Final dean candidate for San Diego State University-Imperial Valley speaks out
By ROMAN FLORES, Staff Writer

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CALEXICO — From one border town to another David E. Pearson wears his love for academics on his sleeve.

From Pearson’s early years as a teaching assistant to earning his Ph.D. in sociology at Yale University (just seven years after earning his master’s, also at Yale), his 29 years in academe have led him to great accomplishments as vice president for Partnership Affairs at the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College in Brownsville. Most notably he helped the small Texas campus grow in population and campus structures.

Pearson, who is fluent in Spanish, said his need for a challenge and love of border towns led him to apply for the position of dean of the San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus.

UTS/TSC, which is both a university and a community college, is located just north of the Rio Grande that separates Brownsville from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. It is because of this proximity to Mexico that some students believe Pearson would benefit from a campus like SDSU-IV as dean.

“He knows how things work in a place where you have two different cultures mixing,” SDSU-IV student Claudia Espinoza said.

“He seems to know what the issues are when the Mexican and American cultures come together and how to work with both cultures,” she said. “He would probably make a good dean here because his university and this one seem to be very similar.”

“I thought it was very interesting in how he was very practiced in showing people where their money is going (when they donate to the campus),” SDSU-IV student and Associated Student Council vice president Miguel Rahiotis Jr. said. “It’s good to see that he was willing to actually address what people wanted.

“He seemed to know what he was talking about as far as different (administrative) strategies,” he said. “I like that he was able to listen and try and compromise. His accomplishments were very impressive overall.”

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