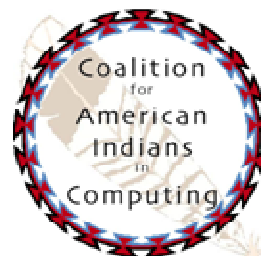


# COALITION FOR AMERICAN INDIANS IN COMPUTING

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The **Coalition for American Indians in Computing (CAIC)** reaches out to self-identified American Indian and Alaskan Native high school juniors and seniors, and college students, to promote computer science and computer information science study, college enrollment, and computer careers to support tribal needs.

We offer two types of scholarships: (1) **CAIC Summer Program** where up to forty high school juniors and seniors attend a full-time computer camp at the Humboldt State University campus each summer. They study all aspects of CS and CIS, as well as learn about the many support systems for Native students on campus, and strategies to succeed in college. This is a full collaboration between many different offices and programs of the University, our local Tribal communities, and NSF, and (2) **CAIC Scholars Program** where scholarships of \$1000 per semester are awarded to Native students who have declared a major in CS or CIS at HSU. \$500 scholarships per semester are awarded to Native students who are studying toward a minor in CS or CIS at HSU.

Enrollment in the **CAIC Summer Program** has **doubled** over the course of the three-year grant. Application submissions **quadrupled** to over 120 for the 40 spaces available Summer of 2009. In addition to experiencing college residential life, the Camp curriculum includes classes in:

- computer gaming, geographic information systems, digital media, computerized Native language preservation,
- college prep, applying to college and financial aid,
- HSU's Native American academic and social support programs, and
- community Tribal member- led demonstrations and field trips re: Native art, culture, language acquisition, and local Native-run business and health endeavors.



## Highlights and Results:

- Over three years we've reached **ninety-four** Native American and Alaskan Native high school and early college students.
- A **focused recruitment** resulted with over ¼ of those enrolled Summer 2009 from extremely remote areas of service- and technology-deprived Alaska.
- Students are interested in their **Native heritage** and will use computers to learn more about it. The more Native culture is included in the curriculum the more successful it becomes.
- **Alcohol and Other Drug Sessions** led by a Native American counselor are integral to, but no guarantee of student behavior in, our zero-tolerance Camp.
- Two evening **Fire Circles** led by a local elder and story teller were very memorable experiences.
- We continued a highly positive aspect of beginning each morning session with a **Native blessing** by a local Tribal member.
- From **feedback** from students, teachers and leaders we continue to refine the program: to limit it to high school students with sufficient Algebra knowledge as we endeavor to increase the interest of participants in CS/CIS college study, to involve more Native culture of our participants (over 25 tribes represented in 2009), and to continue to engage our local Tribal resources for successful partnerships.
- Future endeavors should include Native **middle school students** to interest them in math and computer science at an earlier age.



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