

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Report for Academic Year: 2008-2009

Twelfth Grade Transitions Class Hopi Junior-Senior High School

Keams Canyon, AZ Tribal Affiliation: Hopi & Navajo

Project Coach: Christopher Margeson

Regional Coordinator: James McKenzie

Hopi Junior-Senior High School serves students from villages on the Hopi reservation, as well as Navajo students from several nearby communities. At the school, Youth Leadership is implemented within the twelfth grade Transitions Class, a class designed to help high school students make a successful move from secondary school to college, vocational school, or work life. Within the Transitions Class, Youth Leadership is used to reinforce and complement the development of planning, goal-setting, and communication.

## LEADERSHIP PROJECT:

### ◆ INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT

Chris Margeson and the students at the school focused on individual development through Youth Leadership activities. The Youth Leadership group was the project; individuals within the group developed and grew in ways they did not think possible. "I think the Youth Leadership activities were beneficial in helping with areas that I had hard times with. I think the activities helped with shyness and helped us to grow," commented student, Joshua Ami.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

◆ Youth Leaders at Hopi Junior-Senior High School achieved many small accomplishments over the course of the year. Each time a shy student asked a question or opened up to share their responses during a Youth Leadership activity, the group became more comfortable with each other. "People started to get away from their shyness and worked on speaking out loud. Some students became more comfortable with expressing their thoughts and feelings," commented Youth Leader, Joshua Ami. Students, representing various villages throughout the Hopi reservation, as well as Navajo students from areas to the south of the school, were able to grow and develop through Youth Leadership activities. Joshua Ami noted, "Each of us set goals on our own, and some of the students met their goals. I felt good that I accomplished helping out other students with some of their problems."



## CHALLENGES:

- ◆ Project Coach, Chris Margeson, faced the challenge of getting the students to participate because they were eager to graduate and move beyond high school. Student participant, Joshua remarked, “I think participating in the activities was the hardest part for some of the students. It was hard for some students to share about what they want to do in their future.” Some of the Youth Leadership activities challenged students to explore their values and interests as they set their individual short-term and long-term goals. “Sometimes people had questions, but they were too shy to ask them until after the topic had been covered after the class,” commented Joshua. This made facilitation a challenge for Chris, as few students would come up and speak or raise their hands in response to activity questions.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

*The Youth Leadership Program assists children in developing leadership skills while generating projects that contribute to their communities. Each Youth Leadership group executes a project that benefits their community. The curriculum provides a framework in which students, guided by Project Coach volunteers, engage in activities focusing on improving leadership and confidence, both individually and as a group. Students learn to challenge their personal limits and achieve personal and group goals.*



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