



SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Imperial Valley

Imperial County's Only Public 4-year University

There is still time to apply for fall 2022 admissions

There is still time for California State University-eligible students to apply for admission to San Diego State University Imperial Valley for the fall 2022-23 academic year. Starting in the fall, students at SDSU Imperial Valley will enjoy the best of both worlds: small class sizes and access to the multitude of majors and minors offered at SDSU.

These unique educational opportunities – and several more in the works – are available thanks to a creative new program and a new transportation system providing shuttle service between

SDSU Imperial Valley and SDSU. Meanwhile, the fall 2022 admissions window remains open for the master's degree programs in homeland security and in nursing leadership, both programs offered at SDSU Imperial Valley. For local undergraduate students, a new SDSU Archway Program dramatically expands the horizon of educational opportunities. The program allows SDSU Imperial Valley students to pursue many major and minor courses of study in San Diego.

"The program provides seamless access to all that SDSU has to offer regardless of which campus a student is at," said Mark Wheeler, SDSU Imperial Valley interim Dean and Chief Administrative Officer.

Through the program, students will be able to take major or minor course requirements offered at SDSU Imperial Valley and commute via university shuttle to the San Diego campus to complete other courses not now available locally.

The Archway program is just one of several new opportunities available to incoming SDSU Imperial Valley students. For the first time, students can be admitted to SDSU Imperial Valley in fall 2022 without declaring a major. Undeclared major status allows students to sample different courses of study before declaring a major.

The list of programs fully available at SDSU Imperial Valley continues to grow and during the upcoming academic year, will include the addition of a public health minor, one that is planned to become a full major in 2023.

Earlier this year, the university announced plans to add a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) facility at the Brawley campus. The new structure will house labs for the public health program and other STEM courses. State Assemblyman Garcia and State Senator Hueso are spearheading efforts to secure state funding for this important project.

The university also is hiring new faculty to enhance existing programs. A new faculty member will join the SDSU School of Nursing at SDSU Imperial Valley, while hiring is also underway for an additional Teacher Education program faculty position, a highly regarded program.

All these developments – and others – add to the list of benefits students enjoy at SDSU Imperial Valley, Wheeler said. In addition to all the advantages SDSU offers, students at SDSU Imperial Valley get the benefits of small classes, easy access to dedicated faculty and staff and opportunities to participate in academic research. "Students here get a top-quality education at a nationally ranked research university at a bargain price – most students are eligible for a free education at SDSU Imperial Valley," Wheeler said. "It is an incredible opportunity."

For information and to apply, go to <https://imperialvalley.sdsu.edu/admissions>.



A fair time to get acquainted

Since its founding more than 60 years ago, San Diego State University Imperial Valley has had a profound effect on the county. Generations of teachers have earned their degrees here. Countless local civic and business leaders have gained their education here.

To reinforce the special bond the University shares with the community, SDSU Imperial Valley will be present in a big way at the California Mid-Winter Fair, which opens at 4 p.m. today for a 10-day run.

The University will have a prominent display on the south side of the Casa de Mañana. Everyone is invited to stop by to chat and learn about all that is available at the Valley's only public, four-year university. Graduating high school students weighing their college options can even apply for admission for fall 2022 at the booth.

SDSU Imperial Valley and Imperial Valley College will be located in adjacent booths for the duration of the fair as is fitting for their partnership in assisting local students on their educational journeys to earn college degrees.

And SDSU Imperial Valley will be cheering on all students' success with a unique treat at High School Madness on Monday at the fair.

"SDSU Imperial Valley offers an incredible opportunity for students, for the entire community," said Mark Wheeler, interim Dean and Chief Administrative Officer. "We have high-quality, research-driven faculty, small classes and brilliant students. Yet, we are more than an institution, we are part of this community. Let's talk at the fair."

Basic Needs coordinator offers understanding, help

It is tough enough for a student to cope with the demands of university academics when life outside the classroom is going well. But when unforeseen circumstances happen – a sudden drop in income, vehicle problems, a babysitter who quits – students may feel isolated, unsure where to turn for help and uncertain about how to continue their education.

Now, SDSU Imperial Valley is expanding its support services for students experiencing an immediate food, housing or financial crisis.

Georgette Astorga has been hired as the Basic Needs coordinator at SDSU Imperial Valley, where she works with the SDSU Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT) to connect local students with the resources to help address these unforeseen needs.

Complementing the ECRT resources SDSU offers, Astorga brings to her job a unique connection with the Imperial Valley



Georgette Astorga PHOTO BY ALEX ZAZUETA

and to local students.

"I know who to turn to or where to turn for resources if a student needs something," said Astorga, a Calexico native who graduated from SDSU Imperial Valley in 2014 with a criminal justice degree.

Astorga's bonds with SDSU Imperial Valley students go even deeper, having worked on cam-

pus since she graduated. Before being hired as SDSU Imperial Valley's basic needs coordinator in December, Astorga was a cashier in the campus business office.

She is excited about her new job. "Before what I did was transactional, now I get to help students on a deeper level," she said.

Since starting her new role, she has dedicated much of her time to outreach and awareness – to letting students know about the university's ECRT services available. For instance, ECRT has funds to pay to temporarily house a student in a hotel. It can pay a deposit and a month's rent on an apartment. In demonstrated financial emergencies, ECRT can provide gift and gas cards.

Astorga has laptop computers to lend to students through ECRT and, in certain circumstances, ECRT can buy a student a laptop.

She also keeps a drawer-full of snack kits and hygiene kits for

students in need, and SDSU Imperial Valley is in the process of setting up a food pantry to provide direct access for students who may be facing food insecurity issues. Astorga also can help students apply for state CalFresh food benefits.

All ECRT services are provided confidentially. Astorga said. "I tell students they can come into my office and cry on my shoulder or voice their frustration. It is OK."

Yet, she said, students are sometimes reluctant to seek help. "Growing up in this community ... I can relate," Astorga said. "In our community, many don't want to admit they are having a problem. I've had students come in needing help, but not wanting to take all they needed because they didn't want to be greedy."

Astorga said her work is challenging, though rewarding.

"When I see these students graduate and get jobs, I'll feel I've done my job," she said.

SDSU Imperial Valley celebrates Day of Giving

San Diego State University Imperial Valley will join all the SDSU in holding an annual Day of Giving event on Tuesday, March 15.

A single-day fundraising event, the Day of Giving provides community members the opportunity to collectively make a positive impact on departments, programs and initiatives university-wide.

Since its inception as a teacher training institution more than 60 years ago, SDSU Imperial Valley and the people of the Valley have shared a special bond. With support and



encouragement from the Valley, SDSU Imperial Valley's offerings and enrollment continue to grow. It is the region's only public, four-year university.

"The generosity of our donors continues to create opportunities and provide a powerful impact on stu-

dents," said Victor Nava, SDSU Imperial Valley director of development and P3 Initiatives.

The one-day fundraising event provides an easy way to help enrich the student experience and support initiatives that help students reach their dream

of earning a college degree.

Day of Giving also gives Valley donors a chance to support their favorite campus initiatives and programs.

Donations through the giving portal go directly to SDSU Imperial Valley's funds of greatest need. They are:

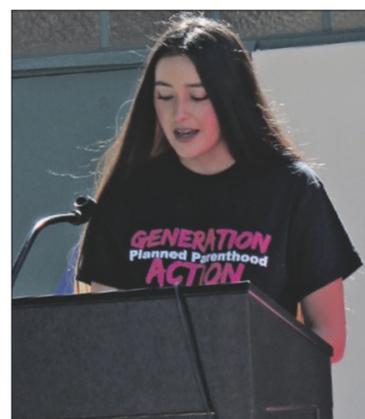
- SDSU Imperial Valley Fund: Gifts to this fund are used to provide strategic investment to meet the most emergent priorities as well as student scholarships.
- SDSU Imperial Valley Art Gallery: Uses gifts received to honor the

campus' rich history of arts and culture activities by holding art exhibits, lectures, workshops, music concerts, theater productions, films, dance performances, poetry contests and numerous ethno-cultural events.

- SDSU Imperial Valley Study Abroad: Gifts to this scholarship allow students to experience a perspective of both a country's diverse people and the critical issues of its society, commerce, political spheres, religion(s) and culture(s).
- SDSU Imperial Valley

Community Care Fund: Gifts to this fund provide emergency support to students who use the services provided by the Division of Student Affairs Imperial Valley and have basic unmet needs such as food, housing, clothing, transportation, technology or experience any crisis that could prevent them from continuing their academic journey toward achieving their degree.

Information and instructions on how to donate can be found at sdsu.edu/dayofgiving.



RIGHT PHOTO: Jazmyn Horton-Alvarado, president of Planned Parenthood Next Generation at SDSU Imperial Valley, speaks at a ceremony and reception recognizing the installation of dispensers in campus restrooms that provide free feminine hygiene and sexual health products for students.