NAVIGATING THE NEW NORMAL

Intentionally Rebuilding the Vibrant University Community and Reclaiming the SDSU Spirit and Campus Energy
Estimados padres Aztecas y familias,

En los últimos meses, casi 35,000 estudiantes han regresado a nuestro bullicioso y hermoso campus. Ellos participan en clases presenciales, asisten a eventos deportivos, se comprometen con el servicio a la comunidad, consiguen experiencia laboral, y empujan los límites de la ciencia a través de la investigación. Están avanzando en sus propios objetivos profesionales y trabajando codo con codo con nuestro profesorado para encontrar soluciones a los problemas de hoy.

Como siempre, pero especialmente con la vuelta al campus este otoño, estoy increíblemente agradecida de formar parte de esta extraordinaria comunidad.

En este número, conocerán los numerosos servicios de apoyo que hemos mantenido e introducido, los cuales nos han permitido organizar un semestre tan exitoso y seguro, así como los numerosos logros que estamos celebrando como comunidad universitaria. Con tasas de vacunación de COVID-19 de los estudiantes por encima del 95% y con un programa de pruebas de detección continuo y sólido, nuestra tasa de casos positivos se ha mantenido baja durante el otoño.

Nuestros estudiantes están prosperando. Participan todas las semanas en actividades, incluidos los eventos de las Noches Aztecas, que tienen por objeto ayudarles a desarrollarse académica y socialmente, y a prepararse para los estudios de posgrado y sus carreras. También nos estamos preparando para celebrar el 125 aniversario de nuestra universidad el próximo año. Acabamos de lanzar nuestra página web del aniversario en 125.sdsu.edu, que servirá como recurso central para la información, eventos y actividades para que usted y sus estudiantes participen en las numerosas celebraciones que se llevarán a cabo a partir de la primavera.

Estamos impacientes de recibirlos en nuestro Open House a la Comunidad y en la Celebración de Cumpleaños de toda la Universidad en marzo, así como en nuestro primer partido en el nuevo Estadio Azteca, cuando los Aztecas se enfrenten a los Wildcats de la Universidad de Arizona el 3 de septiembre del 2022. Los invito a asistir a los numerosos eventos presenciales y virtuales que organizaremos durante la celebración de este aniversario.

Ya sea que vivas en la región de San Diego o del Valle Imperial, o seas parte de nuestra familia nacional e internacional, gracias por ser un azteca, y por ser parte de nuestra comunidad universitaria.

¡Vamos Aztecas!

Adela de la Torre, Ph.D.
Presidenta de la Universidad Estatal de San Diego

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**UN MENSAJE DE LA PRESIDENTA**

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— Adela de la Torre

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Dear Aztec Parents and Families,

Over the last several months, nearly 35,000 students have returned to our vibrant and beautiful campus. They are engaging in primarily in-person classes, attending athletics games, committing themselves to community service, securing work and internship experience, and pushing boundaries through research. They are advancing their own professional goals and working side by side with our faculty to respond to the pressing problems of today.

As always – but especially upon the return to campus this fall – I am incredibly grateful to be part of this extraordinary community.

In this issue of News for Aztec Parents you will learn about the many support services we have sustained and introduced that are allowing us to host such a successful and safe semester and about the many achievements we are celebrating as a university community. With student COVID-19 vaccination rates above 95% and with an ongoing, robust testing program and many interventions in place, our positivity rate has remained significantly low throughout the fall.

Our students are thriving. They are engaged every week in activities, including Aztec Nights events, that are meant to help them develop further academically and socially and to prepare for their graduate studies and careers.

We are also preparing to celebrate our university’s 125th anniversary next year. We have just launched our anniversary website at 125.sdsu.edu, which will serve as the central resource for information, events, activities and other ways for you and your student to take part in the many celebrations that begin in the spring.

We are especially looking forward to our Community Open House and All-University Birthday Celebration in March and to our first home game in the new Aztec Stadium, when the Aztecs take on the University of Arizona Wildcats on Sept. 3, 2022. I personally invite you to attend the many in-person and virtual events we will host during this 600-day anniversary celebration that marks the period between our founding in March of 1897 and the first day of SDSU classes in November of 1899.

Whether you live in the San Diego or Imperial Valley regions or are part of our national and International family, thank you for being an Aztec and for being a member of our university community.

Go Aztecs!

Adela de la Torre, Ph.D.
San Diego State University President
AztecParents

Volume 36, Number 3, Fall 2021

HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

By SDSU News Team

Just over a year after San Diego State University took ownership of the Mission Valley stadium site and broke ground, both SDSU Mission Valley and Aztec Stadium remain on schedule.

A steel topping-out ceremony in July by Clark Construction Group signaled the conclusion of the first phase of stadium construction, and Aztec Stadium is now more than halfway to completion. It’s on track to open on Sept. 3, 2022, when the Aztec football team will take on the University of Arizona Wildcats in the season home opener.

The former stadium is entirely demolished, unlocking the development potential of the rest of the site, including the River Park, Innovation District, housing and retail. Initial site construction is underway, including grading to elevate the development out of the floodplain and the initial site infrastructure.

The mixed-use and transit-oriented SDSU Mission Valley site is expected to transform the university and the greater San Diego region. Upon completion, SDSU Mission Valley is set to expand the university’s economic impact in the region by $3 billion annually.

The first projects in the Innovation District and residential development will begin once the initial site construction is complete, and the site will be ready to begin vertical construction in late 2022. The River Park is scheduled to be completed in 2023.

For related updates, information and features, please visit the SDSU Mission Valley Facebook (@SDSUMV), Instagram (@sdsu_mv) and Twitter (@SDSUMV_channels). The SDSU Mission Valley website (missionvalley.sdsu.edu) is regularly updated and includes a construction site livestream and camera.

THE GLOBAL SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY will celebrate the university’s 125th anniversary over the next two years with events, activities, tours - and the first football game at Aztec Stadium when the Aztecs take on the University of Arizona Wildcats on Sept. 3, 2022.

Event details and other information will be housed on SDSU’s anniversary site, 125.sdsu.edu.

The first all-campus events will be held in March 2022 with the Community Open House and the All University Birthday Celebration. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and families and general community members are invited to attend these and other events.

University History Curator Seth Mailios and Montezuma Publishing have partnered to introduce a page-a-day calendar to honor the history of the university, which was founded on March 13, 1897.

“Today in San Diego State History: 2022 Daily Calendar” contains rare photographs and images, along with 365 days of facts and trivia about the people and events that have shaped SDSU. The calendar is available for $18.97 at the SDSU Bookstore and online at www.shopaztecs.com/c-96-new-arrivals.aspx.
Our internal campus community has worked so well together over this very long stretch. Everyone stood up and did the work to support the health and safety of our campus community. — Andrea Dooley

SDSU’s senior leadership team regularly confers with county Public Health Officer Dr. Wilma Wooten – an alumnus of a SDSU School of Public Health program – and with Department of Public Health Services leadership on COVID-19-related issues, such as testing, contact tracing and case investigations.

One of the most visible vestiges of the partnership is the testing site the county has run at the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center for more than a year. Viejas Arena was home to a temporary county vaccination “super site,” and the county also has worked closely with the university on other vaccination efforts and on COVID-19 prevention and education campaigns.

“The county have been very supportive, working collaboratively with us from the very beginning and have provided resources whenever we need it to support the campus community,” said Andrea Dooley, the senior associate vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity whose area includes Student Health Services.

SDSU has also partnered with UC San Diego and its EXCITE lab that provides low-cost, rapid COVID-19 testing. The La Jolla campus assembles the COVID-19 tests that are in vending machines at SDSU this fall. UCSD also analyzes the results.

“The UCSD team has also been a great partner in sharing knowledge and lessons learned in regard to their vending machine testing process, which SDSU similarly rolled out during fall 2021, and in helping to support us with assembling our test kits,” Skiles said.

Skiles said she believes the county’s bolstering of partnerships bodes well for future collaborative efforts.

“The work we have done together through the pandemic has strengthened those partnerships and expanded the many ways in which we work together to support the health of our students and respond to public health needs within our community,” she said. At the heart of all of the university’s COVID-19 activities, are SDSU employees – the unsung heroes of the pandemic, said university officials:

- Facilities and maintenance workers have increased the frequency of sanitation and cleaning efforts, especially in high-traffic areas and COVID-19-exposed areas.
- Counsellors, programs and centers make efforts to proactively contact students through texts, emails, calls, letters or Zoom to ensure awareness of COVID-19 requirements.
- Employees in the colleges worked with facilities personnel to ensure there would be enough classrooms as the university transitioned to in-person learning.
- Resident advisers remind students to abide by COVID-19 protocols.
- Well-being & Health Promotion created health-education materials for campuswide public health campaigns, and the department hired graduate students in public health to support contact tracing efforts.
- Communications employees try to reach everyone with the latest COVID-19 updates and information.
- A team of qualified faculty, staff, and students completes wastewater testing.

That wastewater testing program, which began this fall, underscores how battling COVID-19 has engaged the whole university. SDSU facilities workers installed the wastewater surveillance system in sewage pipelines across campus, and environmental engineering professor Matthew Verbyla and his students collect samples from the surveillance systems. The university’s epidemiology team, composed of faculty and staff, analyzes the results.

“If there’s a hero in all of this, it’s the ongoing commitment from our campus stakeholders,” Dooley said. “This has been a long process, and we are so grateful for the partnership and support from the university’s leaders and everyone who have supported us in so many ways. Everyone has done their part to battle COVID-19.”

SDSU’s top priority is the health and safety of its students. The SDSU Police Department (police.sdsu.edu) hosts personal safety and awareness workshops, and the university is engaged in an ongoing campaign to promote conversation and education to prevent sexual violence (fsacd.sdsu.edu).

1. Be active! Regular physical activity reduces stress, improves sleep and enhances cognitive functioning. The Aztec Recreation Center has equipment, classes, a climbing wall and more to help students meet their fitness and wellness goals – and the ARC (arc.sdsu.edu) expansion opens in November.

2. Don’t forget about your flu shot! A flu shot is the best way to prevent the flu and even more important during the current pandemic. Call 619-594-4325 to schedule an appointment or send a secure message through HealthsUsConnect.

3. Talk to someone. Find someone to confide in – close friend or family member, trained therapist or counselor or even a four-legged friend. Counseling and Psychological Services (counsel.sdsu.edu/cps) has individual counseling, group sessions and classes, video resources, the walk-in center for Well-Being for relaxing and therapy dogs Baxter and Luna.

4. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. The Economic Crisis Response Team is here for all students to help with basic needs from food resources to housing support, financial assistance and more. Reach out for your student or someone you know at sdsu.edu/ecrt. Find health and wellness resources at Well-Being and Health Promotion for your student, and your student can also book a health educator or peer health educator to meet with their group.

5. Stay safe. Your student’s safety is the university’s top priority. The SDSU Police Department (police.sdsu.edu) hosts personal safety and awareness workshops, and the university is engaged in an ongoing campaign to promote conversation and education to prevent sexual violence (fsacd.sdsu.edu).
**SDSU’S STARTUP CULTURE**

By Antoine Stevens-Phillips

When Lucien A. Eloundou arrived at San Diego State University from Cameroon, Africa, he didn’t know that his dreams of leadership and entrepreneurship could become reality so quickly.

“I didn’t speak English, and I didn’t know anybody,” he says. “Despite this, my mentors at SDSU really believed in me. In fact, I feel comfortable saying I stand on the shoulders of giants, because my current endeavors would not be possible without their support.”

Eloundou now heads a startup company, Charbon Plus, that sells premium, natural skin-care products from Africa that are formulated for black and brown skin. It recently signed a partnership to bring its products to Whole Foods and Sprouts customers in 2022 and expects $100,000 in revenue for 2021.

“Lucien was high-energy, enthusiastic and serious about Lavin even though he had never heard of the Center before,” said Bernhard Schroeder, director of the Lavin Center. “But we train students like Lucien not just for the now, but for their future. He was exceptional at building his network.”

Eloundou also found support within entrepreneurship and leadership opportunities.

“I actually created my own club: The Leadership Student Organization. I was grateful to establish a partnership with the leadership minor team created by Dr. Lisa Gates and Dr. Randy Timm, which supports the student organization through advising, curriculum and student learning outcomes.”

Eloundou focused on building his network and relying on opportunities such as the Aztec Mentor Program. The AMP program in Career Services has made 13,637 successful matches between student mentees and professional mentors.

“I met Jim Kalb (’85, electrical engineering) through AMP,” Eloundou said. “He provided a tour of his manufacturing warehouse at OptiFuse and personally showed me how he conducted business. That was priceless, because he helped me envision my own warehouse some day.”

Not long after that visit, Eloundou – with the help of staff at the Lavin Entrepreneurship Center – began to think of how he could create “an African product that would carry our values and support our communities with wealth and employment.” Despite a lack of entrepreneurship experience, Eloundou had successfully lobbied his way into the center’s program.

“Lucien was high-energy, enthusiastic and serious about Lavin even though he really had nothing going on via a startup,” said Bernhard Schroeder, director of the Lavin Center programs. “But we train students like Lucien not just for the now, but for their future. He was exceptional at building his network.”

Eloundou said Schroeder, who’s worked with many successful brands before they became big, always makes himself available to analyze a strategy or plan. “It’s the biggest blessing you can have ever have,” he said. “I don’t have experience building a business worth a billion dollars, but I can speak to someone who does.”

With the help of his SDSU mentors, Eloundou found his inspiration and product.

“When my sister moved to the U.S. from Africa, she and I couldn’t find organic skin-care products that work well for dark-skinned people. I literally watched my little sister doubt her own self-esteem and self-image because of the lack of skin-care products available to complement her beauty,” he said. “I told her she was a supermodel and that I was going to fix this issue for her and other women that have to live with such an inconvenience. So, I did my research and discovered that only 5% of all natural skin-care products in the world are made for dark-skinned people. That’s a big problem.”

Eloundou also found support within SDSU’s ZIP LaunchPad.

“The ZIP LaunchPad (incubator) is such a great resource,” he said. “I learned so much from the staff and enjoyed being sharing (as did his mentors) his knowledge with students harboring their own startup dreams.

“Study the actions and results of successful people,” he tells them. “If the phrase ‘you are what you eat’ is true, then your research can also help you become what you’ve studied. It’s not an accident or luck that I’m getting the results I want now. Be intentional, because life is short. Every day counts; use your time wisely.”

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**CAREER SERVICES**

**PRO TIPS FOR STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS**

1. **USE SDSU RESOURCES.**

   “Once you’re a senior, you might realize you don’t have certain things lined up if you didn’t take advantage of networking opportunities or resources at SDSU’s Career Center. Enjoy yourself, but use your teens and 20’s to build something that will provide generational wealth for your family and legacy.”

2. **BUILD YOUR NETWORK TODAY.**

   “Find the Aztec Mentor Program events and meet somebody! Three to five years from now, you’ll need your mentors when you want to secure a job. I literally switched my job... schedule to attend more networking events, and it worked out in my favor. It’s a change in mindset.”

3. **ASK FOR ADVICE EVERYWHERE YOU GO!**

   “The SDSU family loves giving advice; just take notes. Take the advice, process it and pick what makes sense for you and your situation.”

   **Source:** Lucien Eloundou, SDSU alumna and founder and CEO of Charbon Plus
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES IMPROVES SDSU EXPERIENCE FOR THEIR STUDENT AND ALL STUDENTS

By Aaron Burgin

Becoming involved college parents wasn’t in the plans for Chris and Lisa Manzuk when their daughter, Jessica, started at San Diego State University in the fall of 2019. But a conversation with an SDSU employee changed their outlook. And this year, as the university hosted its first in-person SDSU Family Weekend since the start of the pandemic, the Manzuk’s, members of the Aztec Parent Advisory Board, were front and center as the weekend co-chairs.

“Our involvement with SDSU was not planned, and it was an initial conversation with Jennifer Stanley, director of development for the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity, that led to us learning about the Aztec Parents Initiatives that piqued our interest,” said Lisa Manzuk, a scientist. “I have always been impressed with the SDSU graduates entering the workforce in my industry, and that led to my desire to participate in supporting programs that further enabled student success.”

Lisa said she and Chris were thrilled to play a role in planning Family Weekend.

“The energy and excitement being back to in-person engagement and activities is hard to capture in words,” she said. “I think everyone has a heightened appreciation for being able to participate in person after the challenges we have all faced during the preceding 18 months. We are all a little more thankful and less likely to take it for granted in the future.”

The Manzuk’s, who live in Jamul, were very involved with both Jessica and her younger brother Will, who currently attends Steele Canyon High School, by supporting AYSO, Jamul Arts and Music and the Kiwanis Club.

Jessica, a third-year kinesiology major with a psychology minor, said she embraces her parents staying involved.

“Yes, some kids do go to college to get away from their folks, but I feel very appreciative of our continued involvement in my education,” she said. “Their involvement has allowed them to continue to support me, while also being a part of my personal growth. I have been very fortunate to have had a close relationship with my parents, so I am very proud that they are able to continue this journey with me.”

The coordinated care advising model gives students the power of knowing that they have a singular person who is there specifically for them and working to support them as they transition into the university,” said Christine Molina, assistant dean of students for Co-Curricular and Student Support in the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity.

“We are all here to support students, but now we are saying, ‘here is your person’ who will work with you and support you,” she said.

The coordinated care adviser will remain with the student for the first two years of school and help them transition to their major’s adviser for their final undergraduate years.

University officials had been looking to create a new advising model as part of SDSU’s strategic plan. They researched models at other universities and visited Georgia State University, where a new model had improved graduation and retention rates.

The pandemic gave SDSU officials greater impetus to make a change.

“We knew that every single freshman on campus had a CCA is amazing,” Aweys said. “The new approach to advising allows advisers to support students in various ways and does not limit it to only academic needs. Students can approach their CCAs for guidance on challenges they are facing inside and outside of the classroom, such as access to technology, financial hardships, housing and food insecurities. Due to this widening of scope, advisers build a level of rapport with the students.”

The coordinated care advisers work in tandem with students’ General Studies 101 University Seminar course — taken by 90% of first-year students. Instructors align coursework with milestones that the adviser will be discussing with students, such as class registration deadlines.

The relationship between student and coordinated care adviser doesn’t just end when a student’s first two undergraduate years are over and it’s time to transition to their major’s adviser, Molina said.

“So the student doesn’t feel like they’re just being handed off, the CCAs will continue to be a resource to students,” she said. “They’ll still meet with them and help them with anything they have going on, but we are also intentionally making sure they are connected with their academic college and discipline, which will help them prepare for post-graduation.”

For more information, contact Aztec Parent Programs at 619-594-1863 or aztecparents@sdsu.edu.

TAKING IT PERSONALLY

First-Year Students Assigned Advisers for Regular Check-Ins

By Aaron Burgin

San Diego State University is taking a more proactive and personal approach to advising your student. Rather than the previous model in which students reached out to the Office of Advising and Evaluations and to their major’s advisers to seek support, every incoming first-year student will be assigned their own personal mentor.

SDSU is launching the new model, called the coordinated care advising model, this fall with the class of 2025.

“The coordinated care advising model gives students the power of knowing that they have a singular person who is there specifically for them and working to support them as they transition into the university,” said Christine Molina, assistant dean of students for Co-Curricular and Student Support in the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity.

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The pandemic gave SDSU officials greater impetus to make a change.

“We knew a change needed to happen, and our students were looking for a change," Molina said. “Coming back to campus, we needed to make sure we had the support in place to meet the needs of our students and welcome them back to our campus, especially given the virtual environment that they had endured.”

Advisers worked to ensure that each student had a first advising appointment before Oct. 1. Advisers perform check-ins with students to see how they are doing academically, help them understand graduation requirements, build a four-year roadmap to graduation and check that they are registered for spring.

“We want to proactively reach out to students, whereas in the past the advising model was mainly reactive,” Molina said.

Advisers also meet among themselves on to share information and best practices.

Iram Aweys, a first-year adviser in the Center of Intercultural Relations, said the personal connection helps to ease students’ transition to college.

“Learning that every single freshman on campus had a CCA is amazing,” Aweys said. “The new approach to advising allows advisers to support students in various ways and does not limit it to only academic needs. Students can approach their CCAs for guidance on challenges they are facing inside and outside of the classroom, such as access to technology, financial hardships, housing and food insecurities. Due to this widening of scope, advisers build a level of rapport with the students.”

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For more information, contact studentsuccess.sdsu.edu/seeing_an_advisor.
After Spending Nearly 18 Months Away from San Diego State University at her family’s home in Corona during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ashley Tejada was eager to return to the busy campus life she’s grown accustomed to during her first years of college.

“Being away created a lot of uneasiness, given that I was very adjusted and appreciative of all that the SDSU community had to offer,” said Tejada, a graduate student in postsecondary educational leadership.

“That sense of community – I felt it dissolved during that time,” said Tejada, who is the current Associated Students’ president at the San Diego campus.

Orlando Ochoa, a third-year kinesiology major, returned home to Yuma, Arizona, at the start of the pandemic and, like Tejada, was counting the days until the start of this fall’s semester.

“I missed it a lot, let me tell you,” said Ochoa, who is an SDSU Ambassador and a resident advisor. “Having to suddenly go back home during the second semester of my first year on campus was never something I thought would happen, especially due to a pandemic. I missed campus, I missed my friends and I missed being around SDSU and the San Diego community, which is a big part of what SDSU is all about.”

The return to in-person learning has raised a lot of questions:

How do you rebuild a once-vibrant campus community after 18 months of pandemic-induced exile?

How do you integrate half of the student body who is living off-campus for the very first time? And how do you do it all safely, as COVID-19 continues to impact everyday life?

Three months into the transition, it appears the university community is adapting to a new normal, and there’s no doubt that the SDSU spirit is alive and well.

“Students are adjusting to all that comes with the SDSU experience, because there are really two classes that haven’t experienced the SDSU culture,” Tejada said. “But we are almost at a point where we can come together and appreciate the little things that make SDSU what it is. The energy I feel and the morale that never falls only continues to rise since the first day I stepped back on campus.”

Building Blocks of the SDSU Spirit

Rebuilding the SDSU experience didn’t happen overnight. Rather, months of planning and work from the highest levels of SDSU leadership went into preparing for students, staff and faculty – the majority of whom worked and studied remotely during the pandemic – to return to campus. And it was all hands on deck for Associated Students and every university division at both the San Diego and Imperial Valley campuses.

There was reimagining longstanding SDSU traditions to fit the current COVID-19 guidelines. Virtual new student and family orientations continued for a second year, but New Student and Family Convocation moved outside, masked up and became three ceremonies with safer distancing. Aztec Nights events expanded its schedule to cover the entire fall semester, with appropriate masking and distancing restrictions. Proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test is required at home football games.

In other cases, SDSU created new events to encourage networking and socializing. SDSU Gal, for one, offers free student-faculty trips to well-known San Diego destinations. All the trips are fully booked for the entire semester.

The university also saw five cultural centers open their doors for the first time, giving students from historically underrepresented backgrounds safe spaces. Each of the nine cultural centers has reported major interest in their in-person events.

Another unaddressed aspect of the return to campus has been the desire to attend in-person classes and in-person professional events, students said.

“Students are excited to come back not only for social interaction but also for their own professional development opportunities,” said Jennifer Schenkkenfelder, Associated Students vice president of University Affairs. She is from Waynesville, Missouri, and majors in cellular and molecular biology.

“Being able to go to career fairs and do research and collaborate with their peers in the academic space again is a vital part of the university experience that was missing over the past 18 months,” she said.

Austin Barber, a junior from Placentia, double majoring in business administration finance and political science, said “tenets of the SDSU experience in years past” have regrown passion. “It’s driven the community rebuilding process,” said the A.S. vice president of Financial Affairs.

Students aren’t surprised by the quick adjustment.

“Students have longed for a sense of community over the course of the past year and are more than ready to jump back into it,” said Karina Esteban, the A.S. executive vice president. “Most students are searching for new leadership opportunities, networking events, and spaces to join to feel connected to campus.”

Overcoming Challenges

The success has come amid challenges, including many students lack of familiarity with their campus.

Residential Education and New Student Orientation leaders – for their thoughts on helping your student thrive in this new environment.

—we Pick Up the Phone: Yes, students want their independence, but they also want to hear from you. Call or set up a time for a family FaceTime call – let them hear your voice.

—we REASUREMENT: You Will Always Be There: Make sure that your student knows that they can call you anytime, regardless of the situation.

—we Follow SDSU Social Media Accounts: Look for events your student might be attending or might want to attend – and provide friendly reminders. There are a number of accounts, including the official SDSU Parent Facebook Group and @ExperienceSDSU on Instagram and Twitter.

—we EncourageThem to Get Involved: Give your student a nudge in the direction of activities that will enhance their SDSU experience or help them find a place in the workforce or graduate school. Recognized student organizations, SDSU Ambassadors, Associated Students, volunteer and research opportunities or an on-campus job.

—we Let Them Figure It Out: Sometimes it’s OK to let your student figure it out on campus. They don’t have to come home every weekend.

—we Be Interested in More Than Grades: Show a genuine interest in the other aspects of college. Try not to get too upset if your student isn’t doing great in class while transitioning to main in-person courses. Practice compassion.
Welcome to the Student Financial Center. SDSU’s mobile-friendly, fully virtual platform where students and parents can come for answers to their financial aid, scholarships and student account-related questions. It was launched during the pandemic, and the center’s counselors have assisted thousands— with over 22,000 students and parents helped this summer alone (June-August). Financial aid, scholarships and student account questions can come up anytime, and the center’s accessibility has led to a satisfaction rate well above 95%. Please visit the center! We are excited to assist you via the Student Financial Center (sacd.sdsu.edu/sfc).

Get ready for Spring 2022

Mid-October to November - Pay for basic tuition and fees in full or enroll in the basic tuition and fees installment plan prior to your spring 2022 registration date. If applicable, nonresident/foreign tuition is due in full by Jan. 19, 2022. A nonresident/foreign installment plan is available to pay over the cost of the semester. Visit the Student Account Services website for more information.

Students with financial aid fee postponements do not have to prepay basic tuition and fees. Check AidLink to verify your eligibility for a financial aid fee postponement.

For students receiving third-party assistance, please submit your fee authorization/financial guarantee letter to sasthirdparty@sdsu.edu. Students with financial aid fee postponements do not have to prepay basic tuition and fees. Check AidLink to verify your eligibility for a financial aid fee postponement.

Important Dates:

Get Ready for Fall 2022

Beginning October 1, 2021 - File your 2022-23 FAFSA or Dream Act application. Fall 2022 financial aid information will be available on the new my.SDSU platform. To better serve the needs of the students at SDSU, the university is transitioning to a coordinated, single web portal that will streamline admissions, financial aid and student accounts processes. For financial aid, students will continue using AidLink in fall 2021, spring 2022 and summer 2022. For any information that relates to fall 2022 and beyond, they will use my.SDSU.

My.SDSU will enhance the way students interact with the university and transform the student experience. The system will also enhance the experience of faculty and staff by allowing them greater access to more reliable data and support. Ultimately, my.SDSU will drastically improve how SDSU recruits and supports students academically and financially while enhancing security, improving the user experience and leveraging best practices.

Get Your Guide to Financial Aid, Scholarships & Student Accounts

A PARENT’S GUIDE TO FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENT ACCOUNTS

By Lainie Fraser

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, father and full-time student, international business major Aaron Miller wasn’t sure he would ever be able to afford to study abroad. With the help and encouragement of his professors and campus advisors, Miller was selected as a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship recipient and traveled to Germany for the Fall 2021 semester to further his international business studies.

Miller said SDSU’s ability to maintain a “nurturing, understanding and academically sound educational environment during the online-era of COVID-19” and the assistance of the Joan and Art Barron Veterans Center contributed to his success.

He is one of 16 SDSU students who recently earned a Gilman Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State, which helps students with limited financial means participate in credit-bearing international programs.

• Beethar Troung, an interdisciplinary studies major, will study in China during spring 2022.

• Chelsea Contreras, an international business major, is participating in a virtual program in Mexico for fall 2021.

• Dayana Lara Benitez, an international business major, will study in Spain during spring 2022.

• Eric Weiss, an international business major, will study in Germany during spring 2022.

• Grace Chou, an international business major, is studying in Germany during fall 2021.

• Issrooxan Exum, a studio arts major, will study in Italy during the 2021-2022 academic year.

• Kana Oikara, a liberal studies major, is studying in Japan during the 2021 academic year.

• Kelly Valencia, an international business major, is studying in Ecuador during fall 2021.

• Leza Nissan, a public health major, will volunteer in India during winter break 2021-22.

• Lozeen Ragab, an international business major, will study in the United Arab Emirates during spring 2022.

• Lucia Victoria, an international business major, is studying in Spain during fall 2021.

• Madison Barnes, an international security and conflict resolution major, studied in Spain during fall 2021.

• Savannah Simpson, a business marketing major, is studying in the United Kingdom during fall 2021.

• Solana Micheal, a speech, language and hearing sciences major, is also studying in the U.K. during fall 2021.

• Tran Tran, a sociology major, volunteered virtually with an organization in Vietnam during summer 2021.

For more on the Gilman Scholarship, visitgilman scholarships.org or view information on scholarships in the Aztecs Abroad database or contact the SDSU Global Education office at globaleducationoffice@sdsu.edu.
CSU TRUSTEES’ AWARD WINNER PLANS CAREER IN STUDENT AFFAIRS TO INSPIRE OTHERS

By Jeff Ristine

AWSON HARDRICK III, who earned his bachelor’s degree at San Diego State University Imperial Valley and is pursuing his master’s degree at the San Diego campus, has earned a 2021 CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement to help continue his studies.

The scholarships are awarded annually to California State University students—one from each university—who demonstrate superior academic performance, personal accomplishment and community service. Hardrick’s award carries an $8,000 scholarship, supported by an endowment from the late trustee emeritus Murray L. Galinson and the Jewish Community Foundation.

While double majoring in psychology and public administration at SDSU Imperial Valley, Hardrick also immersed himself in student government—becoming Associated Students’ president—as well as in LGBTQIA+ mental health, broadband access for underserved communities, disaster relief and volunteer work.

Now he’s going for a master’s degree in postsecondary educational leadership at the College of Education with the goals of impacting students and “helping people find community.”

Hardrick grew up in Calexico with a Black father, a Latinx mother and identifying as queer. He felt like an outsider and was often bullied and left out of activities. But without those experiences, he said, “I probably wouldn’t have understood why inclusion is so important and why it’s so important for people to feel like they are a part of something.”

RESEARCHERS SECURE $141 MILLION FUNDING

By Kellie Woodhouse

San Diego State University researchers secured $140.6 million in grant funding for 2020-21, maintaining the institution’s research enterprise in the midst of a global pandemic.

Nearly 320 principal investigators received 723 awards, including strong support in such crucial areas as boosting COVID-19 vaccine uptake, developing better batteries for electric cars, reducing disease among Hispanics, combating climate change and improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

“SDSU has a tremendous research legacy, and this past year showed our research enterprise was also resilient,” said SDSU President Adela de la Torre. “Our researchers led their projects during a year that required adaptability as the pandemic surged and shifted.”

“Now, with Mission Valley closer than ever and the unprecedented opportunity for industry partnerships and growth, and the capacity of Imperial Valley to amplify access, we are at a practical inflection point for the growth of our research enterprise,” de la Torre said.

More than 570 graduate students and 380 undergraduates participated in on-campus research in 2020-21.

NEW RESOURCE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

By SDSU News Team

Dedicated to fostering a supportive community for all graduate students, San Diego State University has introduced a universitywide orientation, housing and a resource office and also increased financial support.

The changes come during a record year for graduate student applications, with more than 12,000 applications—a 35% increase.

The Graduate New Student Orientation in August complemented program-specific orientations held in the summer and fall and helped facilitate a successful transition for graduate students.

The on-campus housing is part of a program with about 135 residents in its pilot phase. They live in apartment-style housing in the Zárate building.

At the new Office for Graduate Life and Diversity, the mission is to support all graduate students’ success and to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in graduate programs. The office offers academic, personal, professional, financial and social resources to enrich the graduate student experience. To learn more, go to gradlife.sdsu.edu.

Additional funding includes the Master’s Research Scholarship. It provides $500,000 in new direct financial support to master’s students engaged in research, scholarship and creative activity during the current academic year.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Student and Parent Programs held a series of meetings and events during Welcome Week to create camaraderie and set ground rules. There was an Ali-Sophomore Welcome for sophomores—commuters and residential students—who didn’t have an in-person welcome in fall 2020.

Ochoa said that in the case of his residence hall in South Campus Plaza South Tower, it means starting small.

“First, we are trying to build a community on each floor,” Ochoa said. “Once you do that, then you build a strong community in the residence hall. It makes it easier for residents to get to know each other, and ultimately it pushes them to branch out into the campus at large.”

The residential floors host weekly bonding and networking events, and each residential hall has events. From these events and campus marketing, students have been able to learn about the other larger campus social events.

Another hurdle has been an area that was a strength during the virtual learning era: the pandemic made it easier for nontraditional students, such as those who commute, to attend events.

“Over Zoom, it was a lot more accessible for students to join clubs and organizations because they could do it from anywhere,” said Schenkenfelder. “Now we have to revisit the obstacle of not being able to be in two places at once.”

Commuter Life has ramped up efforts to engage commuting students through mentoring and an expanded slate of events at the Commuter Resource Center.

And finally, students said, the biggest hurdle to overcome is how to bring the campus together safely as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

COVID-19 safety around campus is a priority. With measures including COVID-19 tests available in vending machines to testing wastewater and enhanced cleaning, SDSU has been able to sidestep most major outbreaks on campus this fall.

“It’s a balancing act,” Ochoa said. “Because you want to go out and socialize, but you also are mindful that you not only have to worry about your own health, but you also have to keep in mind the health of everyone around you.

“I don’t think we’ll go back to the normal we knew for some time, but the normal we’re in feels pretty good too,” he said.

IMPERIAL VALLEY STUDY ON HEAT AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Students Will Assist in NSF Study on How Soaring Temps Affect Residents in Imperial Valley Compared to Rio de Janeiro

By SDSU News Team

In the desert climates of the Imperial Valley, high temperatures can average over 100 degrees for months on end. For those residents who are impoverished and living without air conditioning or other technologies to cool down are linked to high temperatures and access to water, said a $200,000, three-year National Science Foundation grant for the comparative study.

The research team of social scientists from SDSU Imperial Valley and the University of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, are working to understand the impact of heat on social inequality with a similarly uneven struggle to stay cool in the area where they live.

“This is an important project that will advance understanding on how heat and social inequality affect different populations in different geographies,” said Araceli Saucedo Villanueva, assistant director of the Center for Brazilian Studies, was awarded a $200,000, three-year National Science Foundation grant for the comparative study.

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now plans to enlist undergraduates from San Diego State University Imperial Valley to compare its issues of heat and social inequality with a similarly uneven struggle to stay cool in the area where they live.

Larksin, director of the Behrner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies, was awarded a $200,000, three-year National Science Foundation grant for the comparative study.

The research team of social scientists and students will examine how exposure to high temperatures and access to technologies to cool down are linked to race, socioeconomic status and other demographic lines.

SDSU Imperial Valley contributors are Linda Abarbanell, associate professor of psychology, and Araceli Saucedo Villanueva, assistant director of research advancement.

This project is committed to providing students with the chance to gain hands-on research experience both in Brazil and in the Imperial Valley. The grant will provide five students with a fully-funded internship.

Students Will Assist in NSF Study on How Soaring Temps Affect Residents in Imperial Valley Compared to Rio de Janeiro

Lawson Hardrick III

Lawson Hardrick III, who earned his bachelor’s degree at San Diego State University Imperial Valley and is pursuing his master’s degree at the San Diego campus, has earned a 2021 CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement to help continue his studies.

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Hardrick grew up in Calexico with a Black father, a Latinx mother and identifying as queer. He felt like an outsider and was often bullied and left out of activities. But without those experiences, he said, “I probably wouldn’t have understood why inclusion is so important and why it’s so important for people to feel like they are a part of something.”
In the ring with CARL WEATHERS

SDSU Alumnus Reflects on Successful Career Shaped by His Time at SDSU

By Aaron Burgin

SOME RECOGNIZE CARL WEATHERS from his roles as Apollo Creed in “Rocky,” Chubbs Peterson in “Happy Gilmore” or Col. Al Dillon in “Predator” – three of his top films from the ’70s through ’90s. An entirely new generation knows the San Diego State University alumnus as “Great Karga” – the mysterious leader of the Bounty Hunters’ Guild – in the critically acclaimed TV show and pop culture juggernaut “The Mandalorian.” The role recently landed the 73-year-old Weathers his first Primetime Emmy nomination – for best guest appearance by an actor.

Weathers, who majored in theater arts from 1968-1970 while playing linebacker on the football team and starring in campus theater productions, has carved out a following that crosses age and cultural boundaries.

SDSU Newscenter’s Aaron Burgin recently spoke with Weathers in a wide-ranging interview that has been edited for space and clarity.

SDSU NEWSCENTER: Carl Weathers, we’re so glad to have the chance to talk to you today, so we’ll get right into it. What does it mean to you to receive an Emmy nomination at this stage in your long and successful career?

CARL WEATHERS: For me, what it means is that what I did was worthy of a nomination. It also probably means that I remain on the good side of enough people that my nomination would join the other nominations. Ultimately, it’s really just recognition, and recognition from one’s peers is a really pleasant thing to have. It is a really affirming and confirming situation to be in. So, it feels good.

NEWSCENTER: What’s on the horizon for you?

CW: “The Mandalorian” is coming back for its third season. I’m also going to direct an episode of “Chicago Fire.” I’ve had to turn down some work because of how busy my schedule has worked out in the latter part of the year. It’s nice to be able to say that. But on the other hand, it’s not. Because I really enjoy growing, and the growth comes from doing the work.

The future, honestly, hopefully will be a bright and creative and very successful one.

NEWSCENTER: At what point do you think people began to look at you as “Carl Weathers, the actor” versus “Carl Weathers, the athlete-turned-actor?”

CW: See, that question begs for an answer that is a little complex. I was an actor before I was an athlete. I started acting when I was in grade school, and I majored in theater while I was on a football scholarship. There was always a Jekyll and Hydrid, well, actually I’ll just say a “split personality” between the artistic and the athletic, which I learned to love.

So there’s a portion of the audience that has no idea that I played football, let alone played in the NFL or the CFL and, for those people I am grateful that they are my fans. There are also those folks who are fans of Carl Weathers, the athlete, and I am grateful for them.

What I am doing or have done was what was important to me at that time, and I do it because it’s what I want to do. I guess the entertainer in me wants to please people.

NEWSCENTER: Speaking about your time at SDSU, how did you prepare for professional life at SDSU and did you have programs or mentors who helped?

CW: Professor (E. Kingsley) Pavemire – he was so important to so many of us, in particular those of us who were athletes. He taught us how to think beyond what we knew or what we learned, and he supported us in where we were.

So there were teachers, professors, and a few coaches. Coaches were really important for young me, particularly in college, because I was learning how to walk through the world. We all come from various societal, economic, educational positions, and when you have someone in a leadership position who shows you respect and has enough of an in-charge personality and at the same time, in line with that, has a kind of generosity with that personality, those people mean so much.

I was a fortunate soul in the right place at the right time and had whatever was necessary to recognize and accept what came to me. SDSU was a very special laboratory for a young person like me.

NEWSCENTER: College athletics are much different today than when you played. Most recently, the NCAA changed rules to allow student athletes to profit off their name, image and likeness. What are your thoughts on that decision?

CW: Thank God! It’s about time! And here’s why:

Coaches are paid handsome. If it’s not immediately in the size of the check, it is through all the other perks. I think they generally work to advance their careers just as most people do. But they do it all on the backs of the athletes. The school makes whatever money they make on the backs of the athletes.

A scholarship isn’t going to make you wealthy. You will get those four years of university-financed education, but the university’s return on that investment, we know from TV contracts, is phemonenal. Why shouldn’t these young men and women, who are in position to command X amount of dollars for their name, efforts and talent, be paid for it? If it hasn’t corrupted anything so far, and I guarantee you that a lot of them have been paid for a long time, and nothing came out of it that destroyed a program or person. It is nice to have it above board, and it is nice to know a young person who is talented enough can profit on their talents.

NEWSCENTER: What advice would you give student athletes who are in the position to take advantage of the new rules?

CW: The first thing I would say is invest in your education. Young people who are in a situation they can help you with whatever the monetization is going to be, so that, No. 1, you receive commensurate with what you provide to that program to that university. Next, I would advise them to find a magnificent tax or financial person because, if you can, you want to invest money so that you are not paying taxes on it, at least in the short term. Thirdly, don’t spend it. I can tell you from experience, once it’s gone, it’s gone.

NEWSCENTER: Lastly, but not least, Mr. Weathers, what advice would you give to students at SDSU?

CW: Oh man. Wow. That certainly is not “the least.” That is a big question. More than anything, I would say this: Be courageous.

I just don’t mean stand on campus and have a fight with the biggest person in your department. I mean, open yourself up to possibilities, open yourself up to an awakening that says, “I don’t know what I don’t know, so let me expand awareness waiting for me to walk through the door.”

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2 Aztecs Win Olympic Gold

Former SDSU men’s golfer Xander Schauffele captured the gold medal in the men’s individual stroke play event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics over the summer by finishing the four-day event at -18-under 266. Currently the fifth-ranked player in the world, Schauffele has won four times over his career on the PGA Tour.

During the same Olympics, freshman biology major Nevin Harrison represented Team USA in the canoe races and won a gold medal in the women’s 200-meter race by sprinting to a time of 45.932 seconds.

Adapted Athletics Coach Takes Bronze at Paralympics

Isaac Jean-Paul, a former All-American and coach for the SDSU Adapted Athletics team, jumped 6.93 meters in the long jump for Team USA and took home the bronze medal at the Paralympics. Born with juvenile retinoschisis, a visual impairment, Jean-Paul has always excelled in sports. Adapted Athletics, which consists of four athletes and six coaches, allows student-athletes to compete at the highest level.

SDSU Qualifies for AANAPISI Status

The U.S. Department of Education has recognized San Diego State University as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution. The AANAPISI recognition allows the university to apply for funding and resources that will directly support Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi American students.

For colleges to qualify, colleges must have Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander undergraduate populations that comprise at least 10% of undergraduate student enrollment and at least 55% of the student body must receive federal need-based financial assistance, such as Pell Grants.

Graduate Student Earns Environmental Fellowship

Graduate student Thomas Morales, who plans to use his environmental science studies to help repair historic damage to his native Western Shoshone lands, earned a Switzer Fellowship. It will provide a $15,000 award for academic study, leadership training, access to a vibrant network and further professional development.

A member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, Morales completed his bachelor’s degree in environmental science at SDSU and works in the lab of School of Public Health professor Eunha Hoh to monitor and evaluate chemical contaminants in water.

EBA Renamed Lamden Hall

The Education and Business Administration Building has been renamed Lamden Hall in honor of a former accounting department chair and business dean, the late Charles W. Lamden, and his wife Gertrude “Trudy” Lamden.

SDSU’s Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy is named for Lamden, who was the driving force in the founding of the university’s College of Business Administration and served as the first dean of the School of Business Administration from 1954 to 1965. The Lamden Hall naming recognizes the many contributions he made to his field, his students and to higher education, as well as the many philanthropic contributions the Lamden family has made in service to the university.

Virtual Learning at University Earns National Recognition

San Diego State University has been recognized by Student Personnel Administrators - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education as a recipient of its inaugural Virtual Innovation Awards. Excellence in Delivering Virtual Student Services.

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the recognition honors SDSU for its exemplary virtual support to students through a coordinated campuswide approach to student engagement and success. The award carries a $15,000 prize to further enhance student support programs.

NCUST Executive Director Appointed to State Board of Education

Francisco Escobedo, the new executive director of SDSU’s National Center for Urban School Transformation, has been appointed to the State Board of Education by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Escobedo has lectured in the Department of Educational Leadership since 2001 and previously served as the superintendent of the high-achieving Chula Vista Elementary School District.

5-Star Rating Once Again for SDSU In Best Colleges for LGBTQ+ Students

SDSU maintained its perfect five-star rating in a new ranking of the nation’s top LGBTQ+ friendly schools: the 2021 list of “Best Colleges for LGBTQ+ Students,” developed by the Campus Pride Index and BestColleges. Features cited in the school’s No. 14 nationwide ranking included SDSU’s Pride Center, campuswide training and awareness initiatives and its major and minor in LGBTQ studies.

Annual Rankings Place SDSU As One of Nation’s Top Universities

San Diego State University was again named one of the nation’s top colleges in an annual guidebook published by The Princeton Review and based on surveys of students attending the universities. The 2022 edition, “The Best 387 Colleges,” gives SDSU high scores for quality of life and as a green college and also recognizes SDSU as No. 38 in a previously announced list of “Best Value” colleges.

In the latest annual rankings of the nation’s colleges by U.S. News & World Report, SDSU ranks No. 67 among public universities in the U.S. and maintains a top-10 international business program.
Free Shuttle Buses Running Between SD and Imperial Valley Campuses

The university launched a shuttle service between the San Diego and Imperial Valley campuses that operate Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The shuttle is free and has an ADA-compliant seat, but reservations must be made 24 hours in advance.

Riders need to be ready to present identification because the shuttle passes through the Pine Valley U.S. Border Patrol Station. For more on times, pickup spots and details, go to ivcshuttle.bfa.sdsu.edu/campus/parkingtrans/

New COMUNIDAD Program to Train Latinx Scholars, Researchers and Activists

The Latinx Resource Center has launched COMUNIDAD, a four-year academic success and retention program for students who are of Latin American descent. The COMUNIDAD program is designed to support and foster the next generation of Latinx student scholars, researchers and activists.

Activities focus on developing intellectual strengths and academic skill sets, as well as fostering social justice-oriented aspirations through community development both on and off campus. Geared toward leadership, scholarship and activism, the program with 60-student cohorts offers four years of support, community building and opportunities to prepare for post-secondary pathways.

Artistic in Residence to Focus on Native Arts, Activism and Identity

Vincent Whipple, an American Indian performing artist and educator who has worked in Southern California tribal communities for more than 30 years, is the Arts Alive SDSU’s Artist in Residence for the current academic year.

Whipple has served as the director of tribal relations for California State University, San Bernardino, and he has been the artistic director for the Wichozaan Native American Dance & Theater Company. He is an enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe of Arizona and is also descended from the Oglala Sioux Tribe of South Dakota.

Whipple’s residency will provide opportunities for students to engage in critical dialogue about arts activism, identity and diversity, especially as they relate to Native and Indigenous cultures. In the spring, the residency culminates in a performance event featuring student participation and addressing themes emerging from these conversations.

New Alert System Adopted for Emergencies

SDSU has moved to the mass emergency notification system AppArmor to improve emergency preparedness and response.

Students should ensure that their contact information, including mobile phone numbers and current local address, is up to date via WebPortal. Students can also choose to opt-in to receive nonemergency outreach and resource messages by selecting the opt-in box on WebPortal.

Parents and families can sign up at the SDSU Alert portal at sdsu.safety.info/Subscribers. Individuals will need to create an SDSU Alert account using email identification.

After creating and verifying the account via email, follow the instructions for sharing contact information.

New Grant Supports Building of Second Stage for Performances

The Conrad Prebys Foundation has awarded a $6 million grant to San Diego State University’s College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts for development of a new stage for student productions and rehearsals. The Second Stage Theatre, to be named for Conrad Prebys, will become part of a renovated Performing Arts District and a new creative hub at SDSU. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year.

$15 Million NIH Grant Funds Latinx Health Disparities Research

SDSU is embarking on a $15 million effort to bolster Latinx health disparities research and strengthen the pipeline of scientists focused on the subject. Funded by a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, SDSU FUERTE (Faculty Unified Towards Excellence in Research and Transformational Engagement) plans to hire a cohort of 11 faculty focused on Latinx health disparities — three of them hired at SDSU Imperial Valley.

“SDSU is committed to providing a safer and healthier campus than ever before for your student — as can be seen in the multitude of collaborations that include extended programs and services.”

— J. Luke Wood

Vice President of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity

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J. Luke Wood, Ph.D.
Vice President of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity
Chancellor’s Office
Distinguished Professor of Education
** IMPORTANT DATES **

(Calendar subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 24</td>
<td>Designated residence halls close* for Thanksgiving at 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 25-26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday Recess (Campus closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 28</td>
<td>Designated residence halls reopen* at noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC. 10-16</td>
<td>Final exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC. 14</td>
<td>Deadline to register for SDSU Global Campus Winter Session. Courses for students,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>high school graduates, working professionals and parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC. 16</td>
<td>Designated residence halls close for Winter Recess at 10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC. 24-29</td>
<td>Winter Recess (Campus closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC. 31</td>
<td>New Year’s Day Holiday observed (Campus closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN. 17, 2022</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (Campus closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN. 17</td>
<td>Designated residence halls open at 2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN. 18</td>
<td>Last day to pay Basic Tuition and Fees without a late fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN. 18</td>
<td>Last day to officially withdraw for the spring 2022 semester and receive a refund</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN. 19</td>
<td>First day of classes for spring semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB. 1</td>
<td>Last day to file application for May and August 2022 graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB. 28</td>
<td>Summer 2022 registration begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 18</td>
<td>NCAA Tournament – Non-Instruction Day. Campus open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 25</td>
<td>Designated residence halls close* for Spring Recess a 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR. 28-APR. 1</td>
<td>Spring Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 31</td>
<td>César Chávez Holiday (Campus Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 3</td>
<td>Designated residence halls reopen* at noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 4</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 6-12</td>
<td>Final exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 12</td>
<td>Commencement†, Imperial Valley Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 13</td>
<td>9-month residence halls and apartments close* for the academic year at 10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 13-15</td>
<td>Commencement†, San Diego Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 23</td>
<td>Summer Session begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dates are subject to change.

To view the complete Academic Calendar go to sdsu.edu/academiccalendar.

For a schedule of athletic events, visit goaztecs.com.

*Visit housing.sdsu.edu for information about Residence Halls closures and reopenings.

†For the latest in commencement updates, visit commencement.sdsu.edu.

WWW.SDSU.EDU