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AIR News

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“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.



Native Youth Leadership Success

This has been a tremendous year working with our native youth! We are proud to that our students have been accepted to Northern Arizona University, University of Hawaii, San Diego State University and the UCLA. However, within our overall collaborative partnership with UCLA TLCEE, our Native Youth have been accepted to CSUSB, UCR, Cal Poly Pomona, and Haskell.

Through our many collaborative partnerships, we are seeing a change in Indian Education and the way we view our partnerships with area universities. There is only a small pool of public schools and colleges that offer Native oriented coursework, and this is not healthy within academia and for our Native communities. Even more harmful are those who tell us how we should learn our own histories and who should have the opportunity to learn based on grades and age. Within AIR, we have sought to work with our communities and incorporate their needs to provide everyone the opportunity to pursue education through Native American ideals.



We acknowledge that there are some whom believe that university level academics should be left to those who meet specified western educational standards. Such ideals create a hierarchy of education where only a few have access. We reserve the right to see hope in each of our students who should be afforded educational opportunity. So we include all, to work and prepare within our program for university academics through a Native lens.

We have mentioned this before and continue to express with great enthusiasm that we have proven that our methodology works for our Native students as we prepare them for university academia. Our Native students can take and pass these university level courses and can compete when given the opportunity! We are not afraid to provide our Native students these challenging opportunities as we have adopted a culture of support for our students so that we may guide them through this academic journey.

We of course don't want to understate the commitment and hard work it takes to succeed in these courses. Our program is tough and there is a lot of work that is put into this by many people in many differing areas. Overall, for our youth and Native communities this is well worth that work. Congrats to all our students and those going on to pursue higher education at some of our top schools.



24th Annual American Indian Recruitment Programs Awards & Fundraiser Banquet

Thursday, November 3, 2016, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Viejas Casino & Resort – The Oak Ballroom



The American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Programs continues to proudly serve our Native community for over 23 years, through our many academic and culturally infused programs. Our programs provide our Native youth the tools needed to compete and succeed within the academic setting and create opportunities to pursue higher education. Support AIR Programs by becoming a sponsor of this year's 23rd Annual Awards & Fundraiser Banquet! The evening's events will include presentations highlighting this year's accomplishments and awards for our students, mentors, and community members. If you cannot attend please support our program through a donation towards our Native youth and academic programs.

For additional sponsorship information please visit our website at www.airprograms.org or email us at info@airprograms.org

(Pictures Above from Spring 2016 AIR Sr. and Summer 2016 AIR Programs)



Entering 3 years of AmeriCorps

2016-17 will mark our 3rd year of the AmeriCorps projects. We are grateful to the Corporation for National and Community Services (CNCS) that has allowed us to continue to provide and enroll our volunteer mentors within AmeriCorps. Our volunteers have a great passion to work within our Native communities and willingly choose to give up their time for the benefit of others without compensation. In fact, this is how our program has operated for over 23 years so our AmeriCorps grant follows along our basic AIR Program ideals, to work for the benefit of our community. With the inclusion of AmeriCorps, our mentors now have a federally recognized program that awards significant merit to their stature as an AmeriCorps member. Upon completion

of their required hours they enjoy the opportunity to receive a small educational scholarship from CNCS.

Related, we are proud to acknowledge that Cass Payne will now coordinate our AmeriCorps Program. Cass is a former AIR AmeriCorps member and is currently a graduate student at San Diego State University. Cass will be working towards coordinating our members within AIR projects while also recruiting new members to serve our Native community.

For those who may be interested and have an American Indian Studies background please inquire at info@airprograms.org.

(Pictures Below: From 2016 AIR Summer and Spring Projects)



Thanking the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians for their support for our Native Students and our program.

We thank the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Sharp Business System for supporting our AIR Programs, bringing needed services to our Native Communities.



AIR Summer Program 2016

The 2016 AIR Summer project was a very successful time. A usual downtime within the academic world, our program introduces small components of academics along with cultural topics to keep our students motivated and thinking about education during the summer. This summer our theme was based on ethnobotany and how regional environments help shape our cultures. With this we looked into local conservation projects (Chaparral Conservancy) that promotes protecting natural habitats that are being destroyed through over development. We included campus visits to San Diego State University, Cal State San Marcos, and Kumeyaay Community College to keep them in tune with the overall objective of pursuing higher education.

Finally, it's summer and we just wanted to have fun! Fun is part of what we want to have but more importantly our Native students are having fun with each other and creating social networks that will carry them forward as they grow up and move into their own career paths. As students enter academia they will be exposed to many cultures and ideals that may sometimes be a challenge to their success, so building these social networks and support systems now will assist them in dealing with those difficult times and overall contributing to their overall success as a person.



We thank Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP, for their sponsorship of our American Indian Recruitment Programs.

Pictured Above and to the Side: Pictures from AIR Summer 2016



AIR Co-Founder, Appointed Chief Judge of Southern CA InterTribal Courts

We are proud to announce that the Co-Founder of AIR Programs has recently been appointed as Chief Judge of the Intertribal Court of Southern California. There is much to say on Devon's behalf with regard to her tenure in Indian law and passion for the empowerment and education of Native youth, but her most honorable credential is her compassion for her Tribal community and her commitment to access to justice for Native people.

The following is a summary of the excerpt from the ICSC Announcement:



Pictured Above: At AIR Banquet at Sycuan and at UCLA Law School speaking to visiting Delegation from China on Federal Indian Law

In addition to her work at the ICSC, Devon is the owner of the Law Office of Devon Lee Lomayesva, where she continues her commitment to preserving the rights of Indian Tribes via the practice of Federal Indian law. She is also currently a Lecturer at San Diego State University, American Indian Studies Department. She has formerly held the positions of In-House Tribal Attorney for the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, Executive Director of California Indian Legal Services, In-House Tribal Attorney for the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, and Adjunct Professor at Palomar College. Devon has also served a four-year term on the Iipay Nation Tribal Council, as well as several committee positions. Devon is a co-founder of the American Indian Recruitment Programs, established in 1993. This program is designed to promote youth in higher education through cultural, team building and positive youth development. Devon is a member of the Native American Lawyers Association of San Diego, the California Indian Law Association, and Member of the Santa Ysabel Traditional Gathering Committee. Devon received her B.A. in

History from San Diego State University in 1994 and her J.D. from California Western School of Law in 1999. Devon and her husband have three young children where they live in French Valley, CA.

As a native female lawyer, Devon has had the unique opportunity to practice Indian law in her own tribal community for over 16 years. Her career experiences have included representation and training of dozens of tribes in California and individuals throughout the United States in various areas, including Tribal governance: drafting laws, regulations, and policies, Indian Child Welfare Act representation, Indian education, Cultural resource protection, Gaming transactional and regulatory work, Fee to Trust acquisitions and Tribal Justice development. *(Continued on Page 4: Chief Judge; InterTribal Courts)*

Chief Judge-InterTribal Courts (Continued from page 3)

Devon also has been active in the promotion of Indian education for local native youth. As a co-founder of the American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Programs, Devon has over two decades of experience in developing and overseeing programs specifically designed to provide opportunities for native youth to succeed in high school and in higher education. The delivery of culturally based research topics at local San Diego and other Southern California universities provides students the opportunity to learn firsthand about the college experience while learning more about their own status as American Indians and their own identities.



Announcing AIR Leaders Course to be offered at SDSU location

Law X 490.0 - Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies
Starting October 5, 2016 Instructor: Nicole A. Johnson Esq.
Midway meeting at UCLA (Mandatory) and Final-Moot Court (Mandatory)

Law X490 Course Description: This course provides a broad overview of the most important issues involved in tribal legal studies, including an overview of tribal government, the history of tribal court systems, legal structure of tribal courts, tribal court criminal and civil jurisdiction, roles in tribal court systems, tribal court management, due process, appellate courts, the Indian Civil Rights Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Students receive an introduction to the basic concepts of legal studies and the legal studies program. The course addresses tribal common law and traditional dispute resolution methods, including an extensive examination of the process of the incorporation of tribal custom and tradition into the court system and the development of tribal common law. Students also study issues involved in the development and implementation of such traditional dispute resolution mechanisms as peacemaking courts.

Requirements: 2.5 GPA Ages: 10th -12th grades

This is a university level course and is advanced in reading and legal concepts. This course requires 30 pages of reading per week and written assignments required on a weekly basis for 10 weeks.

For additional information please contact: Cass Payne at casspayne@airprograms.org
(Pictured Above: AIR Leaders Project students at Morongo, UCI and UCLA)



Thanking all those who volunteered to help our Native Youth

AIR Programs is based on the ideal of volunteering, to create a greater community. Where those who truly put themselves in the forefront in working directly with our Native Youth, where there are so many other activities that they could be accomplishing, they are truly the strength of our Tribal communities.

Our volunteers never get to see the results of their efforts, but 10 years from now they may see that some of our students accomplishing great things for our communities and this is what we are striving for. We thank you!

(Pictured left: George Zuniga at TVUSD, Jamie LaBrake at AIR Summer 16)



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1,000+ Hits Plus on FACEBOOK!!!!!!

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