

# AIR News



29 June 2009

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



## AIR Summer Program Starts!

SAN DIEGO, California — The AIR Summer program started on Monday June 22, with Native students from all over San Diego County! We are grateful with all the support that we have had in developing our summer program and the continued commitment from our community partners that has made our program possible. In developing our summer program we intend to carry over our fundamental principals in serving our native

community and motivating our students to pursuit higher education. This is our second year in developing a summer program and by the turn out this first week we appear to be on the road to a successful summer. We will to double in size through the following weeks as the remaining participants will join our program. They unfortunately could not make the first week as they were finishing their last week of school.

The first two weeks of our program, we have lots of activities in which our students will be able to socialize among each other and our mentors. The idea on this is to become familiar with one another as this is an important step in knowing our community and the beginning of a network of friends that we develop in life. Additionally, we will continue our series of workshops on higher education and understanding higher education.

We look forward in seeing more of our students this upcoming week from East County and continuing in having a great summer.

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## Kelsey Novi Say's...

*Kelsey Novi is one of our Youth Service Specialist from San Diego State University and will be giving periodic updates and information on our program's progress during the summer. We are fortunate to have her join our team.*

AIR Summer Program is off to a fantastic start! Our first day, Monday, was filled with fun team-building exercises and games that allowed the students and mentors to work together and get to know each other better.

The activities posed challenges such as crossing a "river" using only "turtles" or stepping stones (note: they were soft circular tablets) and being given less "turtles" if we failed to follow the

rules. This challenge allowed the group to strategize and work together to cross the river by improvising and sharing "turtles."

Tuesday the students were sent out on the SDSU campus with mentors to complete a scavenger hunt. The purpose of this activity was to allow students to become familiar with a college campus and comfortable finding their way around it. Both days were an extreme success, the students seemed to have a lot of fun. The only set back of our first week with the Summer Program is half of our students were unable to attend because they are still in school (east county schools let out one week after the north county students). I can't wait for our second week of fun and to meet the rest of our students.

## A Message from Wallis...

*Wallis Levin is one of our Youth Service Specialist from San Diego State University and will be giving periodic updates and information on our program's progress during the summer. We are fortunate to have her join our team.*

I love my job! The AIR Summer Program has gotten off to a great start! After just two meetings, the students and mentors are really clicking, everyone's communicating, and all the activities have been fun. Monday we met at the SDSU Aztec Recreation Center for some team building exercises and games. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and the weather was great (as always in San Diego!)



On Tuesday, Dr. David Kamper from the Department of American Indian Studies gave a mini-lecture on anthropology and culture. The students got really involved and it was nice to see Dr. Kamper get some challenging questions and comments. After finishing up with a campus-wide scavenger hunt, we had a delicious lunch and great conversation. I'm excited for next Monday, when we'll visit the Joan Kroc Center!



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



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...



Prof. David Kamper



Thank you CSUSM for all your support



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**ANA**  
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The AIR Program is a proud  
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## Workshops A-G

In previous articles, we have mentioned many of our observations from past programs. One of the most problematic issues that we are finding is that our students are not receiving information on higher education and thereby not being able to adequately prepare in high school to attend a 4 year university. Therefore, their route to college is only through a Junior college system where statistically only 1 in 4 continue to go on to a 4 year institution. Other issues found stem from financial aid, important time lines, and even understanding what a degree is.



To solve these issues we have instituted a policy to give mini-workshops addressing these many challenges and give our students information in a simplified and easy way for greater understanding. Who else to give such workshops than those college students who have gone through the process just recently and understand the importance in solving and completing these complicated steps in getting and staying in college.

Our first workshop was geared towards our 7-9 grade students who will need to prepare for higher education by taking various required courses that are mandatory to qualify for a California university. By doing this they can be on track to attend a 4 year institution out of high school rather than the harder Junior College route. The remaining workshops include transferring from a junior college to a four year via tag programs, and choosing a school that is right for you.

In all our workshops are designed to assist our students giving them the needed information to prepare for higher education and for a greater future.



## Giving a Special Thanks to our Contributors

We just wanted to thank our most recent contributors to our program this summer. Our program works on a small budget and in order to have a great semester we look to any additional contribution that can help us achieve our overall goals for our summer program. We want to thank;

**KB Books** for their donations for our students awards  
**SDSU Counseling and Psychological Services** for help on our evaluations and gifts.  
**House of Finance-** Monetary donation towards our summer program  
**Al Novi-**for gifts/awards to our students.

Your contributions are allowing our students to have an equal opportunity to succeed in their schools and having the opportunity to look forward to a greater future.

For any more information on contributing to the AIR Program please e-mail us at: [info@airprograms.org](mailto:info@airprograms.org)

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