San Diego State Imperial Valley campus changes its commencement procedures
By ROMAN FLORES, Staff Writer

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 10:15 AM PDT

CALEXICO — For the first time in the 50-year history of San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus, tickets will be required for those who wish to attend the commencement ceremony.

The commencement ceremony, slated for 7 p.m. May 20 on the Rollie Carrillo Quad of the campus, is expecting a total of 319 students to graduate for the 2009-2010 school year. Students participating in commencement will receive a maximum of six tickets for their guests, according to a press release by SDSU-IV, including children as one-per-ticket guests.

This decision comes as a necessity since commencement crowds keep growing, commencement committee co-chairs Monica Cortez and Miguel Rahiotis said during a previous interview. Other, larger universities also have the same kind of process for visitors so it’s natural for SDSU-IV to follow suit, especially since a growth in numbers also breeds a growth with safety concerns, they said.

The ticket requirement had to be established to comply with the Fire Marshall's guidelines when allowing mass attendance to premises and also for better crowd control which has been a safety issue in the past. Our Commencement Ceremonies have always been held on our Calexico Campus' Rollie Carrillo Quad which is 3/4 the size of a football field and is centered on the campus. Since our campus is also landlocked, we have no room for expansion as our attendance has grown. Due to increase in attendance, safety issues have developed especially with crowd control.

Other specifics for students who will be participating in commencement include a requirement to complete a “grad card” in order for readers to announce the student’s name and major and photo identification will be required to obtain the guest tickets, according to the commencement bulletin posted on the school’s Web site.

The guest ticket pickup times are from 3 to 6 p.m. April 13-15. The completed grad card, which will be returned to students on the day of commencement, can be picked up by the “C” building prior to entering the library.

For more information refer to the commencement bulletin on the school’s Web site, ivcampus.sdsu.edu or contact Cortez at 760-768-5587.

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