San Diego State University welcomes transfer students

By KARINA LOPEZ
Staff Writer
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CALEXICO — For the next two years, Rachel Cortazar will drive more than 100 miles to get to school.

As a nursing student at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus, Cortazar realizes the journey that awaits her.

“I just felt I needed to be here and have the hands-on experience that online classes can’t offer,” Cortazar, a Blythe resident, said.

Cortazar was one of 60 new transfer students that attended the fall 2012 orientation held at Rodney Auditorium here Wednesday.

“I knew a lot of what was talked about,” Cortazar said. “I’m glad I came because it just refreshed everything I need to do when school starts.”
The complimentary orientation ran from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and included guest speakers from various departments of the college and community.

Claudia Estrada said she was glad she attended the workshop because it familiarized her with the college’s Web site.

“I know I can find a lot of this information online, but it helps to hear it rather than read it,” Estrada, an Imperial resident said.

Organizers said this was the intent of the orientation.

“We tried to give them as much information as possible in a small timeframe,” Aracely Marquez, transfer center director, said. “It’s like an SDSU crash course. We do this every year and just hope that it empowers the students with knowledge.”

Attendees learned the importance of staying on top of deadlines as well as various ways to become involved on campus.

“These students are going to spend the next two years of their life here,” Marquez said. “This orientation ensures they are aware of the clubs and advising options on campus, among other things.”

Bret Kofford, a full-time lecturer in the English department, was also on hand and recommended students take his free writing proficiency assessment workshop to better prepare them for the exam.

Transfer students are required to take the WPA exam at least once during the fall semester.

“How you do on the (WPA) exam will dictate how much time and money you’ll spend here,” Kofford said to the audience. “The workshop will teach how to take the test and get the maximum score.”

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