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