

# AIR News



15 June 2009

*Proudly serving the San Diego American Indian Community for 15 years*



## AIR Summer Program is ready to Start!

SAN DIEGO, California — The AIR Summer program is ready to begin! This summer we intend to learn more about our Native cultures by examining the Kumeyaay and their rich history within the San Diego region. By pursuing our education on local

cultures we also intend to use this as a basis for researching our collective unique American Indian cultures.

By understanding different Native cultures we can draw parallels to our own cultures for an enriched learning experience. As an example; there are reasons why the Kumeyaay people migrated within this region as it is rich in ample food supply and has a climate that is favorable most of the year. Other tribes may be sedentary, meaning they lived in permanent villages and therefore their cultural beliefs and customs will be shaped differently based on such a lifestyle. Understanding these differences will give us a greater appreciation and understanding of our own cultures along with becoming knowledgeable on the San Diego region we all live in.

Our schedule is packed with many activities that help us understand the concepts that define a culture and those that we can use to understand our own Native cultures. We also plan to have a great time learning about each other; with many American Indian nations being represented, and having a variety of activities that will contribute to our research and having fun at the same time. Again, we look forward to seeing our students return to our program and meeting new students. See you this summer!

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Thank you to Sycuan for your all your continued support



Thank you CSUSM for all your help in hosting our AIR Program this semester. We look forward towards many meetins at CSUSM.





## Congratulations to Rose Vasquez on her competitive scholarship award!!!!

Today we recognize Rose Vasquez as a student who has excelled beyond our expectations. We congratulate Rose Vasquez on being awarded a competitive scholarship from the Campaign for College Opportunity organization. Rose wrote about applying for this grant in our last

Newsletter where she shared her aspirations in pursuing higher education. Since then she has contacted UCLA and won this grant!

The competition is the "Save Me a Spot in College" scholarship contest which was reviewed by a number of judges that participated in the scholarship awarding process. Her paper will be heard by state leaders and legislators to make sure they know how California youth feel about college access and success! As her award letter put it "you should be proud that out of more than 14,000 entries received you were selected as one of the 250 winners! We wish you the best on your road to college and will keep you posted about Campaign for College Opportunity Activities and ways to get involved". Again we are proud of you and wish you the best in your academic future.



## AIR Programs welcomes two new Youth Specialists

The AIR Program welcomes the addition two new Youth Specialists, Ms. Wallis Levin and Ms Kelsey Novi.

Wallis is from Knoxville, Tennessee and is currently in a masters program for child development and cognition at San Diego State University. She volunteered earlier this year for our AIR Junior Program while working towards her masters and has worked well with our students. We are excited to have Wallis working with our program, especially this summer, as we both have the same goals in helping our community.



Kelsey Novi is our second addition to the AIR Program. She grew up in Northern California but is now an official San Diegan. She has just completed her second year at San Diego State University, and as each semester passes, she has become increasingly involved in the campus. Kelsey is in Psi Chi, an Honors Society specializing in psychology (her major) and has just earned the position of Publicist for the '09- '10 year. She is also involved in two different academic groups of peers promoting physical and psychological health. Along with her contribution to those groups, she is involved in a research lab with Dr. Sara Unsworth as well as maintaining a full-time student status (12+ units per semester).

"This summer I hope to gain a better understanding of the American Indian community and at the same time, educate and build confidence in the AIR Program students about the college culture so they can progress and succeed in higher education," Kelsey Novi.



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Thank you to the Department of American Indian Studies at SDSU for all your support



Thank you to the Department of Ethnic Studies at USD for all your support and the University of San Diego CASA Program for your contributions to our students



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The AIR Program is a proud recipient of ANA Funding for 2008

## SAVE THESE DATES: AIR Summer Program 2009

|                 |                            |                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Day 1-June 22:  | Location: SDSU             | Time: 10 am - 2 pm |
| Day 2-June 23:  | Location: SDSU             | Time: 11-1:45 pm   |
| Day 3-June 29:  | Location: Joan Kroc Center | Time: 10- 3 pm     |
| Day 4-June 30:  | Location: Balboa Park      | Time: 11-1:30 pm   |
| Day 5-July 6:   | Location: SDSU             | Time: 11-1:30 pm   |
| Day 6-July 7:   | Location: Laguna Mountains | Time: 10-1:30 pm   |
| Day 7-July 13:  | Location: SDSU             | Time: 11-1:30 pm   |
| Day 8-July 14:  | Location: San Diego Zoo    | TBA                |
| Day 9-July 20:  | Location: SDSU             | Time: 11-1:30 pm   |
| Day 10-July 21: | Location: Sea World        | TBA                |



Thank you to all that parents that participated within the AIR Program, Spring 09



## SDSU Head Man Dancer and the AIR Program

The AIR Program has always been a tremendous supporter of San Diego State's inclusion of American Indians on campus. As statistics have shown, SDSU has always had less than 1% American Indian enrollment. This is one of the many reasons why the AIR Program was formed; to help promote and motivate more Native students to pursue higher education (especially at SDSU).

Additionally, the AIR Program is greatly supportive of representation of American Indians on campus. We feel that if we had no student group, if we had no American Indian Studies Department on campus; who would tell the story of the American Indian? That is why when we see that the University has an American Indian event then there is hope that we can still have inclusion for American Indians within higher education.

We are exceptionally pleased when one of our students participates within an event like this. It demonstrates that we have people that someday will take this hope and turn it into a greater future as a leader within our community.

Chandler Hood, AIR Program participant, was the Head Man Dancer at the SDSU Pow-wow. The AIR Program is proud that his character, determination and self empowerment will bring a greater future for himself and our community. Chandler, congratulations on your achievements!



**San Diego State University**  
Location: SDSU - West of Adams Humanities Bldg.  
May 25, 2009 - 10:00am - 07:00pm  
Head Gourd Dancer: Richard DeCrane  
Head Man Dancer: Chandler Hood  
Head Woman Dancer: Melda Cadotte  
Head Young Man Dancer: Eric Murphy  
Head Young Woman Dancer: Viviana Garcia  
Pow Wow Master Of Ceremony: Randy Edmonds  
Arena Director: Tom Gamboa

*Devon L. Lomayevsa (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel)  
Board Chair/President*

*Larry Banegas (Barona Tribe)  
Board Member*

*Natalia Orosco (Kumeyaay)  
Secretary/Treasurer*



*Stephanie Saavedra-Leo (Otomi/Pueblo)  
Vice President*

*Hattie Lou Lomayevsa (Hopi Tribe)  
Board Member*

*Dwight K. Lomayevsa (Hopi Tribe)  
Executive Director*