CSU’s Road to College Tour bus stops in Calexico
By ROMAN FLORES, Staff Writer

CALEXICO — Twelve-year-old Stephanie Villarreal smiled as a crew of staff and volunteers encouraged and praised her for wanting to go to college to be a nurse as the Road to College tour bus made its first stop at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus here Monday.

“The goal (of this event) is to bring students the experience of college and help get them get prepared as early as possible,” Assistant Vice Chancellor of the California State University system, Margery Grey, said.

“We are going to go to every one of the Cal State universities in 25 different cities. We will visit close to 50 schools — mostly middle schools, some high schools and some college event nights — student volunteers from each CSU campus are on hand to help them out and talk to them about what college is about,” she said.

There are also a variety of community agencies on hand at each site to do different activities as part of the event, she said. Students at the Calexico stop enjoyed a graduation-themed photo, an obstacle course and an arts and crafts table. Informational booths were also set up by the Imperial County Office of Education and the California Student Opportunity and Access Program, also known as Cal-SOAP.

“The whole purpose of this trip is early awareness,” Lourdes Kulju, also from the CSU Office of the Chancellor, said. “We want students to know they can go to college and a good starting point is getting information on the admission process and financial aid.”

“It’s kind of an honor trying to guide students going to college,” SDSU-IV student and event volunteer Brenda Gaxiola said. “I never had this kind of guidance and so I actually wanted the opportunity to be one of the people to guide students into (higher) education.

For more information about the Road to College Tour and help in the college enrollment and aid processes visit www.calstate.edu/roadtocollege

>> Staff Writer Roman Flores can be reached at 760-337-3439 or rflores@ivpressonline.com
Daniel Pham, 13, of Enrique Camarena Elementary School enjoys his week off while crawling through part of an obstacle course at the Road to College Tour.