



# AIR Newsletter



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

*Special points of interest:*

- Summer Program is complete
- AIR summer review
- AIR Banquet 9/25



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*AIR Summer Program 08 - Thank you for a great summer*

We, at the AIR Program, would like to thank all that have participated within the AIR Program this summer. It's been a wild ride with you folks and we enjoyed every minute and second. With those of you who stuck it out with us through this summer we are truly grateful and we realize there are so many things to choose from during the summer and we thank you for choosing to participate within our program.

We must also give exceptional thanks to our mentors who have worked within our program. It is great to know that within our colleges and universities our future leaders are taking great strides in helping all our communities through their work and participation within our program that will promote our future leaders in becoming the best that they can be.

We have mentioned this before but this year (Fall 07 to Summer 08) we have had funding through the **Administration for Native Americans (ANA)**. With this funding we had the opportunity to service our community to a greater extent by offering 5 programs(1 Fall/3 Spring/1 Summer). This year, over 100 students have entered our program. To us, this is a spectacular achievement which we are greatly proud of. To a greater extent we are more proud of all the students that have gone through our program, as we feel that our American Indian future has great hope and opportunity through these student participants.

These results for this year are not just our own but it is a result of an entire community effort that has made our program what it is. Our program has partnered with 5 universities and colleges (SDSU AIS, CSUSM, USD, UCSD, and Palomar College). We have also partnered with many of our American Indian Organizations in San Diego County (IHRC, SCAIR, SDIC, San Pasqual Indian Education, IHS Rincon NARCH, and Santa Ysabel Social Services). So many programs and institutions that have all combined to be our AIR Program. Truly, our success is the overall success of these combined institutions that have determined to bring the success to our American Indian Community.

We cannot say enough for all these programs and people that have made our programs successful. But our true thanks comes from our students who after many great field trips and learning experiences they will leave with the possibility of hope and a promise of a greater future. Thank you, to all those who have been involved within our program.

## Ideals behind AIR Summer

AIR Summer program was established with multiple ideals involved. One was to have the students be exposed to our college campuses to understand that people involved in higher education are as normal as everyone else and that by observing this there should be no fear in adjusting into such an environment. Second, we wanted to have the students observe what professionals who have obtained advanced degrees do in their profession. Example: A veterinarian holds a degree from some university and may work at Sea World. By observing this and what he/she does then the students will have a greater understanding of what a degree will do for you. Third, we wanted the student to social interact with others and overcome any fears of new places and people. This is something that many who go away to school deal with and many fall prey to lack of social interaction and end up leaving school. We hope that you have gained greater insight from our program.



*AIR summer at SDSU*



*Students at SDSU*

### Week 3: Team Building Exercises/San Diego State Campus Tour/Bowling

By: Dillon Scalzo

For our third week of the AIR summer program we went to San Diego State's huge campus and worked with a pair of young guys (Wes and Steve) for some seemingly simple teamwork and cooperation exercises. What we came to find out was that sometimes the most basic tasks can become confusing and hard to do when there are multiple people involved in completing them. It took our program almost fifteen minutes for all of us to organize ourselves in groups and make it under the swinging jump rope as fast as possible and without anybody touching the rope! It was more difficult than it looked to actually communicate with each other and organize ourselves.

Then we worked on passing hula-hoops to each other without breaking hands and standing up using the strength and balance of others in small teams and then later in big teams. For those who think that these team building exercises are just for kids, don't be so sure. Wes and Steve do these same exercise with big groups of employees from Corporations who require that they complete these cooperative group strategies. All kinds of young people and adults alike visit this course to practice working together with others. No one is too old to practice working with others and communicating successfully to achieve a common goal.

Most will agree that the campus tour was long and very hot. However the facilities at San Diego state are very impressive, and if you were actually listening to our tour guide, you'd know that she filled us in on many helpful details about the school as well as giving us a general idea of its layout and size. She was sure not to miss pointing out their gigantic new swimming pool, and I think everyone will agree that a campus with a full bowling alley on it is pretty awesome. We got to hide from the heat while bowling and cooling down in the air conditioning.

San Diego State is definitely a good option for attending college in this area, and they have just about everything you could want as a student right on their campus and in the surrounding neighborhood. Their application process is easy and they have a high acceptance rate.

Note: Dillon's article is an example one of five field trips and what we accomplished during that day. This particular event was our social networking and team work exercises for our students.



*Students at SDSU bowling alley*





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## AIR is on the air

By Kate Gordon

July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 In the past several months, American Indian Recruitment program staff have added a new and exciting dimension to the AIR program. We are documenting our AIR summer and AIR tutorial activities on film. I then edit the footage to create short films that give an insight into what AIR is all about. It is a great experience to capture different aspects of our program on video. I completed editing the first film, *The Power of Choice*, in early July. It was a really neat film starring Renee White Eyes, a youth service specialist. It explored how her choice to pursue higher education, as an American Indian, empowered her to give back to the Indian community. It then looked at the horrors of the boarding school era, when Indians did not have the choice to pursue education, and were forced to assimilate into white culture through Christian boarding schools. It is on you-tube and can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOqt9Hl7kng](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOqt9Hl7kng). I am currently working on several new film projects, which will show footage from the tutorial sessions, research activities, and fieldtrips in which AIR students and mentors are participating. I hope that these films will help to share the AIR program with the community and expand the program's horizons.

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
Learning for Success



The AIR Program is a proud recipient of the Administration for Native Americans Grant

