Dean saying all the right things
By IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS STAFF
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A county as small and isolated as ours is fortunate to have a university. We don’t think we’re too far off in saying that not many communities even slightly larger than ours have the gift of getting a four-year college degree.

But that gift does not come without sacrifice. We have to work to keep a college, meaning we have utilize what it offers, help the community fundraise for it and make sure the entire area invests in it, to make certain we keep it.

That doesn’t just go for San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus, but it applies to Imperial Valley College as well.

In this newspaper’s first sit-down interview with new SDSU-IV Dean David Pearson, he made it clear that community investment in the university will be important to its long-term health.

SDSU-IV has not been a stranger to problems over the last couple of years. State budget issues that have hit public schools hardest, have also hit the local campus. There has also been the issue of local control and the perception the main campus was trying to downsize offerings locally.

Now Pearson is on the record with us saying it is his hope to expand faculty, classes, degrees and program and the like on the local campuses. He said it, so now we must hold him to it.

But like he said, these things will not happen without community support and donations of time, money and talent.

Pearson said the community needs to know that SDSU-IV is part of its fabric. We agree. And SDSU-IV needs to make sure it does what it can to make that clear as well.

Already, Pearson is saying the right things, the things that many locals want to hear. The next step is to see if it happens and he is true to his words, but if we’re not trying to make that happen right along with him, then we have no one to blame but ourselves.

THE ISSUE:

Dean David Pearson started work this week at SDSU-IV.

WHAT WE SAY:

Pearson talks of making the community a part of SDSU-IV for its future health; we agree.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Send us your thoughts on this topic via the Web at www.ivpressonline.com/letters_to_the_editor

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