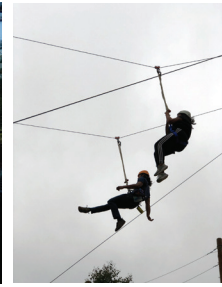




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AIR News

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“OUR MISSION IS THE PROMOTION AND SUCCESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS WITHIN EDUCATION”

Celebrating 31 years of community service to our Native Communities



TRIBAL YOUTH PEER COURT

Our Tribal Youth Peer Court findings tell us that we are on track for success. In previous articles, we stated that it took us over a decade to get here. Our start was a simple way to have our Native Youth experience a university level course in Tribal Law. We didn't have any idea on how well our students would perform or how many of these students they would go onto pursue higher education. This simple idea was the catalyst for our Tribal Youth Court. Here we could capitalize on our Native Youth's understanding of our communities, their values, and their understanding of Tribal Restorative Justice to assume a role of creating wellness for those who have simply have had some challenges. They would become our Tribal Youth Peer jury. Their role as a peer jurist is to understand the misconduct from a lens of our Tribal Community, as peers, and with ideals to bring those back to a positive path within our communities. What we have noticed, within our Tribal diversion cases, our jurist have a greater understanding of the challenges that face our Tribal court participants from our Tribes. Circumstances (not the incident) are relatable, to our jurists, coming from our Tribal Communities. Therefore, they have a means to make appropriate wellness plans that address the challenge. This is truly one of the greatest strengths of this Tribal Youth Peer Court that is missed in the juvenile justice system for our Native Youth.

Our collaborative efforts with the Intertribal Court of Southern CA in developing the Tribal Youth Peer Court is having great results as we are hearing more diversion cases. We also thank our community partners the University of California San Diego (Extension), San Diego State University Dept. of American Indian Studies and the Office of the President, San Diego District Attorney Office, San Diego County Probation Office, and our Tribes. Our work together has created optimism that we can create a greater future for all within Indian Country.

Where this Year's Students Have applied to...

We congratulate our Native Youth who are pursuing higher education at universities across the Nation. Already, early admissions offers' have been given at San Diego State University, CSU San Marcos, University of Oregon, UC Davis and Harvard. We wish everyone great success and to continue their Leadership so our communities can thrive towards a greater future.

2024-25 Applications to Colleges

12+ Applicants

- Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel
- Pechanga Band of Indians
- La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
- Texas Band Yaqui Indians
- Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
- Algonquin Descendent

*We thank to San Pasqual Band of Kumeyaay Indians for your support
Thank you Southwestern Community College for your support*



AIR Banquet 2024 and Congratulations to our Student Leadership Awardees

Antonio A. Amado (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel) / Jacob Arellano (Pechanga Band of Indians)
 Kailyn S. Culpeper (San Pasqual Band of Kumeyaay Indians) / Isabella Guevara (Algonquin Descendent)
 Jocelyn C. Silva (Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria) / Huyana Vasquez (Pechanga Band of Indians)
Thank you for your acceptance and having a great evening with us, Congrats!!!





Giving Opportunities to our Native Youth

Our mission throughout these many years has been developed as, “the promotion and success of American Indians within education”. What does this mean? Often, it has meant mentoring and tutoring our students towards meeting their academic goals in school while promoting higher education. Lately, it has also meant developing our honors project that works with the universities to deliver content bearing coursework/training to our Native Youth. As mentioned in our previous article, this also means giving our Native Youth opportunities to serve their communities through our Youth Court jury utilizing their gained knowledge on restorative justice in our trainings.

As a program that has seen and worked with so many Native Youth we see the potential in all of them. They can compete with the best and we stand by this statement for all of our students.

Our challenge; our universities sometimes don't see this. Our students have been denied by many universities that we feel, if given the opportunity, our students would succeed at those universities.

Working with those who have been given a “denial letter”, our students have appealed these decisions. First, the chances of an “appeal” succeeding is very low. Second, when our students are admitted on “appeal” they are admitted late and are required to perform additional requirements, so, their stress seems to be higher than the average student.

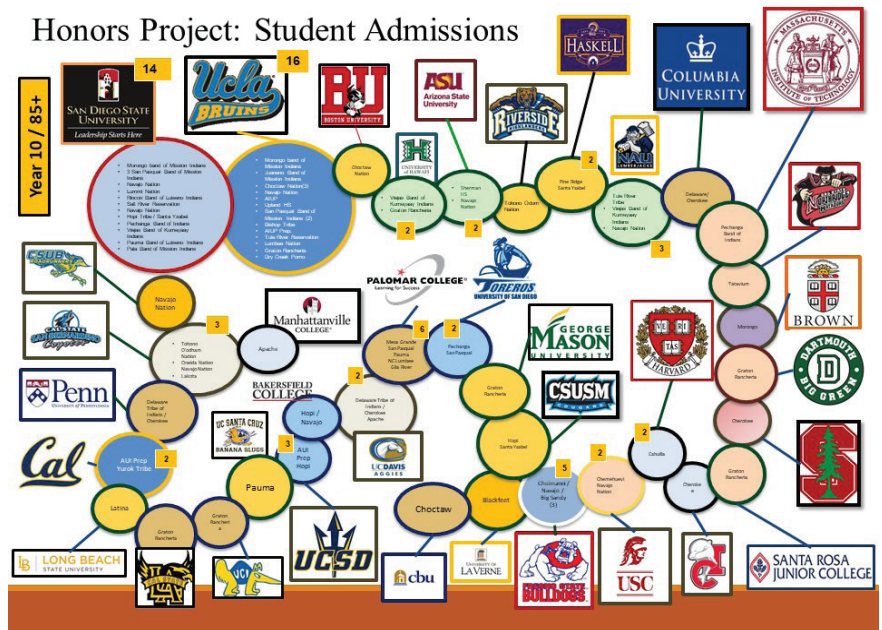
Although, this is a very rigorous and stressful process, there is good news. For those who were successful in this process:

~ A few are getting ready to graduate from those universities, while, other have graduated and are preparing for Law School.

~ More recently, one student, in their first semester, has made the Dean's list (*Congrats!!!*).

We give this for you to read between the lines. Yes, our students can compete with the best, but I would add; their strength, fortitude, and leadership make them some of the strongest people (candidates for admission) out there. We look forward in seeing their progress and their potential to lead our communities to a promising future.

Honors Project: Student Admissions



We thank the Procopio and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians for supporting our AIR Programs, bringing needed services to our Native Communities.
Thank you SCTCA for your support and collaboration for our programs over these many years!

AIR PROGRAMS UPDATES

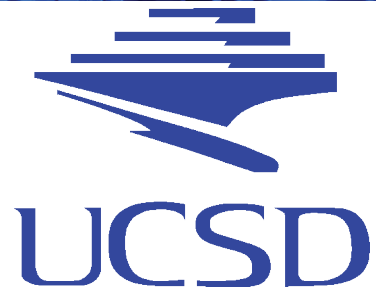
Course	*Indicates Covid-19 challenges in implementation	Pass
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD	(Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Hopi / Morongo Band of Mission Indians)	83%
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD)	(San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians / Chickasaw)	75%*
Writing and Rhetoric and Tribal Governance (SDSU)	(San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Morongo Band of Mission Indians / Chickasaw / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Pomo Dry Creek Band / Delaware and Cherokee people)	77%*
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD	(San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / Jamul Indian Village / Navajo / Cahuilla Band of Indians)	94%*
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD)	(San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / Jamul Indian Village / Navajo / Cahuilla Band of Indians / Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Nation)	83%*
Writing and Rhetoric and Tribal Governance (SDSU)	(San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / Jamul Indian Village / Navajo / La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians / Pauma Band of Mission Indians)	90%*
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD	(Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Pechanga / Graton Rancharia / Apache / Pauma Band of Mission Indians)	100%*
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD)	(Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Pechanga / Graton Rancharia / Apache / Pauma Band of Mission Indians)	100%*
Writing and Rhetoric and Tribal Governance (SDSU)		82%*
Coun110 College Success Skills (Palomar College)	Hopi / Pala Band of Luiseno Indians	87%
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD	(Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / Apache / Viejas Band of Mission Indians / Choctaw / Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians)	100%
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD)	(Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / Apache / Viejas Band of Mission Indians / Choctaw / Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians / Los Coyotes Band of Luiseno Indians)	90%
Writing and Rhetoric and Tribal Governance (SDSU – Spring 23)	San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Federated Indians of Graton Rancharia / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Pala Band of Mission Indians / Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians / La Jolla Band of Mission Indians / Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians / Choctaw	100%
Introduction to Legal Systems- (UCSD – Fall 23)	(Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians/ Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians)	100%
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD – Fall 23)	(Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians/ Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians) / Yurok Tribe	90%
Writing and Rhetoric and Tribal Governance (SDSU – Spring 24)	San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Federated Indians of Graton Rancharia / Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Navajo / Yurok / Blue Lake Rancharia	80%
Introduction to Legal Systems- (UCSD – Fall 24)	(Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians / Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Texas Band of Yaqui Indians / Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians)	100%
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD – Fall 24)	(Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Rancharia / San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Yurok Tribe / Texas Band of Yaqui Indians / Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians.)	90%
Totals: Tribal Nations Participating / Ave. Passage Rates:		23+ / 90%

*EOY Stats for 2024:
Honors Passage Rate: 90%
AIR Participants (Main Programs): 177
Collaborations: 23
Tribal Youth Court: Started
Peer Court Jurist Participants: 18*



Public Relations: Small events AIR participated in throughout the year:

- 4-27 Dream the Impossible Conference (SDSU) / 90+ participants in 3 sessions*
- 5-1 Law Day (UCSD) / 30+ participants*
- 6-29 Fancy Dance Movie Viewing / 50+ participants*
- 8-3 Santa Ysabel Traditional Gathering (tabling event) / 100+ visits*
- 11-5 AIR -ICSC Midway Meeting / 30+ participants*
- 12-14 AIR - ICSC Moot Court (UCSD Extension) / 45+ participants*



Thank you, to UCSD Extension for your support and collaboration towards giving our Native Youth the opportunity towards a greater future



Thank you to the Pechanga Band of Indians for their support and work in making our program successful!





State Judiciary Appointment is official

We again, congratulate our AIR Programs Co-Founder and Former Chief Judge of Intertribal Court of Southern CA on her appointment to the CA State Court Judiciary. On February 13th, The Honorable Devon L. Lomayesva (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel) was formerly sworn in at the Vista Court House. We thank all those in attendance from many of the various San Diego County Offices, our San Diego Tribes and Tribal community, the Intertribal Court Judges and Staff, friends and family, and our AIR Programs Board. In general, it is often amazing how many people Judge Lomayesva has been a part of. Here, her care and understanding of our communities is evident as so many came to wish her well.

As we mentioned, Judge Lomayesva is one of the co-founders of our AIR Programs and has been part of so many Native Students lives who have entered our program from the San Diego County region. To see our former AIR Programs students, from when we first started, in attendance to see her induction really means a lot. We are so proud of Mrs. Devon L. Lomayesva as she joins the State Judiciary as one of the first California Tribally enrolled Native women on the bench.

Congrats on all your work and your dedication to our communities!



In Memoriam of Clifton Emison

Today we have learned of a loss in our AIR Programs family. A colleague, a friend, and an advocate for our Native children, Clifton Emison has passed away. As with life, sometimes you never get to hear about those who have had great a impact on others and have left their kindness and wisdom to our future leaders. This was Clifton. He was our instructor within our Restorative Justice Honors Project (collaboration with UCSD, SDSU, Intertribal Court of Southern CA, and our Tribes).



His willingness to teach our Native Youth on the ideals of justice was greatly impactful. Today program participants are gearing up to pursue Law School with the ideals of serving our Tribal Communities and defending the rights of our Tribes. He was part of our team to have our students get there. It was a great joy to have you supporting our youth, in class, and supporting their achievements at our Awards Banquet. We will miss you!

Thank you Clifton and we will preserve your ideals that you have imparted on us, close to our hearts...



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