Opinion

Our View: High hopes for IVUP success

By IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS STAFF
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The Imperial Valley University Partnership made its official debut Tuesday evening with its first freshman orientation. As parents, students and educators gathered at the San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus in Calexico, it marked the beginning of a new style of higher education in Imperial County.

The 102 freshmen enrolled in the program have been guaranteed access to the classes they need to graduate in four years with their bachelor’s degrees. They will be shepherded through the program that is a partnership between Imperial Valley College and SDSU-IV, a program that grants admission to both colleges.

Historically, IVC students have not had the access they needed to classes required to complete their associate’s degrees within two years. It’s pretty much a given that students will need three and sometimes four years to finish up at IVC before transferring to the university level, and prospects worsen as funding shrinks. Some IVC students, frustrated by difficulties in getting the courses they need at the time they need them, have transferred out of the county or worse, dropped out.

IVUP, and its predecessor, the Calexico campus’ Freshman Scholars Program, were created to offer Imperial County’s college freshmen the opportunity to stay on track with their courses without having to leave home to do so. The Freshman Scholars Program was seen as immensely successful. Created in 2003, it was popular among many SDSU-IV educators and cherished by students who participated in it.

Because of that, IVUP has not been without controversy. When the program was created in late 2010, and the Freshman Scholars Program counted down its final days, rumors circulated that the Calexico campus would be converted into a community college. If that were true, we would fight tooth and nail to keep the university around. But David E. Pearson, campus dean, has very publicly denied that prospect.

The Imperial Valley University Partnership between Imperial Valley College and San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus

THE ISSUE:

WE SAY:

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We wish these 102 freshmen, their parents and the people responsible for educating them the very best in these next four years, and that the foundation laid Tuesday night will be built upon for the generations of college students yet to come.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

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