Our Opinion: EOP a plus for SDSU
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Thumbs up

To the Educational Opportunity Program and Ethnic Affairs at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus, which helps college freshmen transition from high school to a school of higher learning.

EOP has been helping low-income and educationally disadvantaged students at SDSU for almost 32 years, said its local coordinator Americo Yacopi. It has been on the Calexico campus since 2001, growing from helping 30 students then to 200 today.

In addition to offering academic support for math and writing, the program also offers counseling and a grant of up to $1,000 for first-generation students who are at an economical disadvantage.

Thumbs up also to SDSU-IV for its freshman program, which at its orientation event last week saw 37 incoming freshmen, some with parents, attend a reception and information session. Students and parents participated in activities, toured the campus and then students were awarded acceptance certificates from university administrators.

Thumbs down

To the county Board of Supervisors for yet another delay in its landfill expansion decision. Allied Waste, which owns the landfill east of Imperial, was given tentative approval for expansion by the supervisors in July. Proposed would be expanding the site from 177 acres to 337 acres and extending the life of the landfill to 30 years, 28 more than its current lifespan. Conditions placed on the facility include negotiating a host fee.

Last week the board continued for the second time a decision on the landfill, this time to allow staff and Allied Waste time to negotiate specifics of the host fee. The county and Allied have until Sept. 21 to negotiate specifics of the fee.

Thumbs up

To El Centro Sears manager Robert Diaz, who has seen his entry in the Sears Billion Points Video Contest jump from the bottom of 4,000 entries into the top four.

Winning the contest would enable Diaz to use about $500,000 to use Sears merchandise to help needy students at Imperial County’s elementary schools. Additional help would go toward the charities of Diaz’s choice, the March of Dimes and United Way of Imperial County.

On Saturday, Diaz was just 91 points from the top.