



# Tribal STAR Drumbeats

Volume VI

Spring 2006

## Summit Returns to San Diego!

### PARTNERS:

INDIAN HEALTH COUNCIL, INC.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, HHSA,  
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SANTA YSABEL BAND OF  
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SOUTH BAY COMMUNITY  
SERVICES

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TRIBAL COURT

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### ACADEMY FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE:

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*"Inspiring Innovative  
Solutions in Human  
Services"*

Again, full to capacity, the Summit was held in San Diego on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Introducing new materials and leading the training were Karan Kolb, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, and Liz Shear, Organizational Consultant. Liz's background in organizational development and commitment to cross-cultural collaboration brought real depth to training, which targeted managers and supervisors. Karan Kolb, the ICWA Manager for Indian Health Council brought experience and compassion especially to the Historical Context segment.



**Anne Smith, California  
Department of Social Services**

Participant responses, "Things Liked About the Trainer's Presentation": "The various visuals and the sharing of history and culture. The use of multi-media, and the fact that the trainers knew the materials - they didn't have to read it off the power point."

How will the information be applied to your work? "I'll begin to look closely at the educational needs of Tribal youth, especially in discussions about ICWA cases." Another wrote "I'll remember how a small intervention can have a large impact on the family."

Alongside San Diego participants were those who came from Tule River Reservation, Central Valley, and Santa Barbara. Additionally, SDSU's latest American Indian faculty member, Maryann Jacobs, PhD attended, from the School of Social Work.

—Contributed by Tom Lidot



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Tribal STAR is a program of the *Academy for Professional Excellence* at San Diego State University School of Social Work

## Tribal STAR Presents At NICWA Conference & IL Institute

### “Bringing Them Back”—A Tribal Perspective On Returning Youth (From the NICWA Conference— April 2-5, 2006)

Imagine that two of your three children have been taken away. Now imagine these children return after 10 years and have forgotten their language and how to conduct themselves. Essentially, they have lost their culture.



This was a real experience for many Tribal people, where today, one of three has been affected by the Boarding School experi-

ence. How do you ease your children back to a home and a culture that is vastly different than what they have been experiencing for 10 years? This is a question posed to training participants, and was the focus of a workshop that was presented at the annual **NICWA (National Indian Child Welfare Association)** conference held in San Diego.

These responses came from a majority of Tribal participants who shared how they would approach re-integrating their youth back to a home and a community.

- Host a traditional welcoming and cleansing ceremony.
- Make sure there is open communication, and listen to everything they have to say.
- Teach them cultural awareness.
- Be non-judgmental.
- Host a gathering, bring all the family together, help them find all their relatives and teach them their family history and their culture.
- Address their fears about coming back to their culture.
- Understand that they live in both cultures, help them find a balance of living in two worlds.
- Have patience.

—Contributed by Tom Lidot—

### The California Independent Living Institute Comes to San Diego!

The Annual California Independent Living Institute was held in San Diego on April 19-20. This year's theme was *Roots and Wings: Families and Communities, Supporting Independence*. The Institute is designed for Independent Living Program (ILP) providers (providing life preparation skills and support to youth



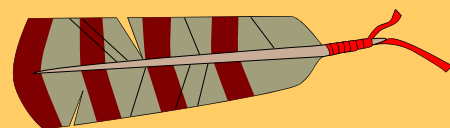
Tribal Elder, Jane Dumas, Jamul Village, Accompanied by Richard Bugbee, Honored at IL Institute

preparing to leave the foster care system). Jane Dumas, Kumeyaay, provided a blessing at the beginning of the Institute. For two days, ILP staff were able to attend various informative workshops

such as: A Roadmap for Improved College Outcomes, Housing Options, and The View from Washington: The Chafee Program and Other Supports for Youth in Care.

Tribal STAR provided a workshop entitled *Creating Connection: Effective Approaches for Collaboration between Child Welfare and the Tribal Community*. The workshop participants were enthusiastic about the opportunity to engage with Tribal youth in a more culturally appropriate manner. Upon recognizing that approximately 1 in 3 Tribal foster youth is involved in the foster care system, the workshop participants were thoughtful in discovering ways in which to improve collaborative relationships with the Tribal community.

—Contributed by Dana Allen—



# Future: Financial Aid Opportunities for Foster

Every year, thousands of foster youth throughout the United States age out of the foster care system. Far too many of these youth experience homelessness, joblessness, and lack of viable support systems. One resource that is readily available to support life opportunities for these youth is financial aid. Financial Aid programs provide financial support to youth seeking further education upon completion of high school.

There are several sources of financial aid, including: federal, state, college and private funding sources. Fortunately, for foster youth, a significant amount of the aid available is grant (FREE!) money. The first step in applying for aid is to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). Some helpful tips to keep in mind about the FAFSA include:

- Apply early because funds are sometimes limited
- You don't have to attend school full-time to qualify for student aid
- Financial aid covers more than just books and school
- DEADLINES: in California, for initial awards is March 2, for Community College Awards is September 2
- Most Importantly: In section 2 of the FAFSA (Student Status) students will have to respond to the question "are you or were you a ward of the court". Current and former foster youth should answer "YES" to this question, otherwise they will have to provide parent information which will result in their award amount being significantly impacted.

Foster youth also have an opportunity to receive up to \$5,000 a year for higher education through the California Chafee Grant program. To apply, students must complete the FAFSA and the California Chafee Grant Application ([www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov)) or by calling toll free 888.224.7268.

Special thanks to *Lara Gamble (YMCA YFS Independent Living Program)* for gathering the resource information for this article.

—Contributed by Dana Allen—

## New Materials!

The *Creating Connection Workbooks* - help participants identify ways to apply information to daily activities.

The *Reflections* journal - helps reinforce what was learned and experienced after the training and can be used as a calendar or contact reference book.

The *Resource CD* - provides all the background reference information and additional resources.

"We wanted to create Workbooks that could be used instead of 'shelved'" said Margaret Orrantia, whose trained eye and passion helped create these new educational tools. In the past we've used a Participant Manual, which held all the resource references for the material presented during the training. The Team wanted to develop materials that work with the



Power Point and that gives participants a reason to engage with each other, and stimulate thought. The resource and reference information is still provided in

a CD Rom that is included in the handouts. It provides the full curriculum, power point, journal and workbook. How do they work together? The new Creating Connection workbook is full of activities and prompts participants to talk about how each module will affect and enhance their daily activities. This workbook is meant to be written in and follows each module presented by the trainers. The Journal

is full of quotes and sayings. It is meant for participants to continue to use after the training, set in a journal and calendar style with space to write follow up notes, personal contacts, and is meant to reinforce what was learned during the training.

—Contributed by Tom Lidot—



Local Tribal Elder In Front of  
His Home

"They used to have a lot of rules for young children about how to behave. If strangers come to the house, you know, old people, you're not to run in front of them or bother them. You stay away until called. Every visitor was always given something to eat, nothing special, just some of what we had. No matter if we only had a little. Also, if you see old people that need help, always give them a hand. Even if you have only a little, give them some of it."

—Delfina Cuero,  
*Her Autobiography An  
Account of Her Last Years,*  
Ballena Press, 1991—

"The Elderly - the older members of the villages were always looked up to and respected for their years of accumulated knowledge. Under no circumstances were children allowed to make fun of an old person for any reason. The old ones were proud of their wrinkles and grey hair - they earned them with plenty of hard work. The cunning and wisdom that had kept them alive for so long earned them respect."

—*Just Before Sunset,*  
Lora L. Cline, LC Press 1984  
*The Legends, customs, and  
people from the past  
by Tom Lucas, the last  
Kwaaymii—*



Elder Campo Woman

### We Listen To Our Elder's Wisdom

#### Elder's Meditation of the Day

"The land is a sacred trust held in common for the benefit of the future of our nations."

"The Creator made the Earth to support life so that life would continue to reproduce, everything would support one another, and future generations would have the same benefits of supply and beauty as the generations the proceeded them. This cycle will only continue to the degree that we make choices and decisions for the future generations. Today, we are too greedy and selfish. We are cheating our children, grandchildren and the children unborn.

Creator, let me see the consequences of my decisions, and show me how to make healthy corrections."

—Haida Gwaii—Traditional  
Circle of Elders—



### Tribal STAR Training News

Tribal STAR conducted training in the following counties on the dates indicated. The **Summit** is for directors, managers and supervisors. The **Gathering** is for frontline workers.

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March 29th	Summit—San Diego
April 25th	Summit—San Bernardino
May 31st-June 1st	Gathering—San Diego
June 21st-22nd	Gathering—San Bernardino

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The following training remains to be conducted:

July 17th	Summit—Imperial
July 18th-19th	Gathering—Imperial

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### Tribal STAR Presentations

The Tribal STAR team conducted presentations at the following conference and institute. (Please see the articles in this edition of the Drumbeats newsletter.) Our "team" includes our partners and other community members who support our efforts on behalf of Tribal youth.

**National Indian Child Welfare Association  
Conference—San Diego  
April 2-5, 2006**

**Independent Living Institute  
San Diego  
April 18-20, 2006**

### Celebrations

Tribal Star will be conducting its 3rd annual community celebration. We come together with the Tribal and Non-Tribal community, who are our collaborative partners, to share in prayer, share a meal together, and honor those who support us in our work. Look for your invitation!

**Tribal STAR 3rd Annual Community Celebration  
September 13, 2006**

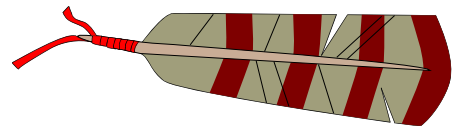
### Congratulations Jane Dumas!

The Tribal STAR Team and Partners offer congratulations to our Elder, Jane Dumas from Jamul Village. Auntie Jane was invited to do the opening day blessing at the Independent Living Institute on April 18, 2006.

Auntie Jane was honored for her many years of advocacy and support for the local Tribal community and for Tribal youth. She has been on the Tribal STAR team since its inception, offering blessings at gatherings, attending workgroup meetings, and by participating in training by being on panels.

The Tribal STAR team is grateful to Auntie Jane for her support of our work and look forward to our continued collaboration for the benefit of the Tribal community and Tribal youth in particular.

*Thank You, Auntie Jane!*



"The great one above put life into our dirt bodies, which means that some time way back the body was made from the dirt and Great Spirit put the life into it - out of this soil, right here. We call the Great Spirit Amaayahaa. We have all the belief in the world that creation made our people right here, not in Europe or anywhere else - right here, where they belong, not anywhere else."

*—Just Before Sunset,  
Lora L. Cline, LC Press 1984  
The Legends, customs, and  
people from the past  
by Tom Lucas, the last Kwaaymii—*

### San Bernardino Summit Gets Results!

On April 25, Tribal STAR staff were surprised when, by 8:30, the room was full - the Summit was off to a strong start. There was a strong showing of Tribal repre-



sentatives from Ft. Mojave, Morongo, and Tribal CPS staff from Los Angeles and representatives from Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Children's Services.

Cathy Cimbalo,  
Director of Children's

Services in San Bernardino County, provided a vital role in supporting the logistical planning and participation of Children's Services employees. By the end of the day there was a clear intent and invitation by the Tribal representative from Ft. Mojave to continue collaboration.

New as a Tribal STAR Trainer, but not new to the field is Linda Ruis, from the Santa Ysabel Band of Digueno Indians, and also the Director of Social Services for the Santa Ysabel tribe. Linda's first hand experience working with Tribal youth and her passion for Tribal advancement provided a vital role in the success of the Summit. Tribal STAR continues to seek and develop new trainers who have a passion for cross-cultural collaboration. The Gathering for frontline staff in San Bernardino took place on June 21 & 22.

Kudos - Marcie Arciniega, Administrative Assistant, Riverside, who, in the face of adversity, provided important support to the San Bernardino Tribal STAR Summit on April 25, 2006.

—Contributed by Tom Lidot—

### Black Elk: Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux (And All Tribal People)

"Grandfather, Great Spirit,  
once more behold me on earth  
and lean to hear my feeble  
voice. You lived first, and you  
are older than all need, older  
than all prayer. All things be-  
long to you -- the two-  
legged, the four-legged, the  
wings of the air, and all green  
things that live.

"You have set the powers of  
the four quarters of the  
earth to cross each other.  
You have made me cross the  
good road and road of diffi-  
culties, and where they cross,  
the place is holy. Day in, day  
out, forevermore, you are the  
life of things."



*Tribal STAR invites you to submit dates, times and locations of events your Reservation or Agency is sponsoring and we will include that information in our "Grapevine" section of the newsletter. Please send the announcements for your events to: morrantia@projects.sdsu.edu. The newsletter is published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. If you have questions call or e-mail the editor, Margaret Orrantia.*



<http://theacademy.sdsu.edu/TribalSTAR>

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