Mexican government funds, awards local scholarships

October 05, 2011 | By CHELCEY ADAMI | Imperial Valley Press Staff Writer

The consulate of Mexico in Calexico, with support from the Imperial Valley College Foundation, presented 12 area students with college scholarships Monday through its IME-BECAS Program.

“Imperial County is the county with the lower economic income and higher unemployment rate in the state, but it also is true that people in the Valley are committed, hardworking and willing to progress, and you are a clear example of this,” Consul Gina Andrea Cruz Blackledge told the scholarship recipients.

The IME Scholarship Program is sponsored by the Mexican government designed to raise the educational levels of the Mexican and Mexican-American population in the United States.

“California’s community college system is designed to give as many people access to higher education as possible,” IVC Foundation Executive Director Todd Evangelist said. "This is especially true for us in Imperial Valley where a higher than average percentage of people have recently immigrated to this country and seek education and job training."

Funds are provided by the Mexican government, which began allocating about $1 million a year beginning in 2005 to consulates throughout the United States and Canada for scholarships.

The consulate of Mexico in Calexico participates in this program for the first time this year with a $3,000 donation to be distributed into 12 scholarships of $250.

After the students apply, they are chosen by the IME-BECAS Imperial County Committee made up of Sandra Kofford, Miriam Castañon and Efrain Silva.

The consulate hopes to expand the program with more scholarships next year through matching funds from the local education institutions.
“The Mexican government’s IME-BECAS Scholarship Program comes at a critical time for these and other students from the Imperial Valley,” Evangelist said. “With the increasing costs of higher education, these scholarships give opportunity to local students who are working hard to earn their education.”

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Scholarships recipients
Martha Conzatti, IVC
Gerardo Anthony Quero, IVC
Martha M. Cardenas, IVC
Claudia A. Gomez, IVC
Diana L. Murrillo, SDSU
Rebecca Lucrecia Lopez, SDSU
Grecia Arapiz, SDSU
Angelica R. Cristobal, SDSU
Sara Saldivar, SDSU
Alexandra Silva, SDSU
Karla Olivares, SDSU
Alejandra Olivas, SDSU

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