



- ▶ AIR SUMMER COMPLETE .. 1
- ▶ AIR SUMMER 11 STATS ... 2
- ▶ AIR BANQUET . . . . . 2
- ▶ PROFESSORSHIP AT RCC 3
- ▶ AIR TUTORIAL. . . . . 3



# 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.*



## AIR Summer Program Complete

(San Diego) When asked about our summer program a student stated that we did a lot of walking, ate a lot of pizza, learned something about college

and learned,” that our sacred sites are being destroyed because they are not being protected, we need to protect them if are to understand whom we are.” Of course our reply is that we also had subway sandwiches.

With greater reflection on what was stated above, including all the fun, we are proud of what our students gathered from our program. Our summer program dealt with our sacred sites and why they are important to our Tribal Nations. With that we included: program research methodology at San Diego State University and field trips to museums to learn about Archeology and how it relates to Native artifacts. We went to the village of Pauwai which has long been abandoned but served as a major village site within the region. We brought local elders to our program to come in and to speak on the topic of culture to our students. We also infused our program with teamwork exercises to have our students become familiar with their Native peers and to have a little fun during the summer months.

In reflection, to hear our students tell us of the importance of preserving our cultural sites and to discuss with us the need for preservation leads us to believe that our summer program had the desired impact on our students in understanding the various aspects of culture and its preservation. Our impact is much more as our students, mentors and volunteers began new friendships and had a great time this summer.

We thank all our community partners as we could not have had this program had it not been for your support and your belief in our Native students.







## AIR Summer 2011 Statistics

We completed our Summer 2011 semester with great optimism as many of our students took away with them greater knowledge on higher education, ideas on various issues affecting our Native communities and greater self awareness of whom they are.

Overall, we use the ideal of instruction (teaching) through culture. With this ideal students gain greater identity, self confidence and empowerment which, overall, leads to

greater academic performance. During this summer's topic, we researched ideas on Sacred Sites, Preservation, and Culture. Most of all we met other Natives and gained new friendships.

Student Meetings:	8	Mentor meetings + student meetings:	8
Student Participants:	27 total	Student participant hours:	477 hrs
Mentor/Community Participants:	20 total	Mentor/Community Participants hours (excludes Program Coordinators):	478 hrs
Tribal Nations Represented:	8	Hopi/Navajo/Cahuilla/Kumeyaay/Cheyenne/Cherokee / Apache/ Luiseno	
Tribal Reservations Represented:	9	Hopi/Navajo/Viejas/Mesa Grande/Rincon/Cahuilla/Torres Martinez/Santa Ysabel/Yavapai Apache	
Community Partners:		SDSU, Department of AIS/SDSU Dept. of Psychology/ USD Dept. of Ethnic Studies/USD CASA Programs/USD Office of Outreach/CA Indian Legal Services/ UCSD NASA/San Manuel Band of Mission Indians / Viejas Band of Mission Indians Youth Programs/University of California Los Angeles / Kumeyaay.com	

## 18th Annual AIR Programs Fundraiser Banquet

October 27, 2011,

at the Sycuan Resort

The AIR Programs announces our Annual Fundraiser Banquet. Each year our Fundraiser banquet aims to help us to maintain and operate our current programs. Funding goes towards scholarships for students, AIR Program activities, supplies and related costs in support of our Native Students.

We are very fortunate to have the support from our community partners to maintain our program and we again look to your continued support for our program and our Native American children so that they may have the opportunity to reach their dreams.

Our banquet will held be on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at the Sycuan Resort. At that time we will honor our Student Leaders, Mentors, and Community Leader of 2011. Please join us for an informative and motivational program.

For more information please go to: [www.airprograms.org](http://www.airprograms.org)

Or contact Dwight Lomayesva at [info@airprograms.org](mailto:info@airprograms.org) or call (619) 920-3152.



Thanking the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, for their support and hosting our 18th Annual Fundraiser Banquet.



**Sycuan**  
RESORT



## Riverside Community College promotes its first Native American Professor

We wish to congratulate Dwight M. Lomayesva Jr., Colorado River Indian Tribes (Hopi) Tribal Member, on his honoring of receiving full Professorship at Riverside Community College.

Dwight grew up from modest beginnings; impoverished, his family was part of a group of Hopi's who left the Hopi Reservation to join into the Colorado Rivers Indian Tribes farming colony (Federally Recognized Reservation) in the 1940's. During this time he and his family farmed the region where he has become one of the largest Indian farmers locally. In 1956 he was one, of a very few natives, who was accepted to attend the University of Arizona where he graduated with a degree in Mathematics. During an era of civil rights, and where "separate but equal" was the legal norm, and where Natives rarely went into higher education, Dwight's accomplishment was an extraordinary feat.

Wanting to work within the Native community, Dwight would travel to California to become one of the first-wave of Native American teachers at Sherman Indian Boarding School during the early 1960's. Furthering his education he received his a degree in Civil Engineering, from Cal Poly Pomona and Masters of Arts in History, from California State University Fullerton. Leaving Sherman he became an instructor at Riverside Community College where he established the first Native American House and club and where he continues to teach U.S. and Native American History. During the 1970's, he was recruited by San Diego State University to teach (part-time) at the college along-side notable instructors and community activists John Rouillard and writer Vine Deloria.

Among many other accomplishments Dwight has received his black belt in Karate in the style of Shitō-ryū and has traveled abroad with his Dojo representing the United States. Further, he has accomplished running a couple of Marathons and has taught abroad in the nations of Turkey, Morocco, Italy, Japan and Spain.

It is remarkable the accomplishments that one can achieve from such modest beginnings. And it is truly a gift to our community to reflect on the positive change Dwight has made in Indian Country. Congratulations.



We thank the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for their continued support of our Native Students. Together we continue to bring a greater future for our Native children.

## AIR Programs Sr. and Tutorial Ready to start for Fall

The AIR Program announces our AIR Sr. and Tutorial Projects are gearing up to start for our Fall semester. Start dates will be set for:

AIR Sr. Project: September 26, 2011 at the University of San Diego  
AIR Tutorial: September 20, 2011 at the University of San Diego

Contact for AIR Tutorial is Danielle Chung who can be contacted at: [dchung808@hotmail.com](mailto:dchung808@hotmail.com)



### AIR Programs Board

*Devon L. Lomayesva  
(Tipay Nation of Santa Ysabel)  
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*Hattie Lou Lomayesva  
(Hopi Tribe)  
Board Member*



Thanking all our community partners for their support of our program, Native children and bringing hope and future for all our American Indian community.



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

