Institution partnership established

FROM LEFT: Imperial Valley College President Ed Gould, San Diego State University President Stephen L. Weber and Imperial County Office of Education Superintendent Anne Mallory sign a memorandum of understanding establishing the Imperial Valley University Partnership on Thursday at IVC. (Chelcey Adami)

By CHELCEY ADAMI
Imperial Valley Press Staff Writer
3:24 a.m. PDT, May 20, 2011

The Imperial Valley University Partnership was established Thursday through the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Imperial Valley College, San Diego State University and the Imperial County Office of Education.

Inspired by the Freshman Scholars Program created in 2003, SDSU Provost Nancy Marlin said that the partnership will provide more students access to higher education at a lower cost.

SDSU President Stephen Weber believes the partnership represents a major step forward for education in the Valley.

“We think this partnership will more than double the number of students participating in higher education in the Valley,” Weber said. “The resources are so precious and so limited, we can simply not afford not to collaborate and get the best possible use of these resources.”

The partnership should result in more Valley students receiving higher education while living in the Valley and, in turn, a better-educated native population in the Valley, Weber said.

SDSU-IV Dean David Pearson said he sees the partnership as a way to do more with less as schools statewide undergo budget cuts.

“If we were to sit here on the Calexico campus and wait for the state of California to provide resources, we’ll be waiting for a long time,” he said. “We can provide those resources to our students now through partnering. I believe the University Partnership is going to serve as a model of making better use of resources.”

Through the terms of the memorandum, the partnership classes will be offered to 100 students beginning in the fall with students jointly admitted to both institutions. Those admitted must meet admission criteria

http://www.ivpressonline.com/ivp-news-institution-partnership-established-20110520,0,51... 8/16/2011
of the California State University system.

About 50 percent of classes will be held on Imperial Valley College's campus while the rest will be on the Calexico or Brawley SDSU-IV campuses. Students will have full access to resources and classes at IVC and SDSU-IV with both institutions working together to advise students on financial aid.

Students will initially be able to major in three subjects including criminal justice, liberal studies and psychology with additional majors to be added as soon as possible, according to the memorandum.

Features of the existing Freshman Scholars Program at SDSU-IV will be used in the partnership, including letters of acceptance, a signed academic contract, mandatory orientations, an introductory seminar, assigned counselors and monthly meets with students.

A committee made up of faculty, counselors, staff and student representatives will be created to review and assess the partnership as it begins.

The memorandum also outlines a number of stipulations asked of the Imperial County Office of Education including assistance with marketing and grant proposals.

Staff Writer Chelsey Adami can be reached at 760-337-3452 or cadami@ivpressonline.com

Timeline

2003 Freshman Scholars Program created
Spring 2005 Program ordered to close but public outcry allows a pilot program to begin
Mid-2010 Program reviewed and two-year extension granted to allow alternative to be created
Late-2010 Imperial Valley University Partnership created
May 2011 Memorandum of Understanding for the Partnership signed

Copyright © 2011, Imperial Valley Press

Comments (5)

homegirl at 2:45 PM May 20, 2011
And now enter the major employers in the region to actively support these educational institutions by providing local work experience and professional exposure through paid and unpaid internships to help stop the flight of the strongest and smartest from the region and to finally solve the region's professional skills atrophy.

insider at 12:11 PM May 20, 2011
Sorry, the kid recieved his BS.

insider at 12:09 PM May 20, 2011
My good friend had his son graduate at SDSU-Calexico last night. Completed his AS within 4 years, did not have to leave the valley at all during those 4 years. Chances are very good the majority of these graduates will put their degrees to work here in the valley. This is exactly what lower income families of this valley need to get their kids educated. Adelante mi gente, si se puede.