News for Aztec Parents

President Weber to Retire
I am always amazed how fast each semester goes, and find it hard to believe we are almost mid-way through the fall 2010 semester already. Prior to the beginning of this semester, SDSU President Stephen L. Weber announced his retirement, to become effective in July 2011.

San Diego State opened its doors in 1897. In 1996, Stephen L. Weber became the university’s seventh president. I am honored and privileged to have served during the tenure of President Weber, a man who has elevated SDSU to a world class institution renowned for its academic excellence, global reach, community service, and research.

It is a difficult task to list all the contributions Stephen Weber has made to SDSU, as the breadth and scope of his accomplishments have truly transformed the university into the premier urban research institution it is today.

President Weber has allowed every division in the university to grow and prosper. As the Vice President for the Division of Student Affairs, I can attribute our success in providing quality programs and services to students directly to his vision and leadership.

President Weber’s commitment to a partnership with parents is one of his most compelling legacies. As a philosopher, he listens, he thinks critically, and he understands what parents want and need. Here are just a few of the things that have been achieved under his guidance:

• SDSU has become a safer and healthier campus, through nationally recognized alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs.
• He has spearheaded academic support programs that directly impact student success.
• His commitment to human growth and development has led to increased social justice programming and diversity on campus.
• He achieved a vision of turning SDSU into a global learning center: SDSU has ranked No. 2 in the nation and No. 1 in California among universities of its type for students studying abroad for the past three years. Students from more than 90 countries study at SDSU each year.
• He is committed to access through financial aid and scholarship fundraising, ensuring that students in need are not denied a college education due to financial hardship.

It saddens me to know that this is the last year in which I will work with President Weber. Both professionally and personally, President Weber has helped me to grow, and he has allowed me and my staff to achieve new heights. Most importantly, he has made this a better university for your students. We both share the belief that student success is the most important aspect of our role as university administrators. He will be missed.

Sincerely,

James R. Kitchen
Vice President for Student Affairs
In late August, Dr. Stephen L. Weber, the seventh president of San Diego State University, announced that he will retire, effective July 5, 2011.

After having told faculty and staff three years ago that he intended to retire in 2011, Weber confirmed his retirement plans through a video message to the campus community. He announced it in person at the President’s All-University Convocation, held on August 26.

“I am so proud of what the people of San Diego State have accomplished over the past 14 years and I look forward to achieving the goals we have set for this coming year,” Weber said.

“Though I will end my tenure as president of San Diego State next summer, I have no doubt that with the foundation that has been laid and with the continuing support and guidance of SDSU’s excellent students, faculty and staff, the next president of San Diego State will have the privilege of leading SDSU into its best and brightest future.”

“San Diego State University is a huge part of the San Diego region. The university’s programs to assist the homeless, provide badly needed nurses, address the childhood obesity epidemic and educate our returning veterans are just some of the ways the university helps to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans.”

Weber became President of San Diego State University in July 1996. This is now his 15th academic year leading the San Diego region’s oldest and largest university.

“President Weber has been a true leader, bringing SDSU into a new era and increasing the prominence and reputation of the university,” said Kit Sickels, chair of The Campanile Foundation. “The university is stronger and more prepared for the future thanks to his good work.”

Weber has overseen a period of significant progress for the university — from establishing it as a top-ranked research university, to recruiting better academically prepared students and increasing graduation rates, to transforming the campus physically.

Under President Weber’s guidance, students, faculty, staff, alumni, Aztec Parents and community leaders have participated in shaping “Shared Vision,” a road map for the university’s future with goals such as reinforcing academic excellence, nurturing students, honoring diversity and social justice, carefully stewarding resources and further developing global programs.

In the process, SDSU has become an increasingly popular university — from establishing it as a top-ranked research university, to recruiting better academically prepared students and increasing graduation rates, to transforming the campus physically.

President Weber is the past chair of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Board of Directors, and co-chairs Partners for K-12 School Reform. He also serves on the board of governors of The Peres Center for Peace, and on the boards of the California Healthcare Institute. He is also a member of the international advisory board for the Foundation for Children of the Californias.

President Weber married Susan Keim Weber in 1965. They have two sons together, Richard L. and Matthew K. Weber, and they have two grandchildren.

He and Susan plan to retire to Bangor, Maine, where the couple owns a small summer home they built together 30 years ago. The two have only rough plans as to what they will do for their retirement.

He said he intends to serve on “a corporate board or two” and spend a couple of months each year traveling. Other than that, Weber said his future is up in the air.

“For a lot of freshmen entering college, they think they know what they’re going to do as college students, but they don’t have a clue,” he said. “This is sort of like that, for me, right now.”

When President Weber leaves Montezuma Mesa next summer, he will be 69 years old.

“I had originally planned to retire at 65, but there was still so much to do,” he said. “Now I feel the time is right to move on and pass this great university on to someone else.”
Since joining San Diego State University in 1996, President Stephen L. Weber has led the university in unprecedented growth and status. Following are just a few highlights.

Increased academic stature
Under President Weber’s leadership, the academic stature of the university has skyrocketed with dozens of academic programs being ranked among the nation’s best. Most notably, SDSU has ranked as the top research university in the nation for four consecutive years among schools with 14 or fewer Ph.D. programs.

In addition, SDSU faculty members secured more than $150 million this year in research grants and contracts, a record for the university. Since 1996, SDSU has added eight Ph.D. programs, including two this year in evolutionary biology and geophysics and two doctorates in education, the first independently offered doctoral degrees in the CSU system. The university now has a total of 18 doctoral programs with three new engineering Ph.D. degrees among the top five universities in the nation for applications received. In 2010, SDSU received 62,300 undergraduate applications compared to 23,308 in 1996, a 167 percent increase.

And the growing interest in SDSU has allowed the university to attract nearly 700 talented new faculty members over the past 14 years. An astounding 79 percent of SDSU’s current faculty members were hired during Weber’s tenure.

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Health, safety and wellness
SDSU has become a safer and healthier campus over the last 14 years. San Diego State’s Student Health Services, which is considered a model college health program, is staffed by fully licensed and board-certified health professionals who are dedicated to the college community. A health fee paid at the time of registration covers most basic services.

Nationally recognized alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs have had a big impact on creating a healthier environment. Programs such as ECheckUpToGo (eCHU/G) and Aztec Nights provide students options for making positive choices.

“President Weber and the team he assembled transformed SDSU right before our eyes,” said Aztec Parents Advisory Board member Dee Dee Klunder. “It’s a pretty remarkable achievement in a relatively short period of time. It’s not the same university it was 14 years ago.”

Unprecedented student success
President Weber has overseen a period of unprecedented student success. As more applications have poured in, the academic qualifications for SDSU’s incoming freshmen have increased significantly from a 3.18 average GPA in 1998 to a record 3.63 for fall 2010. Average SAT scores have increased from 983 in fall 1998 to 1085 in fall 2010.

Access is important to retention. SDSU recognized the need to expand financial pathways to college attendance so that students with financial barriers would not be denied a college education. In the past 10 years, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships increased the amount of total aid awarded to students from $130 million to $205 million, largely to first-generation and other underserved populations who otherwise may not have considered college an option.

Graduation rates are also at a record high, increasing 74.2 percent since 1996. For first-time freshmen students who started at SDSU in fall 2003, 66.4 percent graduated in six years or less, well above the national average for four-year public universities of 55 percent (the six-year average is the national reporting standard).

Among the most impressive achievements have been those made by SDSU’s historically underrepresented ethnic groups. For the 2003 cohort of Educational Opportunity (EOP) students, 61.8 percent graduated in six years or less compared to 33.4 percent of the 1996 cohort — and the number of graduates of color has also risen from 1,573 in 1996/1997 to 2,771 in 2008/2009.

Additionally, providing students with international experience has been a top priority. SDSU has ranked No. 2 in the nation and No. 1 in California among universities of its type for students studying abroad for the past three years. Today, there are 25 academic programs that require study abroad compared to just one in 1998. Last year, more than 1,800 SDSU students participated in study abroad opportunities in more than three dozen countries — up from just 167 students in 1998.

Community engagement
Under Weber’s leadership, SDSU has seen a sharp rise in private donations to the university. In the past 14 years, SDSU has raised more than $683 million, including more than $65 million in 2009/2010, over 300 percent more than was raised in the university’s previous 99-year history.

Included in these figures are funds of more than $2.5 million raised by the Aztec Parents Association (APA). Under President Weber’s leadership, the APA has grown from 1,050 members in 1996 to more than 21,000 members today.

(continued on pg. 8)
President Weber has established a culture of inclusion and collaboration at San Diego State University,” said Aztec Parents Advisory Board member Jack Klauder. “He often talks about how the education of the student goes well beyond the classroom and how parents play a critical role. He gets it. He embraces it. There is one constant over the many years we have had the privilege to interact with him — the man truly cares about the students and the education they receive.”

Helping to reform urban education in San Diego has been one of Weber’s main focuses over his tenure. SDSU worked with local school districts to establish the Compact for Success partnership with the Sweetwater Union High School District and the City Heights Educational Collaborative in partnership with San Diego Unified School District, Price Charities and the San Diego Education Foundation. The Compact for Success program, created in 1999, has helped to transform the Sweetwater district. It now serves as a statewide model for education reform. The number of students from the district who have applied, were admitted and enrolled at SDSU.

“I credit President Weber’s vision for the success of the Compact for Success Program,” said Ed Brand, former Aztec Parents Advisory Board member Jack Klauder. “He was enthusiastic about making progress in our community, and he made the Compact for Success Program a real game-changer for our students. I have the utmost respect for him as a leader.”

More recently, SDSU has established itself as one of the nation’s most military-friendly universities. With more than 1,000 veteran, active-duty and dependent students on campus, the university opened the CSU’s first Veterans Center in 2008 and has since opened the nation’s only Veterans House to provide veterans with on-campus housing. The U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs (VA) recognized SDSU’s commitment to veterans when it opened a VA office on campus, only the second in the nation and the first in California.

“It can be a challenge for veterans who have experienced multiple deployments to fit in to a college environment,” said Peter Salas, past president of SDSU’s Student Veteran Organization. “It is huge to have a university and its president recognize those challenges and provide the necessary services and support to ensure that veterans have the best chance to succeed as students.”

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Campus growth
President Weber has also overseen the physical transformation of the university, with more than $670 million in new facilities built at San Diego State over the past 14 years, only 25 percent of which has come from the state of California. Among the new buildings are the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center and the BioScience Center, both built entirely by the generosity of alumni and community donors and without any state assistance.

Under President Weber, SDSU became more of a residential campus, with the availability of on-campus beds increasing from 2,750 in 1996 to more than 4,000 today. Living/learning centers are another component of residential life that grew and prospered. In 1996, only 200 students were part of these residential learning communities, whereas more than 900 participated last year. Students who participate in learning communities have higher grade point averages, are more likely to graduate, and have lower rates of academic probation than all other students.

Cuiacalli Suites opened in 2003 during President Weber’s tenure. Cuiacalli has all-suite accommodations for 798 residents, an in-house dining facility, a convenience store, a grill, swimming pool and sand volleyball court.

Due to SDSU’s increase in global education, the International Student Center tripled their space in 2008. Additionally, a state-of-the-art health facility, named Calpulli, opened its doors in 2007, providing students with one of the most comprehensive healthcare facilities in the nation.

Calpulli is home to Student Health Services, Counseling & Psychological Services, and Student Disability Services.

One of the most noticeable additions to campus is the extension of the San Diego Trolley. The SDSU Trolley Station opened in 2005 and has taken thousands of cars off the road, significantly reducing traffic and parking issues around campus.

Diversity
SDSU is recognized nationally for its diversity. Last year, the university was ranked as number six in the nation and second in California for bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanics. SDSU is number 11 in the nation for bachelor’s degrees conferred to ethnic minorities and number 20 in the nation for racial diversity. SDSU ranks as one of the top 20 most LGBT-friendly campuses in the nation.

President Weber has been a leader greatly respected by parents, students, faculty, staff and the community at large. Affectionately referred to as the ‘philosopher/president’ in local media, Stephen L. Weber has left his mark as a thoughtful, visionary and fair-minded humanitarian who transformed not only San Diego State, but the region as a whole.

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SDSU Accomplishments Under President Weber’s Tenure

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Problem solving, preventive care, health counseling, orthopedics
“Engaging a third-party organization to review our practices, demonstrates SHS’s commitment to providing safe, high-quality professional care to our student patients,” said Joanne K. Stroud, administrative manager at Student Health Services.

Stroud added that the results of the survey show that Student Health Services is in substantial compliance. Substantial compliance “indicates that the organization’s current operations are acceptable and meet the standard,” according to the AAHCC.

“AAHCC’s standards are reviewed and revised annually, ensuring that our practices at SHS are current and meeting or exceeding the standards set for ambulatory care across the nation,” Stroud said.

Studying abroad
Studying abroad

Students who continue to live on campus have higher grade point averages, are more likely to persevere to graduation, and are less likely to be placed on academic probation.

For instance, the data for new freshmen who continue to their junior year is dramatic. Of first-time freshmen who live off campus, only 57.8 percent make it to the junior year. However, for students who live on campus one year, 70 percent make it to their junior year. As for those who live on campus for two years — the freshman and sophomore years — almost 90 percent continue through their junior year.

The data for grade point averages is consistent every year. These students who live in residence halls simply have much higher rates of academic probation: only 12.5 percent. However, freshmen who live on campus have significantly lower rates of probation: only 12.5 percent.

Returning students who live on campus perform better academically

Although the new academic year seems just underway, it’s not too early to start thinking about where your student will be living next year. Winter break is a great time to have a conversation with your student about firming up housing options for fall 2011.

At SDSU, this year marked a large increase in older students choosing to live in the residence halls. Many students have long considered on-campus housing as an option for only freshmen, but research shows that students who live on campus for their sophomore or junior years have a higher success rate than their counterparts who live off campus.

Transfers and returning students said living on campus was beneficial to them in many ways.

“I chose to live on campus this year first and foremost because economically it was a great deal,” said junior Bethany Pontsler, a transfer student. “After I arrived, however, I discovered the best part was making friends so quickly. Having spent three years commuting to a community college, I never had the kind of connection that I made in just my first few weeks at SDSU.”

Pontsler said another perk for her was being within five minutes of her classes.

“Not only am I avoiding commuting hassles, but I can literally roll out of bed and be in class in very little time,” she said. “More sleep versus commuting — that’s a no brainer for me.”

She also noted that she stays on top of her studies better while living on campus.

“There is always someone to study with, plus, the library is right across the street,” she said. “I love living so close to everything I need.”

Academic benefits

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Friendship and social support

In addition to the academic benefits, there are many personal benefits to living on campus. First is friendship. Students living on campus often make life-long friends. The support network, which often develops in their living environment, enhances students’ college experiences and contributes to their success.

Another benefit is the endless array of activities and events found on campus housing. With more than 300 student organizations, there’s always something going on. Associated Students sponsors ongoing events and concerts. And there’s always some sort of sporting event to attend. If your student wants to get involved on campus, he or she need look no further than their hall. Each residence hall has a hall council, responsible for hall programming and events. SDSU also has an award-winning Residence Hall Association, the executive council for all of the halls.

When searching for campus housing, it’s a wise idea to verify that the location you and your student choose truly is SDSU housing. Some local housing may advertise as campus housing when in fact they are not affiliated with the university.

To learn more about the many options for on-campus living, visit the Residential Education Office website at www.sdsu.edu/housing. Current students will start the application process for on-campus living in early spring.
The goal of the Aztec Parents Fund is to enhance and create programs and services that directly benefit SDSU students. The Aztec Parents Fund helps students receive the well-rounded, quality education for which SDSU is recognized. Your support will help fill the gap between state support and the level of funding needed to sustain the quality education for which SDSU is nationally known.

Thanks to all the families who contributed to the Aztec Parents Fund last year! It is because of parents like you that we are able to enhance the college experience for all students. As the Aztec Parents Fund continues to grow, so do the size and scope of the projects we can offer. With your generous support, the Aztec Parents Fund has been able to enhance students’ learning experiences — both inside and outside of the classroom.

In these difficult economic times, we greatly appreciate your support and dedication to SDSU and hope you will support the Aztec Parents Fund this year. Every contribution makes a difference and collectively, Aztec Parents can significantly impact the quality of programs and services that directly benefit SDSU students.

Below are examples of some of the funded programs:

- Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention programs
- Student Life & Leadership
- University Police
- Career Services’ Networking with Professionals program
- Educational Opportunity Program
- Intercultural Relations student engagement activities
- SDSU Student Research Symposium
- Commuter programs
- Library lecture series on military services
- Financial literacy programs
- Virtual academic resource center
- Academic enrichment activities

As state funds for California public schools continue to decline, public schools fall critically short of the level of funding required each year to sustain quality-rich student programs and services — a vital educational component for which San Diego State is known.

The Aztec Parents Fund Campaign kicked off this fall. Please expect a call, if you haven’t had one already, from one of our SDSU students regarding the Aztec Parents Fund.

Your contribution will be used to support excellence at SDSU by providing vital programs for students. Five percent of each gift is invested to enhance our capacity to engage alumni and friends in helping SDSU become a premier, urban university. We hope you will consider making a tax-deductible donation.

For more information, contact the Aztec Parent Programs at (619) 594-1653.

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If you attended the 2010 New Student and Family Convocation or Family Weekend, you may have had the chance to meet Aztec Parents Advisory Board members Jill and Howard Singer. The couple from Laguna Hills, CA has been involved with the Aztec Parents Association (APA) since their daughter started at SDSU in 2008.

The Singer’s daughter, Jaclyn, began her junior year at SDSU this semester. According to the proud mom and dad, she is having a great experience as an Aztec.

“Jaclyn attended a relatively small private school, so entering SDSU could have been overwhelming. Jaclyn opted to be part of the residential learning community — a small college experience within a large university setting,” said Jill. “She has made dear and supportive friends and has grown socially, as well as scholastically.”

In addition to Jaclyn beginning her third year at SDSU, they have a young man named Joel, a new member of their family, who started his freshman year at the university.

“We met Joel five years ago, and we knew that the backing of a family would help him reach his great potential. Joel has grown to be our son, and he has adopted us as his family. We are thrilled that Joel is attending SDSU,” said Jill.

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The Singers have been married for 38 years and are now dedicated grandparents to their 22-month old grandson, Adrian, and will be welcoming a granddaughter any day now.

Howard is a certified public accountant and a management consultant with IBM. Jill was a reporter for The Washington Post and The Miami Herald, and has taught news writing and magazine editing at three universities. Her stories have appeared in People Magazine, USA Today and National Public Radio.

asked why they felt their involvement was important, both of the Singers were quick to point out the benefits not only to their students, but to all SDSU students.

“We became involved in the Aztec Parents Association because of the programs supported by the organization,” said Jill. “We were impressed how the APA raises money to enhance the college experience for all students. The projects supported by APA teach skills not offered in the classroom, and that is something that Howard and I agree is important for students.”

Howard expanded on that thought.

“The college experience is much more than time spent in the classroom. The college experience is about growing socially and maturing in an environment shared with peers, mentors and teachers,” Howard explained. “The projects underwritten by APA funds make that happen. A few dollars from each SDSU parent has the potential to make this first-class university even greater.”

Although it was the altruistic nature of the Aztec Parents Association that attracted them, they both agreed that they have been personally enriched by their involvement.

“It makes us feel closer to Jaclyn’s and Joel’s day-to-day experiences in college,” said Howard. “We feel like we are a part of this university, too.”

With Joel as a new freshman at SDSU, the Singers plan to be around the Aztec Parents Association for a few more years. They hope they can continue to make a difference in the lives of more SDSU students by their commitment to stay involved and give back to the university.

“It’s a great day to be an Aztec, but it’s an even greater day to be an Aztec Parent,” said Jill.

Jill and Howard Singer with Joel, left, and Jaclyn, right.

Aztec Parents Advisory Board Members Profile

The Aztec Parents Fund

Join the Rich Tradition of Parent Support
Getting Connected on Campus

The road to student success

Whether your son or daughter is a first-year SDSU student, or in his or her final year on campus, one of the most important things your student can do to have a successful, well-rounded experience at SDSU is to get connected.

Just as each student is different and has different needs and interests, there are different ways for students to find their niche.

According to Randy Timm, director of Student Life & Leadership, three of the most common ways for students to get involved are to join a student organization, get involved in activities of interest, or get an on-campus job.

"Connecting builds community, and community is key to success," said Timm. "There are hundreds of involvement activities available just in our office, not to mention hundreds of other prospects all over campus."

Students who are involved have higher grade point averages, are more likely to graduate, make more friends, and have a more positive overall experience than students who focus strictly on academics.

"As a senior, looking back on my time at SDSU, I realize the very best thing I did was to join the Ambassadors, which is a group of students who are the official student representatives, tour guides and orientation leaders on campus," said Michael Kunkel. "Not only did I make a lot of great friends, but I was able to learn more about myself and my strengths. I know I am a better student academically because of my involvement and connections. I gained a much deeper understanding of the resources available to me."

In addition to the Ambassadors, Greek Life, and Associated Students, more than 300 student organizations are registered on campus. There is literally something for everyone, from recreational activities, to major-related groups, to specific interests to values-based organizations.

Community service, research and employment options

Community service options abound through many groups, service-learning courses, and alternative spring break and summer travel options. From rebuilding homes in New Orleans to implementing sustainable irrigation systems in Central America, SDSU students can make their mark in the world.

"Over past trips, I’ve learned how much a single person’s efforts can make a difference in the life of a family and a community as a whole … it creates hope in a community," said SDSU senior Stephanie Buchanan, who has made several trips to New Orleans for alternative spring breaks.

Students interested in community service should contact the Office of Student Life & Leadership, the Office of Intercultural Relations, or the college of their major.

Many students who need or want jobs find on-campus employment to be a win/win situation. SDSU employs up to 6,000 students each semester.

"The best part about my job in Student Affairs is that they are flexible around my class schedule — something that I couldn't always find with outside jobs," said Liz Rodriguez. "They are also supportive and encourage me. This gives me an added incentive to do well in my studies. I have a built-in group of mentors right here on campus."

Students interested in employment opportunities should visit Career Services in person or online at career.sdsu.edu.

Academic research opportunities are also available as another way to connect to SDSU. Most majors have research options available to undergraduate and graduate students. SDSU also sponsors the Student Research Symposium during SDSU Month every March, in which students can present their original research on a wide variety of topics. The event continues to grow each year with hundreds of students participating.

Involvement equates to healthier lifestyles

Studies show that students who are actively involved on campus are less likely to abuse alcohol and other drugs. Many students have the mistaken notion that most students at SDSU drink on a regular basis. The truth is that most do not. Students who get involved see firsthand that fun, friendship and community can be had without drinking or other substance use.

Keeping students informed is an important step in developing a healthy lifestyle and in knowing how to cope with problems as they arise. SDSU provides useful and informative prevention education programs throughout the year. A variety of departments sponsor workshops and lectures on alcohol and drug-related issues to support and encourage healthy, productive lifestyles.

SDSU offers a wide variety of fun, safe programming in addition to the many involvement opportunities available.

"If your student is feeling overwhelmed at SDSU, connecting is the most important way to feel part of the community," said Timm. "The bottom line is that no student should feel alone. There is virtually something for everyone here at SDSU. Every student can have a fantastic and healthy experience if they choose to. And it’s never too late to get involved."
Mark Your Calendar with Deadlines for Financial Aid & Scholarships
Many SDSU students are eligible for financial aid and scholarships, but don’t realize it. The key is to apply.

Scholarship information
The SDSU Scholarships Search website offers students the ability to search and apply online for SDSU Scholarships. The search and application processes are available all year with various deadlines for different scholarships. There is time to apply for scholarships for the 2011/2012 academic year. February 7, 2011, is the next deadline for students to submit their applications.

All SDSU scholarships require an online application and essay. Other requirements vary and are listed in the scholarship's description, along with the scholarship's application deadline.

New scholarship opportunities, with unique deadlines, are posted throughout the year. Have your son or daughter apply now and continue to check the scholarships website regularly.

It’s fast, it’s easy, and it’s online at www.sdsu.edu/scholarships.

Financial aid for 2011/2012: Reapplying beginning January 1
Students must reapply for financial aid each year using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Go to www.fafsa.gov to start the application process. After completing the FAFSA for each school year, you and your student may need to provide additional information or documentation to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Students who apply between January 1 and March 2 and who, by April 1, submit all requested financial aid documents, will receive first priority evaluation. A FAFSA and documents submitted after these dates will receive second priority evaluation and aid awarded based on available funding at the time.

Registration fees must be paid before your student can access the web registration system. Your student must check “My Registration” in the SDSU WebPortal, which contains your student’s specific registration and payment information, including payment due date.

It is recommended that payment be made two weeks prior to your student’s registration date to avoid any delays in registration. The registration process is not complete until your student officially enrolls in classes. Payment alone does not constitute registration.

Fees can be paid online using MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card, or via an electronic check (ACH payment). ACH payment is just like writing a check, but it is made online.

Spring registration begins in early January, and Student Account Services begins accepting payments in November. The first day of the spring semester is Wednesday, January 19, 2011.

Students should check their e-mail and WebPortal accounts on a regular basis. More information on “Money Matters” can be found on the Student Account Services website at tinyurl.com/sdsu-MoneyMatters.

Spring Registration is Coming Soon!
SDSU does not mail bills for registration fees

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Testing Guides Students Toward Graduation

The Office of Student Testing, Assessment and Research, or STAAR (sdsu.edu/testoffice) provides testing services to the San Diego State University community. Students and parents alike often ask why testing is required. The most obvious reason is to determine each student’s skill level, so that students are steered to the level of courses appropriate for them. This saves time, money, and frustration for students and their parents. Testing also measures a student’s readiness for graduation.

Three tests administered by STAAR are the EPT and ELM (taken upon entrance) and the WPA (taken prior to graduation).

The EPT and ELM
Incoming freshmen who have not otherwise tested out of basic English and math requirements must take the EPT (English Placement Test) and ELM (Entry Level Mathematics) prior to registration. These tests help place students in courses geared to their level of proficiency. Freshmen failing to pass the EPT/ELM must begin remedial courses beginning their first semester, with successful completion by the end of their first academic year at SDSU (summer session included). The small percentage who do not pass remedial courses by the end of their first academic year will not advance to sophomore status and will be administratively disqualified from the university.

The Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies (RWS) offers courses to help students meet SDSU’s writing requirements, and drop-in tutoring is available; call (619) 594-6515. The General Mathematics program offers testing online, at tinyurl.com/sdsu-test-register. Your student can learn more about the EPT and ELM, and can register for testing online, at tinyurl.com/sdsu-test-register.

The WPA
In order to receive a baccalaureate degree from any California State University, students must satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR). At SDSU, this requirement is fulfilled via the Writing Placement Assessment (WPA). Continuing students usually take the WPA during the semester in which they are completing 60 units. (Transfer students complete the WPA by the end of their first semester at SDSU.)

“The WPA sets students up for success,” says STAAR Director Reynaldo Monzon, “and puts them where they need to be to meet GWAR standards for a timely graduation. If a student scores 10 or above, then they’ve satisfied the GWAR – unless their major requires that they take an upper division writing course. If they score 9 or below, it assesses where they should be placed to successfully meet GWAR requirements in time for graduation.”

• Students scoring 0 to 7 must take the prerequisite writing course (RWS 280) in the subsequent semester before they can enroll in RWS 305W or another course that satisfies the GWAR. (Total: 6 course units)

• Students scoring 8-9 are allowed to enroll in RWS 305W or another upper division writing course that satisfies the GWAR. (Total: 3 course units)

• Students scoring 10-12 have satisfied the GWAR, unless their major requires that they take an upper division writing course. (Total: 0-3 course units)

If students need help, free workshops are available to help them prepare for the WPA, Monzon explained. “The fee to take the test is $45 each time your student takes it. Students have two chances to take the test and score 10 or above before they must take and pass a writing course.”

Students will find tips on how to prepare for the WPA, including sample readings and scored essays, information on free workshops, and post-test review at tinyurl.com/sdsu-wpa. Your student can learn more about the WPA and find registration information at tinyurl.com/sdsu-wpa-register.

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To stay up to date on SDSU’s budget issues, visit Budget Central at advancement.sdsu.edu/budgetcentral.

The California State Budget Update

Budget Cuts

San Diego State, and every campus in the California State University system, has been severely impacted by the meltdown of the state budget. However, in comparison with other state-supported universities, SDSU took proactive measures early on, which left San Diego State in a slightly better situation. San Diego State University is still deeply affected by the current recession and is hopeful that things will turn around soon. That's good news for parents who have the California State University system is still below the national average cost for state universities. With comparatively low costs and a great reputation for college success, a CSU education is a tremendous value.

Impact

Impact Enrollment

That's good news for parents who primarily pay student fees. Even with fees rising several times over the past few years, the California State University system is still below the national average cost for state universities. With comparatively low costs and a great reputation for college success, a CSU education is a tremendous value.

Last year, the university implemented mandated furloughs for faculty and staff, which had a negative impact on students. The furloughs have been eliminated this year as SDSU moves forward. As of press time, the State of California had not yet passed its 2010/2011 budget.

San Diego is on the threshold of becoming an official “Hispanic-serving institution,” a designation that opens the door for expanded research funding and stronger ties to the Hispanic community.

“Hispanic student enrollment is 22.5 percent, that's approximately 7,365 Hispanic students at San Diego State University,” said SDSU President Stephen L. Weber. “The threshold for full membership in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) is 25 percent, so this is going to happen at San Diego State.”

In addition, SDSU was ranked 11th in the nation for graduation rates for ethnic minorities. With the university’s increased diversity, it made sense for San Diego State to help with the planning of HACU’s national conference, which was held in San Diego September 18 – 20. The 24th annual conference, titled “Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Expanding Opportunities in Challenging Times,” was attended by almost 1,500 people from around the world. In addition to San Diego State, all local institutions of higher education were involved.

Prior to the start of the conference, a Youth Leadership Forum was held on campus on September 17 for local 8th grade students. Spearheaded by Lou Murillo, who heads the university’s Compact for Success Program, the full-day event taught these middle-schoolers leadership skills, teamwork and the importance of and ability to achieve a college education.

“Many of these students come from areas where there is little higher education achievement,” said Murillo. “We were able to show these students that going to college is not only an option, but is very do-able for them. The 700 students who attended had their eyes opened to the possibility of a different life. Most importantly, they know we are here to help them.”

About HACU

HACU represents nearly 450 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Although their member institutions in the U.S. represent less than 10 percent of all higher education institutions nationwide, together they are home to more than two-thirds of all Hispanic college students. HACU is the only national educational association that represents Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

Eric Rivera, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at San Diego State University, shared that, according to HACU, Hispanics will represent one of every two new workers entering the U.S. labor force by 2025, and that educating the workforce of tomorrow is a national imperative.

“I’m proud that SDSU is in the forefront to provide access to such a diverse array of students,” said Rivera.
Important Dates

October 29 ..........Engineering and Sciences Career Fair*
November 11 .......Holiday – Veteran’s Day, campus closed
November 18 ........Internship Fair*
November 25 - 27 ....Holiday – Thanksgiving recess, campus closed**
December 10 ........Last day of classes before final examinations
December 11 - 18 ....Final examinations – send a care package
December 24 - 29 ....Holiday – winter recess, campus closed**
December 31 ........Holiday – New Year’s Day observed, campus closed
January 17 ..........Holiday – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, campus closed
January 19 ...........First day of classes, spring 2011 semester
February 17 ........Spring Career Fair*
March 10 ............Exploring Majors Fair*
March 28 - April 1 ....Spring recess**
March 31 ..........Holiday – César Chávez Day observed, campus closed
April 28 ................“Just in Time” Career Fair*
May 10 .............Last day of classes before final examinations
May 11 .............Study day
May 12 - 19 ..........Final examinations**
May 20 - 22 ..........Commencement – San Diego Campus

To view the complete Academic Calendar, go to www.sdsu.edu/academiccalendar.

*Visit career.sdsu.edu for a complete listing of Career Fairs.

**Visit www.sdsu.edu/housing for information about residence hall closures and when halls will reopen.