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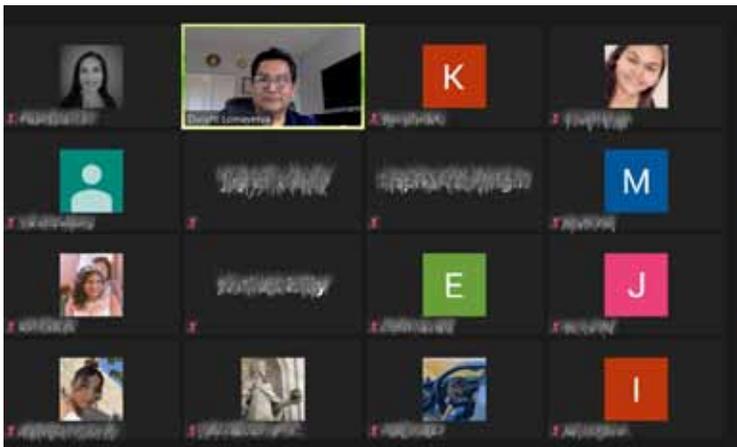


# AIR News

## *Aahan*

“OUR MISSION IS THE PROMOTION AND SUCCESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS WITHIN EDUCATION.”

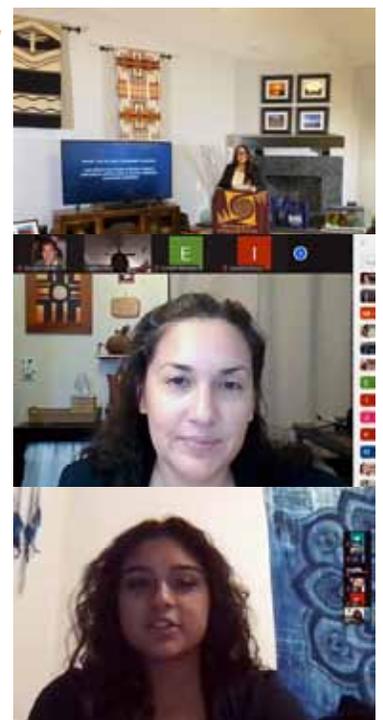
*Created in 1993 the AIR Program has set out to create a greater future for our American Indian Community through education.*



## *Reflections on 2020 & looking forward to a great 2021*

AIR Programs wishes all of our American Indian community a Happy and safe New Year. This last year has been a great challenge for all our communities and AIR Programs. Our plans throughout the country and world have been modified and our fear of the future weighs on many. Our plans to expand our programs and increase our community-based work has taken a reduced role for the sake of health and safety. However, where there is disappointment we also believe in the hope of our Native youth to be as resilient as our ancestors and ready to greet the future prepared and ready to lead our communities to a better future.

This last year we have modified our programs where we are working with our students online. Our programs include our American Indian Engagement Youth Court project where our students are learning about restorative justice and Tribal governance. We are tutoring other students so that they do not fall behind. We are working with our Native High School Seniors in applying to various universities, here in San Diego and throughout the nation. Already, many have had their applications accepted at CSUSM, University of Arizona, and the University of New Mexico. We are working on funding our projects through fundraising efforts and placing our funds behind our students. Although we have had numerous challenges this last year, we see hope and continue our efforts to have our Native Youth achieve the best through education. Wishing everyone a safe and Happy 2021!





## AIR 2020 Banquet - Accomplished

This year was a great disappointment as Covid-19 concerns prompted the cancellation of our in-person AIR Awards and Fundraiser Banquet. This tradition of holding our Banquet is to honor our students who have achieved so much throughout their lives and to give praise to our mentor staff who have volunteered within our community.

Although having to cancel this year's banquet was disappointing, we continued our tradition virtually. Sometimes it is important in carrying on some of our traditions, even if it's modified. Living in an age where we can hold events in a safe manner allows us to recognize and honor our students for their achievement and the potential to lead our communities into the future.

Although, the idea of holding our Banquet virtually seems like a win, we of course, found the stress of the event, the same, as we have always have had. Running various practice runs prior to our Banquet, we discovered that technology sometimes is not kind to novice planners. We thank our honorees for their patience and understanding during these very difficult times and look forward in seeing our friends and those who support our program in the near future.

Our 2020 awardees are:

### *Student Honorees:*

Eshash Morales (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians)  
 Karli Martinez (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians)  
 Temyal Lomayessa (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel/Hopi Tribe)  
 Eric Chang (Cherokee/Delaware Tribe)

### *Mentor Honorees:*

Olivia Thomas (Lummi Nation)  
 Kenedi Kraten (Chippewa-Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation)



While in the end we missed seeing our friends and community members in person, we truly thank all of you that were able to join us virtually and for participating in our raffle! All of your support for these last 27 years is amazing and we thank you. We look forward in seeing you all soon.



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





# AIR Programs AIYEC Project seeing great results

This is our first year of our newly developed AIYEC project, and despite the constraints of a worldwide pandemic, we continue our project which is showing great promise.

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. AIR in collaboration with the Intertribal Court of Southern California, will have our Native youth peers hear and assist in the wellness of the juvenile offender.

The AIYEC Project 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 Peer Court and provide them greater academic understanding on Tribal Governance.

This engagement includes taking coursework on Restorative Justice and Tribal Governance through the University of California, San Diego, and San Diego State University. In our first year, our results are as follows:

Projects	Stat: Student Passing
AIR Honors: Intro to Tribal Legal Studies (Winter 2020)	75%
AIR Honors: AMIND 120 (Spring 2020)	77%
AIR Honors: Intro to Legal Systems (Fall 2020)	94%
AIR Honors: Intro to Tribal Legal Studies (Fall 2020)	83%
Average:	~82%



Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies  
 Instructor: Honorable Angela Medrano, Esq.  
 (Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians)

A Special Thank you to the Honorable Angela Medrano, Esq. for all her work in putting this course together for us and especially for her care, understanding and patience as her course was

directly impacted by the challenges of Covid-19.

In the midst of the first course we had to dramatically changed the direction and methodology of the course but made it through despite these challenges.

Thank you for all your work this first year.

Citing a report on the passage for online Adults in Community College, in CA (2015), the average for passage in online coursework is %60-65%. Those programs above 70% are said to have high achieving results. ([https://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_615HJR.pdf](https://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_615HJR.pdf))

Our Student Passage for Honors Courses on Average: ~82%.

During a time where education is being challenged by differing learning modules due to Covid-19, our methodology, which includes mentoring and cultural components, has had positive results. We thank everyone for their work and support within this project!

*A special thanks to the Intertribal Court of Southern California, San Pasqual Indian Education, Pechanga Education Counseling and Resources, SDSU American Indian Studies, SDSU Global Campus and UCSD Extension.*



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.





## Intertribal Court of Southern California holds first Mock Hearing

Our collaboration with the Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC), under the AIYEC project, is developing into the inclusion of many organizations that seeks to help our Native youth find a better path and avoid the harsh aspects of the juvenile justice system. Together, we can find greater solutions within our Tribal communities to create wellness and healing for our Native youth.

We are stepping closer to establishing a functional diversion program through the training (mentioned previously) of our Native youth peer decision makers (Peer Decision Makers). We have accomplished this by developing wellness pathways through community programs and Tribal remedies, and agreements with outside agencies to consider what we are accomplishing as an alternative to strict punishment principals.

On November 7th 2020, we moved closer to our goal by holding our first mock hearing. This practice session is important in preparation for holding the first diversion sessions in collaboration with the ICSC. Here, our Peer Decision Makers made informative inquiries into the fact pattern and considered the options in helping create a wellness plan that was appropriate within the given set of facts that utilizes understanding of Tribal laws and guidance to follow.

Overall, we made great progress on the effectiveness of our training, our means to have students understand the court practices and understanding on how to utilize Tribal specific law to follow. Although we feel we had success and are on the right track, we also feel that additional training will help the diversion-based court have greater success in helping our Native youth.



AIR Programs AIYEC Project is under a grant from the Administration for Native Americans We thank them for their belief in our Native Youth and our Project.



## AIYEC Training Honors Course Announcement

We are happy to announce that we are preparing to start our Spring 2021 Honors Course and Native Youth Peer Court Training:

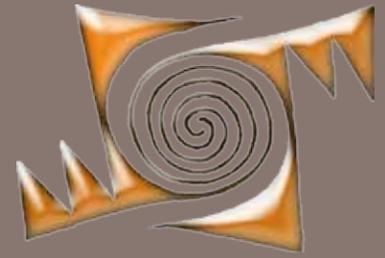
Course: American Indian Studies 120 / Rhetoric in American Indian Context  
University: San Diego State University (SDSU)  
Instructor: Caleigh Cornell (Dept. of American Indian Studies) / Units: 3  
Start: Feb. 16th through April 30th

This course is a university freshman level course that we are offering to Native High School students (10th – 12th) as part of our Native Youth Peer Court Training. This course will provide insight on issues within Tribal governance and contemporary issues within Indian Country.

Our overall goal within this series of courses in collaboration with AIR/Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC)/UCSD/and SDSU is to increase our Native youth's understanding of Tribal governance and concepts of restorative justice from a Tribal perspective. In this case, we will be creating a pool of students that we hope will participate in the ICSC Youth Peer Court as a Peer Decision Maker implementing these concepts and assisting to help their fellow peers in the Court through a community wellness approach.

Please visit our website for our course and registration requests at:

<https://sites.google.com/airprograms.org/airprogramshonorsproject/home>



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