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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



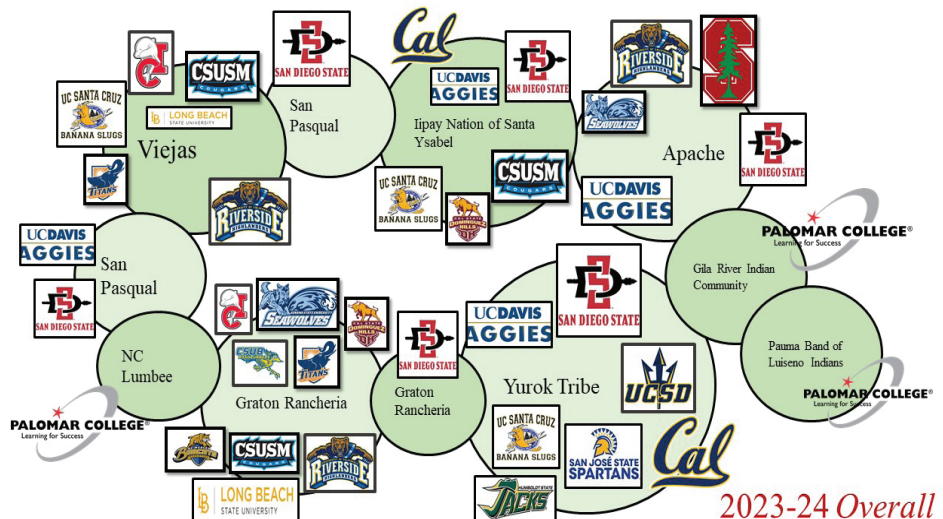
Congratulations to our College Class of 2024!

When AIR was formed, the enrollment of Native students, at major university across the nation, was less than 1%. Unfortunately, this is still the case today. Higher education for Native people has historically been limited, offering fewer opportunities or choices. Often, our only option has been community college which is valuable, but we often saw greater opportunities for our non-native counterparts who could pursue higher education at a university of their choice.

Today, our work with our Native Students is producing greater opportunity and hope. Every year we see more of our students being accepted multiple universities, reflecting their growing academic success

Today, our Native Youth face the exciting challenge of deciding to attend schools such as SDSU or Stanford, Cal, UCSD, UC Davis, CSUSM or any other university of their choice. Here, they can acquire the tools of success and lead our tribal nations to a brighter future. The picture showcases where our students have been accepted and the possibilities of a future with optimism and promise.

Congratulations to our AIR Students as they begin their academic journey this Fall of 2024 at many of these prestigious universities across the nation!



2023-24 Overall Student Admissions Offers

AIR Programs 31st Annual Awards and Fundraiser Banquet / 2024



Date: October 30, 2024 **Time:** 5-8 pm

Location: University of California, San Diego Extension / Park and Market (San Diego / Downtown)

Please join us for our 31st Annual Awards and Fundraiser as we honor our Native Students and mentors from our programs. This year we have had outstanding results from our Restorative Justice Certification / Youth Court programs as well as our last class of students who enter college from our program. Thank you to all who assisted us this year in creating positive change for our Native Youth and communities. We invite you to join us as a sponsor for our Native Youth Banquet where you can celebrate hear from the fantastic Native Youth we will honor. For more information on our Banquet please go to: <https://www.airprograms.org/air-fundraising>



(Pictured are photos from our AIR Banquet 2023 / Thank you everyone for speaking at our Banquet and to all the former AIR members for coming back to help us!!!)

AIR Update 2023-24

October 2023

AIR Peer Decision Maker Trainings (peer jurist):

We had a fantastic turnout at the October Peer Decision Maker (PDM) Training Workshop. Our Honors Program courses and training workshops provide a comprehensive understanding of tribal restorative justice ideals. They provide our participants with knowledge of the Intertribal Court, the Tribal Youth Court, and the broader experience and expectations associated with being a PDM. The primary objective of the training is to prepare participants for their duties as peer jurors.

Upon completion, our participants will receive a Certificate of Completion and are able to serve as PDMs (jurists) within our Tribal Youth Court, earning community service for their dedicated time during the training.

Thank you to all our participants and are excited to welcome those of you who will be joining us within our Tribal Youth Court.

(Pictured: From October 2023 of our PDM Training and Course Midway Meeting)





October 2023

AIR Programs Banquet

This event was very special as we honored our first set of students for achieving their Micro Certifications in Tribal Restorative Justice through our collaborative group AIR/ ICSC, SDSU AIS Dept. and UCSD Extension. Additionally, October 19th was officially declared “AIR Programs Day” in celebration of our 30 years of continuous work in the San Diego region. Special thanks to the Office of County Board of Supervisors, Nora Vargas. Finally, thank you to San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan for supporting our efforts within our Youth Court and speaking to the need of supporting Native Youth programming.



We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the Dept. of American Indian Studies, the Native Resource Center, and the President’s Office for their support of our AIR Programs Banquet and our ongoing partnership with AIR Programs for over 30 years. Your dedication to our Native Communities is making a profound impact on our Native students.

Lastly, thank you to UCSD Extension (Morgan/Ed/Nicole/Julia and more) for all of your continued support of our Certification program and for hosting our next AIR Programs Banquet 2024!



AIR / ICSC Moot Court Final (December 2023)

AIR Programs and the Intertribal Court of Southern California have been collaborating on a joint project focused on developing a Tribal Youth Court, with both prevention and intervention components. This initiative aims to intervene when our Native Youth have incidence of destructive actions. We accomplish this through a Tribal based Peer Court model (of diversion) where our Native Youth can give input, as peers, to help foster wellness for our court participants. As to our prevention side, we offer training for the youth peer court jury through restorative justice concepts in what we call our Honors Program. These courses/trainings cover topics within Tribal restorative justice and governance, as well as general knowledge of the US legal system. These courses are designed to help students understand Tribal restorative justice ideals and apply this within our Native Youth Peer Court.

In our last course, Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies, our students participated in a moot court, where they argued the court case, *Haaland v. Brackeen*, 599 U.S. (2023). We were proud of them as they demonstrated great academic skill, presentation proficiency, and knowledge of the subject with great confidence to our moderators and judges.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the students, parents, and volunteers for their participation, hard work, and commitment to this important initiative.



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



Dream the Impossible

(April 2024)

We are very proud that we have been able to partner with so many organizations as each of us are part of our Native Communities that are needed for the success of our Native Youth. We recently presented on our AIR Programs projects. Highlighting this is our collaborative work with Intertribal Court and our Tribal Youth Court Project. Overall, we had a packed house during our 4 sessions. Thank you to all that have come to hear about what we do.



AIR Programs Fall 24 Honors Courses Accepting Applications Now

The Tribal Youth Court (TYC) project, is a diversion-based project that serves our San Diego County Tribes challenged with incidents of juvenile delinquency. The Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC) has developed a Native Youth Peer Diversion Court, where Native Youth will have the opportunity to hear and assist in the adjudication process of the juvenile offenders. To accomplish this, American Indian Recruitment (AIR), along with ICSC, has developed the Native Youth Peer Decision Makers (Peer Decision Makers) training project that will engage our Youth Decision Makers and guide them in their decisions within the Youth Court.

This Fall we are collaborating with UCSD to offer two courses, Intro to Legal Systems, 1 unit, and the Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies, a 3-unit course. These courses provide a broad overview of the most important issues involved in US Based Law and 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, due process, appellate courts, the Indian Civil Rights Act, Public Law 280 and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Students receive an introduction to the basic concepts of legal studies with emphasis within contemporary tribal legal issues. The course addresses tribal common law and traditional dispute resolution methods, including the examination of the incorporation of custom and tradition into the Tribal court system.

This course will be online and mentor assistance will be provided to the students.

Course 1: Introduction to the Legal System Course - 1 Unit

Starting: Sept. 9th, 2024 - **Ending:** Sept. 30th, 2024

Course 2: Law 40074 Intro to Tribal Legal Studies - 3 units

Starting: Oct. 7th - **Ending:** Dec. 14th, 2024

Course Format: Online in an asynchronous format (weekly assignments)

Registration: www.airprograms.org



Law Day (May 2024)

May 1st, is Law Day where our judicial system, across the nation, discusses the importance of Constitutional Law that serves as the basis of our US Government. Working with Intertribal Court of Southern California we slightly modified this to discuss Federal Indian Law with our Native Youth. This was our second time in accomplishing this and we were proud to see so many Native Students taking great interests in Law.

We wanted to thank Valley Center High School and Santa Ana Title VI programs for participating within our program. We had a great time and our students came away with some greater understanding on our Tribal relationship with the US.

Law Day discussion on the differences between US and Tribal Courts.

Discussion on state jurisdiction and what it means to be subject to Tribal Law.

Review of Supreme Court Case Ex Parte Crow Dog



AIR Programs Updates 2024

Course	Student Passagerate
*Indicates Covid-19 challenges in implementation	
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 Ranheria / Delaware and Cherokee people)	77%*
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD (San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians / Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Ranheria / 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 Ranheria / 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 Ranheria / 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 Ranheria / Apache / Pauma Band of Mission Indians)	100%*
Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (UCSD): (Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Pechanga / Graton Ranheria / Apache / Pauma Band of Mission Indians)	100%*
Writing and Rhetoric and Tribal Governance (SDSU)	82%*
Coun110 College Success Skills (Palomar College)	87%
Introduction to Legal Systems-UCSD (Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians / Graton Ranheria / 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 Ranheria / 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 Ranheria / 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 Ranheria / 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 Ranheria / 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 Ranheria / Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel / Navajo / Yurok	80%
Totals: Tribal Nations Participating / Ave. Passage Rates:	21+ / 88%

Initially our collaboration started with the concept of utilizing existing university level courses that were based in Tribal Law and Governance and adapted them for our Native youth. We had great success in our implementation of this program. In 2019, we were afforded the opportunity to further engage our Native youth with our more recent community-based partners (ICSC/UCSD/ SDSU and Palomar College) in training the Peer Decision Makers for the Tribal Youth Court. Here, they utilize their knowledge in restorative justice to participate as a peer jurist within the Tribal Youth Court at Intertribal Court of Southern California located on the Rincon Reservation.

We show our passage rates which demonstrates our students understanding of the topics and their success in taking advanced university coursework.

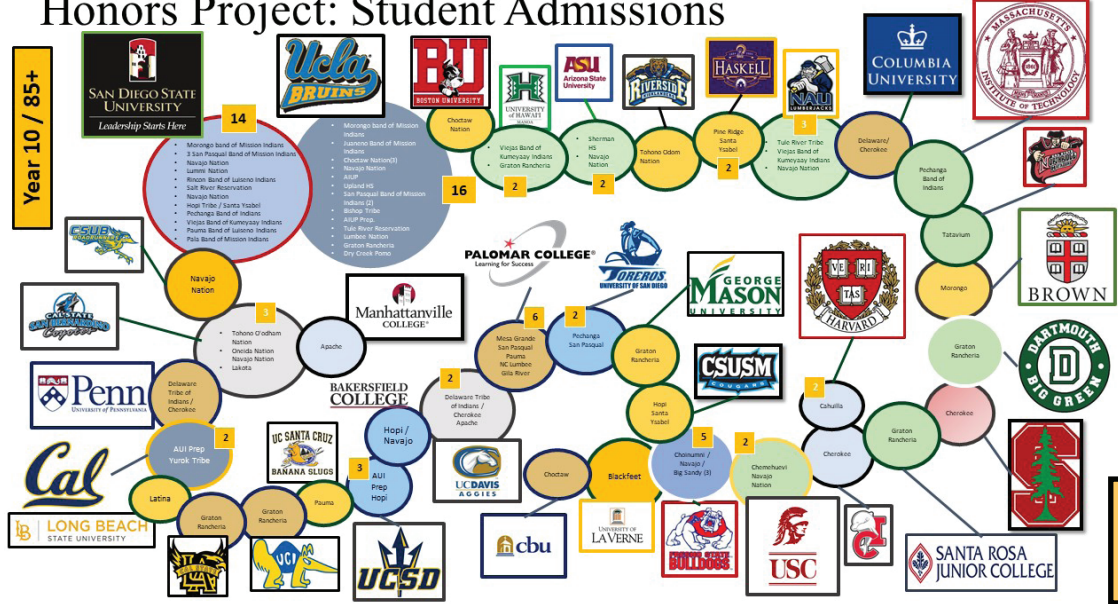
Passage for Honors Courses on Average: ~88%
CA Community College Adults Online (2015 Study):~60-65%

What are students gaining through this? They are gaining the following:

- Students are gaining Academic credits at the universities in American Indian Studies

- Students are gaining dual credit at most (not all) High Schools based on articulation policies of the school district
- Students are gaining knowledge in Tribal Restorative Justice ideals, Tribal Governance and Leadership
- Our Youth Peer Court collaboration is creating an extensive pool of Peer Decision Makers who may utilize this as community service
- Students are gaining a second look within university admissions based on university coursework

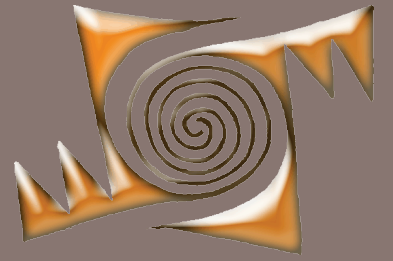
Honors Project: Student Admissions



10 years
Utilizing our methodology of mentoring, teaching through culture and a collaborative approach we seem to have great success!

This is our results!

Thank you Viejas for your support and your great Staff for participating in AIR Summer.



AIR PROGRAMS
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AIR Summer 2024 Complete!

AIR Summer is complete!!! We want to thank all our participants this year as ran through a very fast summer. This Summer we took up the issues of climate change and its effects on the world, our nation, and especially our Tribes. This includes how our traditional lands that, extend beyond the boundaries of our reservations, are affected by climate change and its impact on Tribes. Already plant life, coral reefs, and various land-based animals are feeling the effects of climate change. Further, we explored how we, as tribal people, are vested in our environment and how our cultural stories develop within the region and seek to create cultural approach in land preservation. Site visits included La Jolla Shores submerged site preserve and San Pasqual Valley via Wild Animal Park. We also want to thank Climate Science Alliance for assisting us on this project and helping us define Climate Change. Finally, thank you to our Santa Ysabel Elders for guiding us on regional effects of climate change.

Overall we learned alot, made new friends, and had a fun summer!

AIR Programs Board

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Thank you SCTCA for your support and your great crew for participating in AIR Summer.

