SDSU-IV special education graduate students given tools to fast-track their education

FROM LEFT: San Diego State University associate dean Jose Luis Alvarado presents Veronica Granados of El Centro with an Apple MacBook laptop as part of the Response to Intervention program Thursday during the laptop distribution at the SDSU-IV campus in Calexico.

By ROMAN FLORES
Staff Writer
12:29 a.m. PDT, June 10, 2011

CALEXICO — Just over a dozen graduate students stood on the cusp of the fast track to their master’s degrees, anxious and excited at what lies in store for them.

“You better tell your families, husbands or boyfriends that you won’t be available this year,” said Audrey McFaddin, co-coordinator of the program that doled out free MacBooks to the students here Thursday.

The MacBooks and upcoming year of intense study are all part of the Response to Intervention program for graduate students in special education at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus.

The program, at the end of its five-year run through a federally funded grant, enables students to attain their master’s degree in special education over a one-year period by equipping them with free tuition, brand new MacBook Pros and a $400 stipend “to eliminate as many barriers as possible,” said associate dean Jose Luis Alvarado.

“The program is to train them and equip them to become experts in response to intervention,” he said.

Alvarado said throughout the four years of the program, 19 special education teachers have earned master’s degrees through SDSU-IV. He said he expects between 13 and 5 more teachers to earn their graduate degrees this school year.

“Through the grant all obstacles are removed so all that’s left is opportunity,” he said.

Copyright © 2011, Imperial Valley Press
Currently there are no comments. Be the first to comment!