SDSU-IV celebrates Black History Month

El Centro resident Robbie McGee lines up for a plate of food at the first Black History Month celebration at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus Tuesday. (CHELCEY ADAMI PHOTO)

By CHELCEY ADAMI
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CALEXICO — Community leaders, music, dance and art were all part of the first Black History Month celebration at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus Tuesday afternoon.

The Associated Student Council of the campus and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People representative Marlene Thomas hosted the historical event that brought together old and new friends.

Artist Rhonda Abdelaziz sang a spiritual hymn and showcased art while Desiree Johnson performed a poetic dance on the campus' Rollie Carrillo Quad.

"Black history is bottom line American history. They're inseparable," Thomas said. "Why in Calexico at San Diego State? Why not?"

Community leader Dilda McFadden and Thomas thanked SDSU-IV Academic Adviser Norma Aguilar for welcoming the event to the campus. McFadden described the event as "one of the greatest black history events I've attended."

"We're always looking for opportunities to provide a broader experience for students, and I think this was a long time overdue," Aguilar said. "It's part of ongoing events giving the students a varied cultural experience."

Event participants also took the opportunity to discuss the many black families imbedded in the Valley's history.
“Here in Calexico we embraced everyone, all ethnicities and all races and grew up as one, as Calexicans,” Victor Carrillo said.

Calexico resident Marie de Socorro Cabral enthralled many with a photo and stories of her godmother Alice Webb, who was a midwife and popular black woman in the community growing up.

“This was a woman who did so much for the Mexican people,” she said. “She was very caring for a lot of people. She should have a street named after her. She deserves it.”

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