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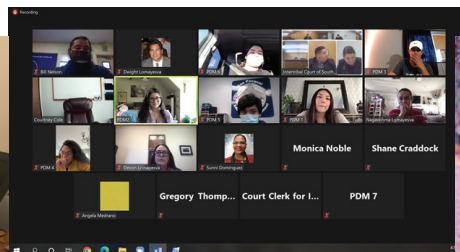


AIR News

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"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.



Happy New Year!!!

This year was another challenging year but despite Covid-19, and its variants, AIR Programs has continued to work with our Native Youth through our mentoring/tutoring projects, our restorative justice project and our community giving program this last year.

This last November, we delivered Thanksgiving Turkeys to our Native Families in the rural regions of San Diego County. We followed this by working with Intertribal Court, Southern California Indian Centers and Toy for Tots to deliver Christmas Toys to Native Families within the San Diego Region.

This last year, for the first time, we had 100% passage within our Native Law Based courses/trainings that our Native High School students are taking. These courses/training are in combination of our restorative justice project where our participants will join our Native Peer Court jury assisting in developing wellness plans for those who deserve a second chance. In 2022, we are ready to have hearings for this diversion based project.

Finally, on November 4th, we were able to resume our Annual Honoring Banquet for our students who have excelled within our program and within their academics. Although Covid has slowed us down, we have come up with some solutions to our challenges and slowly, we are making our way back to a full program for 2022.

We thank all those programs that have teamed up with us to make these great events occur. We look forward to a great 2022!!!





AIR Honors Project Training/Courses Starting in February

Today we are happy to announce our Spring 2022 Course/Training. This Spring, in collaboration with San Diego State University – American Indian Studies, we are seeking Native High School Youth to participate within a university Freshman Level Writing Course, that concentrates its content on Tribal Governance.

Information can be found at: www.airprograms.org or <https://sites.google.com/airprograms.org/airprogramshonorsproject/home>

Course: **AMIND 120 Writing and Rhetoric** / Course is online and is A-synchronous allowing our students to learn on their own pace, within a weekly timeframe

Start: Feb. 14th

Units: 3 units

University: San Diego State University

This course is part of training for students, Native High School Youth, to potentially sit on our Peer Court Jury to assist in developing wellness plans for those Native Youth who have gone on a path that is not within the customs and norms of our communities. By understanding Tribal governance, they will understand the differing ideals within our Tribal communities. This understanding, in turn, will guide our peer jury in the development of appropriate wellness plans based on community ideals.

The course itself is a writing course, but utilizes our content to teach both writing skills and understanding of the content.

This is a university course and will have our students dedicating at least 6-8 hours a week of homework time. We will utilize university mentors for the students to help digest and understand the materials.

Again, thank you all for your work within the community and your support, feel free to contact us at: Info@airprograms.org.



We thank Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP, and SCTCA for their sponsorship of our American Indian Recruitment Programs.



Restorative Justice Training at 2 years

We have initiated our Restorative Justice Trainings for our Native High School Students with the purpose of having our students understand the differences between our Native Community ideals and the outside non-Native constructs of government and justice. In turn, this understanding will help them in creating a more informed and appropriate Native ideal wellness plan while they serve as a jury within the Native Youth Peer Court, from the Intertribal Court of Southern California.

Within our two years of implementation we are seeing great success through higher completion rates.

We tend to believe that students accomplish and have more success when the instruction is about them, about Native ideals, as our students rarely see this being taught in public schools.

The following are our success story>

Course *Indicates Covid-19 challenges in implementation	Student Passage rate
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Hopi / Morongo Band of Mission Indians)	83%
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD): (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians / Chickasaw)	75%*
Writing and Rhetoric and Tribal Governance (SDSU): (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Morongo Band of Mission Indians / Chickasaw / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Pomo Dry Creek Rancheria / Delaware and Cherokee people)	77%*
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancheria / Jamul Indian Village / Navajo / Cahuilla Band of Indians)	94%*
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD): (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancheria / Jamul Indian Village / Navajo / Cahuilla Band of Indians / Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Nation)	83%*
Writing and Rhetoric and Tribal Governance (SDSU): (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Morongo Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancheria / Jamul Indian Village / Navajo / La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians / Pauma Band of Mission Indians)	90%*
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Pechanga / Graton Rancheria / Apache / Pauma Band of Mission Indians)	100%*
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD): (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Pechanga / Graton Rancheria / Apache / Pauma Band of Mission Indians)	100%
Totals: Tribal Nations Participating/Ave. Passage Rates:	17 / 88%

AIR Holiday Giving

With covid-19 and all that follows, our Native Communities have faced difficult times during the last two years. AIR Programs in collaboration with Intertribal Court of Southern California, Southern California Indian Centers, Toys for Tots, and Morongo Band of Mission Indians has donated/given back to our Tribal Communities through the Holidays through various activities.

In November AIR Programs partnered with Intertribal Court of Southern California, Southern California Indian Centers and Morongo Band of Mission Indians to donate Turkeys to our rural reservations in San Diego County for Thanksgiving.

Finally, in December we had a great opportunity to work with Intertribal Court of Southern California, Southern California Indian Centers, and Toys for Tots to provide toys for our underserved Native communities in San Diego County and giving a very Merry Christmas to our Native children.

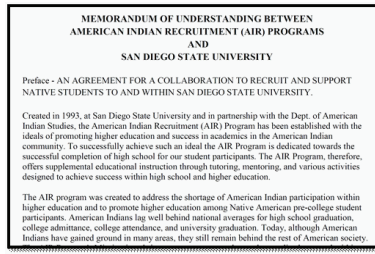
Thank you to our collaborative partners in helping us provide a joyous holiday to all!



SAN MANUEL
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

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.





AIR Signs MOU with San Diego State University and creation of "The Center for Native Youth Advancement in Education and Tribal Governance."

As our story began, AIR Programs started with Native Students wanting to address the low numbers of Native People pursuing higher education at San Diego State University. Across the Nation (generally), Native students make up less than 1% of the student population on any university campus. This has held for the last 30 years. AIR Programs continues to assist our students to pursue higher education each year. Last year admissions and acceptances have included Columbia, Dartmouth, UCLA, SDSU, Cal, USD and more.

With this in mind, AIR Programs and San Diego State University have developed a working partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding to address this deficit. This includes a designated office at SDSU within the Center for Inclusive Excellence (CIE) in the Professional Studies & Fine Arts building. Our office will be designated as, "The Center for Native Youth Advancement in Education and Tribal Governance."

This Center will serve as a focal point in which we roll out our Restorative Justice Project for Native Youth and combine our mentoring projects to work with our Native Youth in their academics and navigating the educational system.

We are honored by the continued support from San Diego State University and thank the President's Office and the Department of American Indian Studies for this!



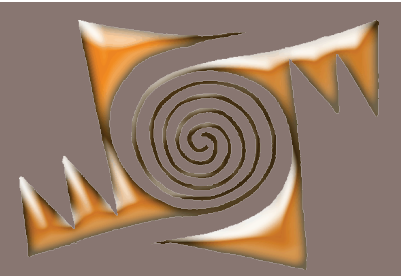
AIR Programs Honors our Native Youth and Mentors who have excelled this year

This year AIR Programs had the opportunity to continue our Annual Awards and Fundraiser Banquet at Rincon Harrah's Resort and Casino honoring our Native Youth and Mentors who have excelled within our programs. We also honored those within the community who have contributed to serving our Tribal Communities and our Native Youth. They are:

- AIR Mentor Leadership Awardee:** Jennifer Carrillo (Tule River)
- AIR Student Leadership Awardees:** Jayden Chaloux (VCHS Senior/San Pasqual) / Makayla Hernandez (St Francis / Pechanga) / Ihpaa Martinez (VCHS Senior/San Pasqual)
- Community Leadership Awardees:** Linda Ruis (Social Work/Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel) / Chairman Kenny Mesa (Jamul Indian Village).

We give special thanks to Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians Vice Tribal Chair Tishmall Turner for her welcome on behalf of the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians. Vice Chair Turner has been a great advocate for Native Youth pursuing higher education and works as the Tribal Liaison for California State University San Marcos. We are honored to have her voice for our communities and for her welcome.

Finally, a very special thank you to UCSD Chancellor Khosla for his keynote speech to our community and his commitment in bridging UCSD to our Native Communities. These kind words only strengthen our ability to have our Native Children grasp the tools of success, to bring back to our communities, to understand the global world that we are a part of. Thank you all!



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

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