Edgar Ortega, a junior at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus majoring in international business, became the area assistant for USDA-Rural Development in the El Centro office; participating as part of the Student Temporary Employment Program, which provides federal government employment opportunities to continuing students and the prospect to gain hands-on experience.

Ortega now serves the community by providing loan and grant assistance, such as explaining the eligibility requirements and preparing the applications of interest for processing.

Ortega was sponsored by the USDA-Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program office as a USDA-HSI student conference scholar to attend HACU’s 23rd annual conference in Orlando, Fla.