

AIR News



19 October 2009

Proudly serving the San Diego American Indian Community for 15 years



AIR Program Fundraiser Banquet at Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort

RINCON Reservation — We are proud to announce that the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians will be the host sponsor of the 16th Annual

AIR Fundraiser Banquet at the Harrah's Rincon Casino and Resort on December 2, 2009. We are honored that they are supporting our program and thank the Tribe for their great efforts in helping to promote education in Indian Country.

We are grateful that we have had so many great successes this year through our programs. However, due to an ever shrinking economy we were not able to receive additional federal funding that allows us to fully operate our programs. Though we do not have funding we will continue to support our programs through community support and private donations made through our fundraiser banquet. These donations will allow us to fund our costs for field trips, supplies, and scholarships given throughout the year.

This year we are especially proud of our accomplishments and are pleased to announce that many of our graduating seniors are considering higher education as an option. In contrast, in 1993, at the start of our program, higher education was not a viable option for any of our students. This year, the majority of our seniors are considering higher education and some have qualified to enter a four year university from high school. Their success is based on community efforts of many programs, in which we are one piece, and we feel very fortunate that we are seeing more of our youth pursuing higher education. Reflecting back to 1993 when our goal was to change the ideals of one student in pursuing higher education as an option, we now can say that we have done this many times over.

We again thank our community for such overwhelming support and thank the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians for their host sponsorship of our fundraiser banquet.

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Thank you to the USD for all your support





AIR Tutorial Program by Rachael Venegas

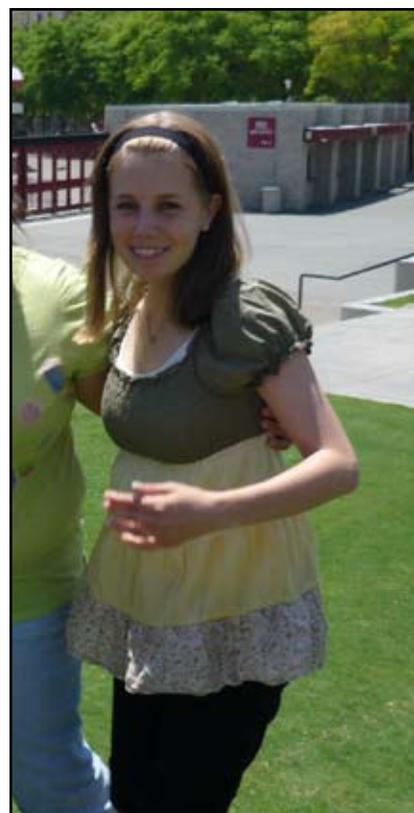
Rachel Venegas is a student within the AIR Program and has agreed (from time to time) to write on her progress in the AIR Program.

Hello, my name is Rachael Venegas. I am fourteen years old and a proud Navajo. I am a regular participant in the American Indian Recruitment Program. I've been in the AIR Program for about three years. The AIR Program has always had a very positive effect on my personal life and my education. I really enjoy being in a classroom full of very successful mentors and being able to listen to their stories about the tough times they've been through. It makes me feel a little less tense knowing that they made it through. It keeps me positive and farther away from the negative side of education. I have many goals in life that require a lot of education; so getting coached about school, how to be successful, and how to stay on task is very beneficial. I am grateful to have a director like Dwight. He really takes time from his personal life to make sure we can all get the help we need in school. Sometimes when I talk to him he is stressed, but he is always happy when he talks about the plans for the AIR Program, and how to make it better and enjoyable for each participant. I thank you, Dwight, a lot for that. I hope you are there when I need help after I graduate with a 4.0 g.p.a and an award for my athletic abilities.

Live Report: AIR Tutorial! By Kate Gordon

Hi all! This is Kate Gordon, Youth Service Specialist for the AIR program. The AIR tutorial program started on September 24th, and due to the hard work of the students and tutors it has been a success thus far. This year we have six students who come every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. At the start of tutorial we created community guidelines to ensure that each person participating felt that the classroom environment was positive. During each tutorial session, we gather together in a circle and introduce ourselves as well as our cultural backgrounds. This is an important tradition of the American Indian community as it allows us to understand how we are all connected. We then have an icebreaker or team building activity. For example, we pick two descriptive words from a large assortment to describe what was important about our day. Students share their own stories with the entire group and it is really a great way of getting to know each other.

For the majority of the tutorial session, each student works individually with his or her tutor. Students have been busy with all kinds of homework, from algebra, to chemistry, to spelling. The tutors all attend or are alumni of University of San Diego and they serve as excellent role models for the students. They motivate students to persevere in school, and to be dedicated to their studies. I love working with the students each week. I see their progress and hear about their school experiences. Renee White Eyes, who tutors one of our students, shared an idea for each student to teach the group one thing that they have learned at tutorial. In the next several weeks, each student will take the stage at the front of the classroom and teach a lesson to everyone in the tutorial program. It will be an exciting way for the students and tutors to learn from one another.



Thank you CSUSM for all your support that you have given us in the past and we look forward to working



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Thank you to the Department of American Indian Studies at SDSU for all your continued support and commitment to our program





AIR Tutorial Program

The AIR Tutorial Program is accepting students throughout the year. This is one of our newer programs that has had great success in working individually with each of our student participants. The program is held in a safe environment on the campus of the University of San Diego, with qualified tutors and staff from the university. The location poses a terrific opportunity for research, study, and academic support.

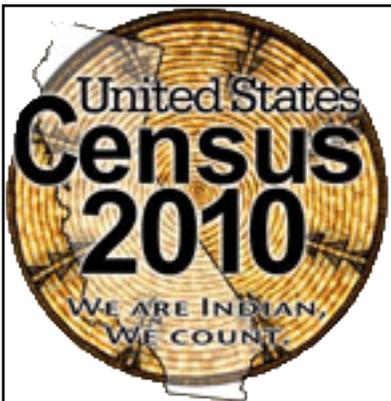
*American Indian
Recruitment
(AIR) Programs
P.O. Box 880471
San Diego, CA 92168*

For any information on our tutorial program please contact:

Kate Gordon (Youth Service Specialist-Site Coordinator) at kgordon-10@sandiego.edu or
Dwight K. Lomayesva (Director) at info@airprograms.org

www.airprograms.org

Stand up and Be Counted (reprinted from previous newsletter)



Working with Census 2010, the AIR Program firmly believes in the principles behind our 2010 Census. We as American Indians must attempt to give accurate information on the Census as many of our social service programs depend upon our count. Many of our previous Census tabulations have been inaccurate and this has effected the funding for many of these programs. We understand the mistrust of the Federal Government due to many centuries unfair dealings, however, our American Indian Community, must overcome our doubts and represent ourselves within the Census as our state and federally sponsored American Indian programs depend on it.

AIR Sr. Starts

October 12, 2009



USD, SAN DIEGO: The AIR Program has officially started its Fall 2009 AIR Sr. program. This marks 16th year the AIR Program has been in operation and we have no signs of slowing down. We are encouraged this year as more of our students are turning to college as a possibility and are being qualified to attend a 4 year university out of high school.



Our approach is to give the students academic services through tutoring, educational workshops, motivation, and mentoring all through an approach that identifies culture as aspect of their lives so that our students become self empowered in understanding their own identity. We believe, the key for our students success is based on cultural identification which leads to self empowerment and self confidence and the result is greater academic performance. This week we will be at SDSU for our 2nd and 3rd program. For any information on our program please visit our website for updated bulletins on location and meetings and our schedule. See you all soon!

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