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AIR News

focus

“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.

AIRSr. Starts

(SAN DIEGO) The AIR Program has started another semester, providing academic services to the San Diego region. Again, we thank our community for the overwhelming support and our partnerships with the universities (SDSU, Dept of American Indian Studies/USD, Dept of Ethnic Studies/UCSD/CSUSM) that have donated so much to our programs.

Our program has seen many of our students and mentors grow as a result of their experiences. The combination of culture, socialization, academics and sharing seems to be the combination that promotes greater achievement for all of us within the AIR Program.

This semester we will concentrate on health issues and targeting healthy diets. Noting that our bodies are a big chemistry sets, where the wrong mixture

or lack of substance will change your entire outlook, we will make sense of all this and find out what will keep us healthy? We will look at many of our Tribal Nations and what kept them healthy as we can only assume that there were no George Foreman grills or no deep fryers way back when.

We look forward to this upcoming semester

with so many student participants and all our mentors representing all our universities within San Diego County (SDSU,USD, CSUSM, and UCSD). As stated within our mission we can only see success for our American Indian students with all the support from all around our community...



Why Health

by Dwight K. Lomayesva

This semester our research topic is similar to some that we have done in the past but today this topic is closer to my personal interest. Recently, my Uncle passed away from the H1N1 virus and my health has taken a small dip with a nagging cough for the last two months which has prevented me from my health regimen. Since December I've gained 15 lbs. (aughhh!). I also noticed that I have been getting tired, went up in pant size, and felt a little despondent over my weight gain. So when choosing to have health and nutrition for our semester's project came about, this gave me a perfect opportunity to get with the program. On Feb. 9, 2010 I decided to make the change. First, I decided to cut my coffee intake from 5 cups a day to 2 and this caused me to get grouchy for a little while but I feel better for doing this.

Second, I decided that physical activity is needed. So began going to the gym on a regular basis since my start. In this case I decided to lift weights (lightly-so I don't get sore), and jogging (just 25 minutes of walk and jog). So far both these areas are going well. Finally, I decided to follow a diet. Of course, this is not going as well but I can definitely say that I have been eating slightly less. I started at 206 lbs and now weigh 205.5 and I'll take any weight loss as a victory. My guess here is that I am gaining muscle and losing some fat so my weight loss will be tough the first month, as muscle weighs more than fat. I'm feeling a lot better having a little more energy and that is good. I feel that my health is important as many, mostly my family, depend on me. I will keep all informed on my progress as hopefully more will join me on keeping healthy.

UCSD Student Protest over Kumeyaay Remains

by Whitney Baugher

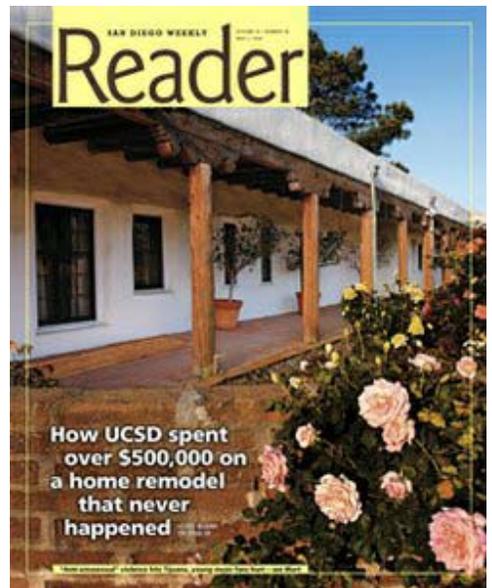
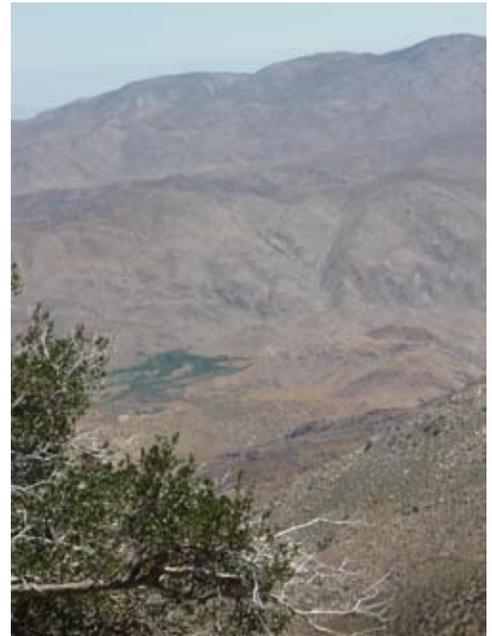
From time to time we have contributing writers who give us news and information on various issues occurring in Indian Country. Ms. Whitney Baugher (UCSD Native American student) has given us the opportunity to understand some of the native issues occurring on the campus of UCSD. Ms. Baugher is part of the UCSD Native American Student group and is one of a handful of students from UCSD to become AIR Mentors.

(La Jolla) On Feb 5th students at the University of California, San Diego rallied together to urge the university to move forward with the repatriation of local human remains that the local Kumeyaay tribes are claiming as their ancestors. In recent years the Native students, staff and faculty, and community at UCSD have been working to raise awareness of this issue and trying to pressure the university to move forward with returning the remains to the local tribes. The two remains that are the focus of the debate between the university researchers and the local tribes were found by archeological students from Cal State Northridge in 1976 at the University House, which is on UCSD property. The area in question is known to the local tribes as being ancestral burial grounds of the local Kumeyaay tribes.

The remains in question are considered to be some of the oldest found in this region of the world, making them a very significant piece of archeological research, creating a sensitive issue for the tribes who do not wish the remains to be disturbed further by research efforts.

At the rally, students from all communities on campus came to support the return of the remains, marching around the UCSD Chancellor's Complex with chants of "There's no debate, repatriate!" Invited speakers Andrea Smith, Cherokee and assistant professor at the University of California, Riverside, and UCSD Ethnic Studies professor Ross Frank addressed the students who participated in the rally, expressing their support for the return of the remains. Vice Chancellor Gary Mathews also came out to address the students, expressing his support, but not giving any indication that the issue will be moving forward in the direction of repatriation. Soon after the students walked into the chancellor's office to hand over a stack of petitions, which expressed their disapproval and asking Chancellor Mary Anne Fox to take a stand on the issue, voicing that "the valid claim of Native people takes precedence over the claim of researchers."

Chancellor Fox has since issued a statement that she has received the petitions and expressed commitment to coming to a resolution with the local tribes. This has been a struggle that the tribes and the university have been facing for quite some time and the students at UCSD will continue to raise awareness and show support to the local tribes until there is a resolution in support of the tribal communities.



CA, Tribal Courts Conference

California Indian Legal Services (CILS) is proud to present our 4th Annual California Tribal Courts Conference, May 19-21, 2010, hosted by the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians at the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, California. This year CILS will offer a two and one-half day conference, including a mock trial the last day. Our panels will include emerging topics in tribal justice such as; tribal customary adoption, training of lay advocates in tribal courts, tribal law enforcement, Public Law 280 and the Tribal Law and Order Act, and many more. Our panelists include experts in their fields such as tribal attorneys, judges and leaders, as well as state and federal agency representatives that work with tribal nations in California. The conference is open to anyone wishing to gain a better understanding of the ongoing development of California tribal justice systems. Please keep checking the CILS website at www.calindian.org for registration and other information. We look forward to seeing everyone in May.





AIR Programs and USD Tutorial Program



AIR tutorial program continuing for Spring 2010 at USD

(USD) AIR tutorial has started and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. This semester, we will be meeting in Camino Hall 153.

We are anticipating a successful spring with many of our tutors returning to work with our students. Within our program USD students and graduates provide one-on-one tutoring to our American Indian youth. They assist our students to study for tests, complete their homework, work on school projects,

and provide extra practice with assigned curriculum. Each of our session have breaks for social interaction where all program participants come together for introductions and a team-building activity. This past semester, we are proud to state that those students who attended on a regular basis raised their grades by a minimum of one letter. For more information, please contact:

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AIR PROGRAMS

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Congratulations to Jenna Aguilar and Ben Linton

Our program has always been asked what has happened to our previous AIR Students from 2 to 17 years ago. Many have gone on to join their Tribal Councils promoting change for their tribes, others became Tribal Police Officers protecting our safety, or Nurses, Teachers and many more productive areas within our society. Today there is something more, as a former student Jenna Aguilar (Pauma Tribal Member) and her business partner Ben Linton (Santa Ysabel Tribal Legislature and Member), have become partners within the Sequoia Group aimed at helping and protecting finances for our community.

As our American Indian community becomes more affluent, the need for the protection of our monies is of great importance. Just as there is a need for Doctors and Lawyers there is need for financial planning and security. Both Jenna and Ben have these ideals to help our Native community, as well as non-native, for a better future.

Just recently, the Sequoia Group, has been honored and named as "top producers" according to an interview by Indian Country Today, Business. Their article can be found in the Business Edition January 2010.

We are proud of Jenna with her many accomplishments throughout her life and her ideals of continuing to help our Native communities through her services. We are also thankful to Mr. Linton as he has been a great supporter and friend of our program and wish them both the best.

Reaching back into the time-vault for this picture. Taken at UCSD in the 2002. Ms. Aguilar is near the middle in the photo above.

Sequoia Group:
Making money work



Thanking our Community Partners for their support of our Native Children and giving them a greater future.

