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# 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 Announces 2011 Honorees and Banquet*

(San Diego) American Indian Recruitment Programs is proud to announce our Annual Honorees for the 2010-2011 year. These outstanding people have impacted our program



making for a highly successful year. We are confident that these persons, whom we honor today, will become our future leaders of our community and lead us to a greater future. At our Banquet we will honor our outstanding students and mentor who have impacted our program. They are chosen for their impact they have had on our Native American community, their efforts to succeed through education, and their support towards our AIR Program. We cannot express how proud we are of our selection for this year’s honorees, as each of them has a great belief in the hope and potential within our community through education. We will acknowledge their efforts at our Annual Fundraiser Banquet at the Sycuan Resort, Thursday, October 27, 2011.

Our Fundraiser Banquet aims to help us 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.

Again, on behalf of the AIR Programs we congratulate our Honorees for their efforts and contributions to Indian Education.



### Awardees/Honorees for 2010-2011 year:

- Student Honors: Katy Davis (Omaha/Choctaw)
- Student Honors: Cheyenne Garcia (Cheyenne River Sioux/Tongva, Yaqui, and Mesq. Apache)
- Mentor Honors: Whitney Liera (Cahuilla Band of Indians)



## Student Leadership Award 2011: Katy Davis

Ms. Katy Davis is a senior who attends All Tribes Charter School (ATCS) on the Rincon Indian Reservation. Ms. Davis has been participating within the AIR Program for the last year and intends to continue to participate through her senior year. Katy is part of ATCS early college program that works in conjunction with the University of San Diego giving college credit while taking coursework at the university. This, in turn, helps to give the experience, the understanding of commitment in attending the university, and the social atmosphere of the associated with higher education. Part of this program is the motivation to pursue higher education and with this, she now plans to apply to Allegheny College, Alfred University, and University of San Diego.

*"Being in the AIR program has been a blessing for me, not only have I met new friends who are similar in goals to me I also have a clearer idea of what I want to do after high school and how to get there. It is comforting knowing that if I ever have a question or am just confused about a topic relating to college, there are people I can contact who will help the best to their ability..."*

Katy is a very special person as she has demonstrated her commitment to pursue higher education through these great opportunities under ATCS, USD and the AIR Program. Her willingness to engage others within our program, to seek out opportunities that promote higher education, and to pursue academic excellence is only part of what makes her a standout student and deserving of this award.



## AIR Programs Sr. and Tutorial

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)

## Student Leadership Award 2011: Cheyenne Garcia

Ms. Cheyenne Garcia is a senior who attends the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts and has been participating in AIR for the last four years. Initially, she was part of our AIR Jr. Program and joined our AIR Sr. program these last few years. Cheyenne is proud of her Native American heritage as she can tell you exactly who she is, *"from my mother's side I am from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in Eagle Butte, South Dakota and from my father's side I am Gabriello/Tongva, Yaqui, and Mesq. Apache"*.

Within the AIR Program, one of our underlining goals is having our students learn about thier identity. Those that have a strong sense of who they are and have strong self identity are truly empowered and have greater self confidence which translates into higher academic performance.



Ms. Garcia participates in many cultural gatherings, *"I go to the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, where I'm a dance major. I enjoy dance at school but I participate in dance outside of school as well. I love participating in our community powwows and traveling. Recently, I was given the honor of representing Miss Imperial Beach Powwow by the Sea Princess of 2010-2011"*.

What makes Cheyenne a great candidate for Student Leader of 2010-2011 is that Cheyenne has performed greatly in her academics and has a willingness to be fully engaged in whatever activity she is involved in. *"Besides dancing, I love art, anything that deals with art usually catches my interest, beading, sewing, and painting. I'm excited and look forward to going to college because I love to learn. My hopes are to further my education and to pass on my gained knowledge to others. I want to make a difference not only in my native community but wherever I go."*



## 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 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. Please join us for an informative and motivational program.

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





## Mentoring Leadership Award 2011: Whitney Liera

Ms. Whitney Liera a Cahuilla Tribal member who grew up on the Cahuilla Indian reservation and has been participating within our program for the last year and a half. She is the granddaughter of Patricia and Robert Liera, and the daughter of Robert Liera. Currently, Ms. Liera is a 5th year at UCSD majoring in Psychology and minoring in Ethnic Studies,

where this will be her final year. After graduation Whitney intends to further her education by pursuing her MA in Social Work or School Counseling. Within the AIR Program Whitney has been a mentor since the Spring of 2010 and a tutor/coordinator for the AIR Tutorial Program since Spring 2011. What has impressed us most of all is that she continuously strives for the success of our students by providing her time, knowledge and whatever it takes to help our students and community. Whitney has enjoyed being a part of the AIR Program because she is inspired by the students and enjoys all they have to contribute to each meeting.

*“I am honored to receive the AIR Programs Mentoring Leadership Award for 2011. There are other people who I feel have contributed so much more to the program, especially on the end of UCSD, but I happily accept this. I have enjoyed being a part of AIR since I started. I love working with the students and they have taught me a lot. It is great to see so much potential among the students and I feel they all have the potential to go to a university.”*



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 Fall Program

### Historic cultural sites: Culture and Food Traditions

This Fall, we will introduce the topic of Historic Cultural Sites: Culture and food traditions. This continues our research on historic cultural sites and preservation as we research how the location of these sites created and shaped tribal cultural viewpoints and how tribes existed within the regional environment. This is significant, as location dictates how we gather foods sources, how structures are created and built, how significant sites hold sacred significance and much more.

As an example, many of the high desert tribal nations within Arizona and New Mexico developed farming techniques to grow their foods within the dry aired regions, while many coastal tribes developed fishing techniques as their source of food. From this, Native cultural and creation stories adopt these notions of harvest

and their significance to the development of their Tribes.

This topic serves to show that our historic cultural sites are important to our specific Tribal Nations and their protection is greatly important to our continued survival as Tribal people.

Using this topic, as a basis, our students, in addition to this exciting topic, will learn about our universities and campus libraries, teach research methodology from our mentors, learn how to make effective presentations, and learn more about these issues affecting our communities. Overall, we hope you find great interest on this topic.



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



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