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Saturday August 27th 2011

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County of Imperial and San Diego State University Imperial Valley to Continue Their Working Relationship

By Mario Conde

The County of Imperial and San Diego State University Imperial Valley will continue their working relationship in the training of new workforce prospects.

The Board unanimously approved a contract between the SDSU and Calwork participants in the amount of $778,981 for the period of July 1st, 2011 through June 30th of next year. James Semmes, Director of Social Services, said that his department has enjoyed a long standing and positive relationship with SDSU since they provide excellent services through their training programs that has proven to be successful.

Classes like the English immersion program with employment readiness, focuses in forming and improving English language skill. This class will serve 585 participants in full-time classes for the duration of the contract. The Basic computer skills with Employment Readiness and Interpersonal Empowerment Skills Training Program will be a class that will serve 150 participants.

Semmes said that this has been a positive program since they had 90% of retention of students and most of them go on to have well paid jobs. He made an example of a former trainee that suffered abuse at home then attended IVC and SDSU to get her masters and now works as an instructor. “These are one of the many results our program has achieved in the past.” Semmes said.

SDSU Dean David Pearson said that this partnership between the County and SDSU is the best example of a Community University where both entities work for the benefit of the residents and helping people get trained to get the skills they need for the future.

In other news, the board approved awarded a contract to Pyramid Constructions for Intersection Improvements on Dogwood Road from El Centro City limits to McCabe Road South Intersection. Pyramid Construction was the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of $1,883,097.
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