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JrCOSTEP Summer 2008  
California Area  
San Diego State University**



My USPHS (U.S. Public Health Service) Co-Step assignment was with the California Area IHS (Indian Health Service) as an Environmental Specialist under the supervision of Captain Newsad and Commander Lewelling in Escondido, Ca. I am

currently starting my second year of Graduate School at San Diego State University, where I am studying to receive a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health.

This was my second summer back after working with IHS last summer which helped me become more confident and prepared to take on the challenges and projects presented to me this summer. This summer my main project was to complete seatbelt observations and enter data into the Occupant Protection Use System (OPUS). From this point I would be able to analyze data to provide IHC with statistics of the seat belt use rate in their service area.

Throughout the summer I conducted 13 seatbelt observations with Art Calvo, IP Specialist for Indian Health Council. We identified 7 observation sites on 5 Indian Reservations that were strategically chosen to follow the national protocol. I then took the data I collected over the summer and previous data Art collected and calculated the preliminary use rate and number of seatbelt observations that need to be obtained by the end of the year.

Additionally, I created a project description handout and collected preliminary information for the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians. IHS is presenting the project to develop a comprehensive as-built for the La Jolla Indian Reservation public utilities, utilizing aerial photographs, AutoCad Drawings, and field GIS measurements. This handout will be used to recruit Redlands University GIS students in the fall 2008 for a California Area As-Built Project.

Along with the two above projects, I have also participated in many other environmental health projects such as food inspections, rabies vaccinations, updating the Sanitation Deficiency System and water samples. All of these projects have helped me to learn more about environmental issues in Native American populations, and have helped me to gain valuable knowledge and experience in the Environmental Health field.