



## For more information about APHIS, contact

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## Tohono O'odham Community College and the University of Arizona

TOCC is a federally recognized, tribally controlled college and a designated 1994 Land-Grant Institution. Chartered in 1998 by the Tohono O'odham Nation, TOCC opened its doors to students in spring 2000. TOCC offers 11 different associate degrees, 9 certificates, and 5 apprenticeship areas of concentration. TOCC is pleased to facilitate the 2009 TLC program.

UA—established in 1885 as Arizona's only land-grant institution—embraces its threefold mission of excellence in teaching, research, and public service. UA's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences prepares students for career opportunities in agriculture, natural resources, and family and consumer sciences. UA graduates work in agribusiness, government agencies, health organizations, banking and finance, youth-development agencies, conservation and environmental organizations, and research and educational institutions. UA is pleased to host the TLC interns in Tucson.



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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
APHIS 81-10-002

## Safeguarding Natural Heritage

Tohono Land Connections  
May 26 – June 5, 2009

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### What Is Tohono Land Connections?

Tohono Land Connections (TLC) is an outreach program for teenagers with an interest in plants, agriculture, and natural resources. The program allows students to spend half their time at the Tohono O’odham Community College (TOCC) on the Tohono O’odham Nation and half on the University of Arizona (UA) campus in Tucson, learning about science from both O’odham and western perspectives. Students will learn from tribal elders, O’odham professionals, university professors, and scientists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The 11-day TLC program is for students 14 to 17 years of age who want to learn more about safeguarding their natural heritage, both within and outside of the Tohono O’odham Nation. Students chosen to participate in TLC will learn and gain experience through hands-on labs, workshops, discussions, and field trips. Students will also participate in team-building activities.

### Who Is Sponsoring the TLC Program?

TOCC and APHIS are joining forces with UA to sponsor TLC. For 2009, five APHIS programs are funding TLC: Plant Protection and Quarantine, International Services, Wildlife Services, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, and Animal Care. TOCC and UA are hosting and coordinating program participants on their campuses in Sells and Tucson, AZ, respectively. TOCC and UA will make a variety of materials available to TLC students in order to facilitate learning about plants, agriculture, and natural resources. Paul Buseck, agriculture and natural resources instructor at TOCC, and Elaine Marchello, Assistant Dean in the Office of Academic Programs in UA’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will facilitate the program.

### How Much Will It Cost?

Students selected for the 2009 TLC session will pay only the cost of transportation to get from their home to the TOCC campus on May 26 and back home on June 5. The cost of tuition, room and board, and lab supplies for the program will be covered by the five sponsoring programs within APHIS.

### How Do I Apply?

Students between the ages of 14 and 17 are eligible to apply for admission to TLC. *Note:* You must be at least 14 and no older than 17 as of May 26, 2009. You must submit a complete application package before **May 8, 2009**. Packages postmarked or hand delivered after that date will not be accepted.

Here’s what to put in your application package:

- A short essay entitled “How my interest in agriculture and natural resources can help me, my community, and the country.” In the essay, include information on your interests, hobbies, and hopes for the future. Be sure to include your full name, age, address, and home telephone number.
- Two letters of reference from people not related to you who know you well. At least one of the letters must come from a teacher or counselor.

### Mail your completed application to:

Paul Buseck  
Tohono O’odham Community College  
P.O. Box 3129  
Sells, AZ 85634

Applicants may also submit their packages to Mr. Buseck at the TOCC campus in Sells. All hand-delivered materials will be date-stamped on receipt; no paperwork submitted after May 8, 2009, will be accepted.

By the middle of May, TOCC will let you know if you have been selected for this summer’s TLC program. Meanwhile, if you’d like to learn more about APHIS, TOCC, or UA, visit these Web sites:

- <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>
- <http://www.tocc.cc.az.us>
- <http://www.ag.arizona.edu>

### For more information about the Tohono Land Connections Program, contact

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