

Yurok Education Department (Draft)

The Education Department's Mission: To provide a wide-range of support services designed to ensure academic success while building and maintaining the Yurok cultural identity and assisting to provide for the health, education, economy and social well being of our members and future members; and to preserve and promote our culture, language and religious beliefs and practices and pass them on to our children, our grandchildren, and to their grandchildren on, forever.

Priorities for the Coming Year:

1. It is a priority for the Education Department to continue to advocate and apply for increased funding for educational programs and services for the Yurok Tribe.
2. To continuously improve the quality of services provided within all educational programs including Early Head Start, Head Start, Child Care, JOM K-12 tutoring, Yurok language, high school guidance services, and Higher Education and Adult Vocational programs.
3. To increase the number of tribal members who are semi-fluent and fluent in the Yurok Language and culture.
4. To continue to identify and document the educational needs, progress and success stories of our tribal members from all age groups.
5. To increase the number of Yurok Tribal members who are graduating successfully from Early Head Start, Head Start, high school and college or university with a college degree and/or vocational training certificate.
6. To increase the number of Yurok Tribal members that apply for outside scholarship assistance to fund their higher education needs, including the FAFSA, The Yurok Housing Authority Assistance, the GATES Scholarship, the American Indian scholarship foundation, as well as other outside scholarships.

Yurok Education Department
2009-10 Annual Education Department Accomplishments:

- Awarded a new 2 million annual grant to serve an additional 54 children in Early Head Start.
- Expanded Klamath and Ke'pel Head Start to serve the children all day and year-around.
- Child Care/Head Start moved into a new 5,700 square foot building in Klamath.
- Received 100% on each of the following Head Start reviews: Environmental Health, CHP for the Buses, and Federal Monitoring Review.
- Added an additional 18 new positions to serve Early Head Start and Head Start.
- Served nearly one-hundred children in Yurok Head Start & Child Care Programs
- Provided JOM tutoring services to over 300 K-12 students, in over twenty public schools, at locations both on and off the Yurok Reservation.
- Saw improvements in grades, attendance and attitude in most of the JOM students we served.
- Graduated nearly fifty tribal members with high school diplomas.
- Hosted a service learning project delivering smoked fish to elders; over 200 lbs. delivered.
- Assisted 193 tribal members with funding to attend college and providing over **\$121,518** of funding to members both on and off the reservation.
- Assisted in 18 tribal members to graduate with college degrees this school year, seven were graduate level degrees or credentials.
 - The council approved funding for **Adult Vocational Training** allowing 10 students to pursue programs that included: law enforcement, heavy equipment operator, motorcycle mechanic, life coach, cosmetology, pharmacy technician, and phlebotomy. Three students have completed their program. The remaining students are still in the process of completion. This included **\$53,643** for AVT students.
- Yurok Language Program Staff wrote a successful grant application which will provide funding for the Yurok language program through September 2012 totaling \$600,000.
- Over 370 students of all ages participated and received Yurok language lessons.
- The Yurok Tribe played a significant role in getting legislation passed by the state which provides for the credentialing of Native Language Teachers. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing now issues a California State Teacher Credential, upon the recommendation of the Tribal government.
- The Yurok Tribal Council now also issues its own Yurok language teaching credential as well. In July the Tribe issued the first Native Language Teacher Credentials to Archie Thompson, James Gensaw, Barbara McQuillen, and Carole Lewis.
- We are currently implementing six community language immersion groups. Two are in the northern area, while two are in the southern area and two in the eastern area. These groups are made up of 4-6 advanced language learners with a facilitator.
- Yurok language students presented at the California Indian Education Conference. Three students from Jack Norton Elementary School helped the Language Program Staff demonstrate a language immersion session on making a delicious dessert.

2010-11 Yurok Education Department Goals for the Coming 2010-11 Year:

- A.** To continue to advocate and apply for increased funding for educational programs and services for the Yurok Tribe.
- B.** To continuously improve the quality of services provided within all Educational programs including Early Head Start, Head Start, Child Care, JOM K-12 tutoring, Yurok language, high school guidance services, and Higher Education and Adult Vocational programs.
- C.** To find a building in the South District to open Center Base Services for Early Head Start, regular Head Start, Child Care Services, and JOM services.
- D.** To increase the number of tribal members who are semi-fluent and fluent in the Yurok language and culture.
- E.** To continue to develop a JOM student tracking system in each JOM Service Area which accounts for every Yurok JOM student within each service area that includes the students' name, school, grade, academic performance information, special needs, cultural involvement, and other relevant information.
- F.** To continue to provide student recognition activities to JOM students for academic excellence, honor roll, academic improvement, cultural involvement, school attendance, community involvement, sports, leadership and other areas within the newsletter, and at a mid-year event, and at a year-end ceremony and gathering.
- G.** To increase the number of Yurok Tribal members who are graduating successfully from Early Head Start, Head Start, high school and college or university with a college degree and/or vocational training certificate.
- H.** To continue to increase the number of tribal members attending higher education or vocational schools by offering guidance, college, and vocational school tours, and using current successful students as role models.
- I.** To increase the number of Yurok Tribal members that apply for outside scholarship assistance to fund their higher education needs, including the FAFSA, The Yurok Housing Authority Assistance, the GATES Scholarship, as well as other outside scholarships.
- J.** To continue to provide Yurok cultural enrichment activities to JOM students during the student spring break, winter break, and at a summer enrichment camp each year. Measurement will be sign-in sheets and pictures of events.
- K.** To develop and implement advocacy for Yurok individuals and families at various levels, in individual meetings, through information and at the educational policy level.
- L.** To have all education staff participate in weekly Yurok Language Classes and to continue to interweave the Yurok Language and Culture throughout the programs.