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College of Education

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COMPACT FOR SUCCESS RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

San Diego State University's Compact for Success recently garnered the 2007 Examples in Excelencia Award at the Baccalaureate level in a national competition that drew more than 90 applications. The award was announced by Excelencia in Education President Sarita Brown. Excelencia in Education was established in 2005 as a national initiative designed to identify, celebrate, and promote models, programs, and institutional departments that significantly contribute to improving educational achievements for Latino students in higher education. In her award letter, Ms. Brown states "We are proud to include the Compact for Success - San Diego State University in Excelencia's national effort to promote evidence-based practices that promote Latino student success in higher education." The award, which includes a cash award of \$5,000, was presented at the National College Access Network: Changing the Face of Education Conference in Los Angeles on October 9th.

NOLA BUTLER-BYRD NAMED AS PUBLIC SCHOLAR

Nola Butler Byrd (Department of Counseling and School Psychology) was invited to be a 2007-2009 Public Scholar, which is a collaboration between Joffre T. Whisenton and Associates, the Kettering Foundation and participating higher education professionals. The purpose of the program is to conduct original research addressing higher education's relationship to the fundamental problems of democracy.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT PILOTS ONLINE ADVISING PROGRAM

The Department of Educational Technology is experimenting with a new advising strategy this fall: *Open Mike* is all online, and live (through Adobe Connect Professional), allowing responses to an array of program questions without taking up class time. Each of the three sessions scheduled for the Fall semester had a special theme: October 7 focused on the e-Portfolio; Sunday, October 28 targeted *Instructional Technology Certificate OR Open University students* thinking about the Master's or an Advanced Certificate; and Sunday, November 18 was about *how to thrive in a graduate program* (including: selecting an area of the field to emphasize, deadlines, university "rules," engaging in the field, and other issues of interest). EDTEC alumni will serve as "guest speakers." *Open Mike* is part of the EDTEC commitment to provide comprehensive advising to students. One development is a self-paced overview of the e-Portfolio (a pre-recorded Adobe Connect Professional "asset") that students can review by pointing their browsers to <http://edtec.sdsu.edu/portfolio.htm>.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION GRANT

Valerie Cook-Morales (Department of Counseling and School Psychology) has received a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition to prepare bilingual (Spanish) school psychologists. On-going seminars will focus on bilingual education and special education as well as Latino culture(s) and implications for education and psychology. A month-long immersion in Mexico will include professional Spanish-language instruction, service learning in the schools, living with a host family, and exploration of the interface of indigenous and colonial cultures. This is the seventh grant that she has received specific to preparation of bilingual school psychologists; thus, the SDSU program has enjoyed continuous funding since 1986.

NEW GRANT SUPPORTS DUAL CREDENTIALLED BILINGUAL AND SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

The Departments of Policy Studies in Language and Cross-Cultural Education and Special Education will be implementing a dual credential program, "Professional Development for Pre-service Bilingual Special Education Teachers of English Learners: Acquisition of Language Skills and Academic Literacy (ALAS)". The overall goal of the ALAS project is to actively address the need for qualified bilingual special education teachers who are trained to teach K-8 English language learners (ELLs) by providing high-quality professional development in bilingual and special education. The five-year, 1.3 million dollar award from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition will support the training of 25 pre-service K-8 teachers every two-year period. The grant improves SDSU's capacity to train dual credentialled bilingual and special education teachers to teach ELLs with Mild/Moderate Disabilities. Drs. Alberto Ochoa (PLC) and Gene Valles (SPED) will lead this work.