



Tribal STAR Drumbeats

Volume II

Winter 2004

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*"Promoting Excellence
in Human Services"*

Tribal STAR Pilot Training October 26, 27, 2004



Participants enjoy learning about one another at training

Tribal Star Pilot Training

Tribal STAR conducted the first training for Tribal and non-Tribal participants on October 26th and 27th of 2004. The training was held at the Mission Trails Regional Park. Marilyn Robinson, well-known and respected Tribal community member served as the trainer.

This training was attended by local Tribal members who work with Tribal foster youth as well as providers working for the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, group homes, Independent Living

Skills staff and others who work with Tribal foster youth living in rural areas. The training was successful and will aid us as we complete revisions to make the curriculum as responsive as possible to the training needs of providers working with rural Tribal foster youth.

Tribal STAR is also in the process of developing curriculum to train Supervisors and Managers .

Tribal STAR plans to pilot that training in March, 2005. Supervisors and Managers—be on the alert for a "Save The Day" flyer that will be coming out soon!

Tribal STAR Pilot Training Participants completing an exercise during training.



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Tribal STAR Think Tank Convened

On September 14, 2004 Tribal STAR brought together a group of Tribal experts and professionals locally and from throughout the country. The purpose of the Think Tank was to discuss how best to present training to the Tribal community and to non-Native workers who serve Tribal foster youth in rural areas.

Present were L. David Casey, from San Diego, Senior Deputy, Office of County Counsel, Juvenile Dependency Division, San Diego, CA, Wynona Larson, Intermountain Center for Human Development, Tucson, AZ, Nancy Lynne Moon, Ph.D., National City, CA, Erika Peasley, MSW, Former ICWA Program Director, Shingle Springs Rancheria, Shingle Springs, CA, Howard Rainer, Highland, UT, Marilyn Robinson, MA, La Mesa, CA, and the Honorable Judge, William A. Thorne, Jr., Salt Lake City, UT.



The Honorable William Thorne, Jr., Utah State Judge and Marilyn Robinson, M.A., at the Tribal STAR Think

The Think Tank took place over an eight hour period. Topics of discussion and dialogue included: examples of successful bridging of cultural experiences of participants, storytelling and other tools to convey cultural values, protocol and appropriate behavior in a Tribal context. Also, discussed were effective methods to improve collaboration between Native and non-Native providers, examples of useful application of large and small group activities, challenges to consider when adapting curriculum for Supervisors and Managers, and timing and sequence when attempting to optimize opportunities for comprehension and understanding when focusing on sensitive subjects such as American Indian history and genocide.

The Think Tank was taped and will edited for use as a tool in Training Trainers who will present the Tribal STAR curricula.



Tribal STAR Celebrates First Year's Successes

On September 21, 2004 a celebration was held at the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) to honor those who have worked with Tribal STAR to develop a training Program for those Native and non-Native providers who work with rural Tribal foster youth.



The success of Tribal STAR is a result of collaborative efforts with its partners as well as the staff at the MTRP. Many others have also contributed to our success including staff from the Academy for Professional Excellence and members from the Tribal community.

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Tribal STAR has been working to develop and nurture relationships with those in the Tribal and non-Tribal community that provide services to Tribal foster youth.

The event was an opportunity for us to gather together and celebrate our work to improve outcomes for Tribal foster youth.

In the next four years of Tribal STAR we look forward to our continued work together and many more celebrations of progress and success.

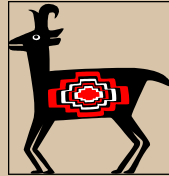


The above picture shows Ranger Sue Pelley and MTRP staff receiving award for their collaborative work with Tribal STAR.

Santa Ysabel Social Services Department

The Santa Ysabel Tribal Council is pleased to announce a recent award from the Administration of Native Americans (ANA) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for a Social Services Department. The Santa Ysabel Reservation is one of few tribes that have started their own social services department. They feel their children deserve the attention and time, for, they are their greatest resources and tomorrow's leaders.

The department will assist our tribal community in delivering culturally appropriate services, prevention of child abuse and neglect, foster parent recruitment, ICWA court appearances and interventions, and implementation of an assortment of prevention workshops



(parenting classes, Talking Circles, anger management, domestic violence and so forth). The Santa Ysabel Social Services Department consists of an all Native staff dedicated to establishing strong, culturally appropriate, and dynamic services for the children and families.

Staff are:

Director, Sonny Simms, member of the Muscogee Nation of People
Caseworker, Misty Taylor, Member of the Santa Ysabel Reservation
Caseworker, Linda Ruis, member of the Santa Ysabel Reservation
The Santa Ysabel Social Services Department can be reached at, P.O. Box 130, Santa Ysabel, CA 92027 and by phone at (760) 765-1093.

Cecilia Fire Thunder, First Woman President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe

Many of us who have lived and worked in the San Diego area in the Native community came to know Cecilia Fire Thunder. She was active in the community.

Some time ago she returned to her reservation. Just recently she became the first woman president of the Oglala Sioux. She has called upon the media to write positive stories about her reservation and people so that non-Indians can know and understand the Oglala.

She has also challenged the Oglala to heal, to work together, to educate the children in culturally appropriate ways, to have an ethical and efficient tribal council that answers to the needs of the people.

She has challenged the tribal leaders to be drug and alcohol free, stating this as a mandate from the people, "The people expect you to be ethical."

Cecilia acknowledges that there are many problems on the reservation that need to be addressed. She also states that there are many smart people on the reservation who can help her address the problems. She also calls on local, state and federal governments and agencies to join her in a beginning to make inroads in solving problems and bringing prosperity and hope to the Oglala Nation.

We, of course, extend to Cecilia and the people of the Oglala Nation our best wishes for success.

Tips For Students

Some Ideas On How To Prepare For College

1. If planning to attend a four year college immediately after high school, take the **SAT** and or **ACT** early in your senior year. It would be a good idea to take the practice SAT (**PSAT**) during your junior year. Four-year colleges require this exam.
2. During the summer before and the fall of your senior year, spend lots of time researching possible colleges to apply to. In addition, start searching for possible private scholarships (this will help with the cost of college). A great resource for scholarship information is the Internet.
3. Apply to four-year colleges during the fall of your senior year. Check the admission deadlines. Different schools have different deadlines.
4. Apply for Federal Financial Aid by filling out the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This form will be available in your school counselor's office and/or in the college Financial Aid office on January 1st of your senior year. The sooner you fill out this form, the better off you will be (you have a better chance of getting awarded more money if you fill out and send in this form **ASAP**). In addition, as your school

counselor for a **CAL Grant** application (a great source of free \$\$\$!)

5. If you are planning on attending a Junior College, plan on taking the STAR test as soon as it is offered. This is a mandatory placement test for all incoming students with no prior college experience. This test is usually given on the college campus, and will test you on your proficiency in Reading Comprehension, Arithmetic, Sentence Skills, Elementary Algebra, College-level Mathematics, Reading Skills and Language Use. This is not a pass/fail test, so there is no need to stress out over it. The purpose is to find out which Math and English classes you take in college.
6. Another great program that you should definitely check into is the EOPS. The Extended Opportunity Program is a state-funded program designed to offer financial assistance, support and encouragement for eligible, low-income students. The following services are available to eligible students:
 - Book Grants
 - Peer Advising
 - Workshops
 - Annual Social Activities
 - Assistance with completing financial aid applications

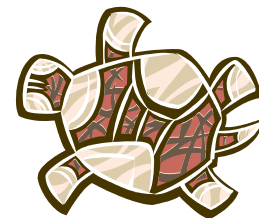
- Cash Grants
- Priority Registration
- Career, academic and Personal counseling
- Network with four-year institutions

EOPS is available at any public college in the State of California. In order to apply, contact the EOPS office at your college of choice. Contact them during January/February of your Senior year in order to apply on time!

Remember these two things...

1. **If you don't understand, ask questions. The process of applying for college can be very confusing. Ask your guidance counselor, or an admission counselor at your college of choice.**
2. **Pay close attention to the paperwork that you receive in the mail. Don't disregard anything that has to do with financial aid or the admissions process. Ignoring this paperwork may result in a loss of financial aid or a decline in admission.**

Good Luck!



Native American people believe that children are a gift from the Creator and that they must be treated as the special creation that they are—with respect. Children do not “belong” to their parents, but to their entire family (extended), clan, society, moiety, tribe, village, band, or pueblo.



Native children are viewed as precious.

Most indigenous or “first peoples”, of which Native Americans are a group have very similar beliefs regarding children. From a book called *“Tales From The Night Rainbow”* written by Pali Jae Lee and Koko Willis, indigenous people from Hawaii, comes this story they recorded from their Grandmother, Kaili’ohe Kame’ekua. This is how the story goes,

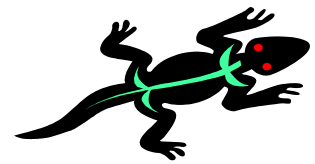
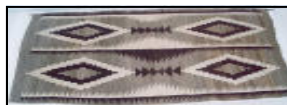
“We taught by stories and parables. One of the earliest and most important to us was:

Each child born has at birth, a Bowl of perfect Light. If he tends his Light it will grow in

strength and he can do all things—swim with the shark, fly with the birds, know and understand all things. If, however, he becomes envious or jealous he drops a

stone into his Bowl of Light and some of the Light goes out. Light and the stone cannot hold the same space. If he continues to put stones in the Bowls of Light, the Light will go out and he will become a stone. A stone does not grow, nor does it move. If at any time he tires of being a stone, all he needs to do is turn the bowl upside down and the stones will fall away and the Light will grow once more.”

“Humankind has not woven the Web of Life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”
—Chief Seattle—



“If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indian, he can live in peace...Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The Earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it...Let me be a free man, free to travel, free to stop, free to work, free to trade...free to choose my own teachers, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to think and talk and act for myself, and I will obey every law or submit to the penalty.

*“Heinmot Tooyalaket”
“Chief Joseph, Nez Perce”*



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.

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