ABSTRACT

Expanding Career Opportunities for Rural Hispanics: New 2+2 (Associate's to Bachelor's) Degree Programs in Imperial County, California

Imperial Valley College (IVC) is the only community college in rural Imperial County, the poorest county in California. Its partner in this collaboration is San Diego State University-Imperial Valley (SDSU-IV), the only other postsecondary institution in Imperial County. Hispanics comprise 84% of the students at IVC and SDSU-IV. Contact person: Dr. Lianna Zhao, Chair, Science, Mathematics and Engineering Division, Imperial Valley College, 380 E. Aten Rd., P. O. Box 158, Imperial, CA 92251, (760)355-6476 office, (760)355-6143 fax, lianna.zhao@imperial.edu

This project permanently expands the pipeline to educational attainment and professional careers for Hispanic and low-income students through creating 2+2 (associate's to bachelor's) degree programs in computer science and nursing. These new programs will also meet desperate county needs for computer professionals and BSN nurses. As a result, economic development and healthcare will improve in this border county, with its rates of childhood asthma and tuberculosis that are twice California's rates. Project outcomes include: at least 55 Hispanics with a bachelor's degree in either computer science or nursing by 9/30/10; at least 275 students enrolled in the new programs at IVC and SDSU-IV by 9/30/10; 75% of IVC students in the new programs in fall 2006/2007 ready to transfer to a university by 9/30/10; 13% increase in total number of IVC students who transfer to the four-year institutions compared to 2001-2002; 25% increase in total number of IVC students who transfer to SDSU-IV compared to 2001-2002; FTE 20% higher than in 2004-05 at IVC and SDSU-IV.

The Activity request totals $3,016,296 over five years, with $1,298,280 (43%) to be spent on IVC activities and $1,718,016 (57%) at SDSU-IV. Across the colleges, 79.6% of the request ($2,400,245) will be spent on new faculty, project staff, and consultants, and 19.7% ($594,851) on laboratory equipment, instructional and other supplies, computers, and software. About 1.2% ($37,300) will be spent on travel. IVC requests $462,236 for the management and evaluation component, with 90.8% of that expended on personnel costs and the remainder on operating costs and external evaluation.