



AIR Newsletter

Volume I Issue 7: AIR/ANA 08-09

11-21-08



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Special points of interest:

- AIR Filming
- Renee's Corner
- AIR Tutorial



Inside this issue:

AIR Filming	1
AIR Jr continues	1
Renee's Corner	2
Tutorial Program	2
Pictures	2



VIEJAS BAND OF KUMEYAY INDIANS

PALOMAR COLLEGE Learning for Success

AIR Sr. Movie Continues

We are still continuing to film and had our first day of real filming this last meeting. To update those of you, who are reading this for the first time, our film has three purposes. The first being informative on the research we have done on protest movements within Indian Country and understanding why they occurred. The second, is having the film examine the stereotypes within academia. Finally, this is a learning tool for our students who have done the research and examined the stereotypes. The students will reinforce these ideas by acting them out and it is helping our students achieve greater inclusion within the program. The film itself may not get an Oscar but the information and learning that occurs from this is more the key to the success of this project.



AIR Jr. resumes

AIR Jr. resumed this week after having three weeks off. Its been a rough start for our AIR Jr. project but we are moving forward with a great program. Our overall objective is to give our students an understanding of higher education and to have them overcome any fears they have of higher education. Our approach is two fold. First we will have the students film their work within the program in a news format. This will help the students in presentation skills, verbally expressing what they have learned, and greater socialization. Second, it documents our progress through AIR Jr. and looks for any greater improvement of their understanding of higher education.

Although we are running a little behind we plan to have a stellar program where the students engage themselves within the program and learn more about higher education and overcoming that grey area (the mysterious cloud) that many American Indians have towards higher education.



Next week we try rock climbing as a teamwork exercise. We figured if we can support each other we came overcome this higher ed. thing. Plus, this is just fun stuff.



AMERICAN INDIAN RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

PO Box 880471
San Diego CA, 92168
info@airprograms.org

"Our mission is the promotion and success of American Indians within education."

www.airprograms.org

Renee's Corner

by Renee White Eyes

This week, AIR Sr. continued to film. While we are focusing on Alcatraz and activism, we also wanted to get across some underlying issues that American Indian students can face in higher education. For example, many of us have had the experience of being called on by the professor and share what all "Indians" think about a certain subject. A lot of us have had to experience stereotypes of our people (ie: we all lived in teepees). While this may seem funny, it is a constant reality that a lot of us face, and not just in the classroom either but out in everyday society. This can get old very quickly and become very frustrating. That is why it is important that we teach our youth about what they may have to face and just be prepared for it. We cannot face these challenges for them but hopefully we can give them tools to deal with these misconceptions. It is definitely a struggle for American Indian in higher education but if you keep fighting for your ultimate goal, the rewards will outweigh the struggle. An education can truly make a difference.



Report on our AIR Tutorial by Kate Gordon

It's hard to believe that the tutorial program has been in session for almost three months now, but you know what they say—time flies when you're having fun. The program truly has been a great experience for both the students and the tutors. The students have shown vast improvement in their academic abilities as well as in their communication skills (for those who have regularly taken part within our tutorial project).

Our program is unique, as it is a two hour project, and each week we begin with a twenty minute recreational team-building activity on the Copley field at USD. Two hours is a long time for tutoring therefore we introduce different concepts within our tutorial. Students use this time to water their plants in the garden that they planted just this past summer, which is right next to the Ethnic Studies Office (where the program takes place). The students also look forward to seeing the growth in each of their plants, the majority of which are herbs. Then, after a chance to release their excess energy from the day, we go inside and sit together in the group studies room. Each tutor is assigned a student and they move into separate areas to do homework. When the students are able to finish their homework early, they get the chance to go to the USD library and do research on the computers or reading in the children's room.

You'd think they were university students, the way they stroll in and out of that library with such confidence. The students show such maturity in their encounters with college life during their weekly sessions at USD. On Election Day, all of the students and tutors gathered around the computer and routinely checked the updates on the electoral votes.

Everyone had the opportunity to express their views on the candidates and it was a thrilling experience for the students and tutors to share. The tutorial program is a great outlet for both the students and the tutors to grow as they work together on all different types of projects—whether they be academic based or recreational.



Barona is a great sponsor of the AIR Programs

Sycuan is a great sponsor of the AIR Programs

Sycuan
RESORT