

Summer Bridge Program offers contemporary issues course

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UCSD SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM OFFERS CONTEMPORARY ISSUES COURSE

As part of a summer academic program for underrepresented minority groups, more than 200 incoming freshmen from San Diego County and the Imperial Valley will join in round table discussions with some of the University of California, San Diego's top science and communications experts.

The panel discussions, called, "Ethical Issues in Science," and "Earth's Party Line," are part of a four-part contemporary issues course. The course will be incorporated into the day-long structure of classes offered by UCSD's four-week Summer Bridge Program, to be held from Aug. 15 to Sept. 13.

Now into its ninth year, the program assists students in understanding the kinds of information they will be learning during their four years as undergraduate students at UCSD.

Under the auspices of UCSD's Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services (OASIS), Summer Bridge invites all incoming freshmen who are part of an identified underrepresented ethnic group (Chicano, Filipino, American Indian, Latino, or Black) to take part.

Laurel Corona, director of OASIS, said, "The students who attend Summer Bridge graduate at a rate about the same, or slightly better, than the overall rate for UCSD graduates. Bridge participants graduate at a rate about 25-30 percent higher than freshmen eligible for the program who do not attend."

The highlight of this year's Summer Bridge Program will be a contemporary issues course, Corona said, including round table discussions with UCSD faculty representing the range of disciplines at UCSD.

"The course, and the entire Bridge Program, was developed by the OASIS staff, in consultation with others, including Muir College Provost John Stewart," Corona said, "and will assist entering freshmen to understand university work, and help them to achieve their educational goals," she said. The program is administered by Alonzo Anderson, who will also teach the course.

The contemporary issues course will be broken down into four segments, one for each week of the Bridge Program. Along with that course, students will be developing library, math and writing skills.

The first portion of the course will help students to define for themselves how the university functions as a community, and how the university fits into society as a whole. The second session will address the theories of intelligence, giving students a chance to discover what kinds of intelligences exist, and the many perspectives from which intelligences may be viewed.

During the third week, students will discover from communication experts how literacy and modern telecommunications impact society. During the fourth week, students will have the opportunity to learn from UCSD scientists about ethical issues affecting today's world of science.

Along with academic pursuits, Bridge participants will become involved in cultural and recreational activities; a theatre production for students who wish to participate in playwriting and acting; a college bowl, and the Annual Summer Bridge Dinner and Talent Show, an opportunity for students to invite parents and friends to take part in their Summer Bridge experience.

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