



AIR Programs – airprograms.org

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



AIR PROFILE AND HISOTRY

The American Indian Recruitment Programs (AIR Programs), a non-profit 501c3, serving our regional Tribal reservations and Urban Native community, within the San Diego County region. Created in 1993, our goal was to motivate and prepare our Native youth to achieve academic success in high school and pursue higher education. Serving the San Diego region our program provides academic wraparound services to our American Indian students, by empowering our Native Youth through an academic after-school and summer mentoring programs that provides a culturally specific academic model of learning, tutoring, and mentoring. Today our students are attending numerous universities while some have chosen to serve on their Tribal Councils within many of our Tribes in San Diego County. Our success comes directly through the implementation of an "education through culture" methodology and our collaborative efforts that have been established within our community.

CONTACT AND INFORMATION

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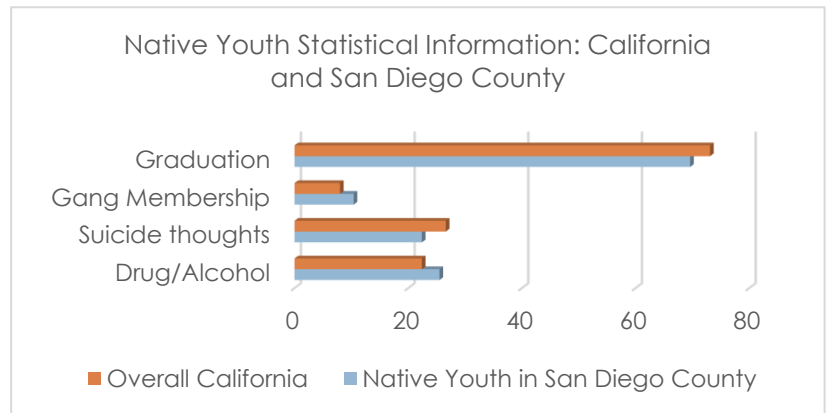
THE AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COURT (AIYEC) PROJECT

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The American Indian Youth Engagement Court (AIYEC) project, is a diversion-based project that will serve our San Diego County Tribes which are challenged with incidents of juvenile delinquency. Here, Native youth peers will hear and assist in adjudication of the juvenile offender. This includes the development of the *Native Youth Peer Decision Makers* (Youth Decision Makers) training program that will engage our Youth Decision Makers to guide them in their decisions within the Youth Court and provide them greater academic understanding on Tribal Governance.

NEED

Statistically, Native Youth have the lowest graduation rates among all races. They are either 1st or 2nd in San Diego County within the categories of gang membership, participation in Drug and Alcohol use and contemplating suicide. All areas point to our Native Youth having great social challenges and making misguided decisions that may result in harm and a pathway towards the juvenile justice system.



Incarceration of our youth has been proven to result in lower self-esteem and self-worth and a juvenile record. The effect is lower educational achievement, greater unemployment, higher alcohol and substance abuse rates and greater recidivism within the justice system. AIR Programs in collaboration with the InterTribal Court of Southern California, seeks to curb juvenile delinquency among our Native Youth through the development of an academic Tribal Governance program to be utilized in life, academia and within the Youth Peer Court. Through this project, we will supplement secondary education with ideals in Tribal governance understanding, issues effecting Indian Country, and creating leadership opportunities. Working within our existing program and with regional universities we will create academic after-school programs and courses for our youth creating our Native Youth Peer Decision Makers Leadership Program. We look forward in working with our Native Youth on a project that will change Indian Country and give our Native Youth a greater future.