

Center For Iberian and Latin American Studies at UCSD and Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State Granted \$2.2 Million for Language and Area Work

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The San Diego Consortium for Latin American Studies, a partnership between the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies (CILAS) at UC San Diego and the Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State University, has been awarded a \$2.2 million grant for research in foreign area studies and language training. As part of the award, from the U.S. Department of Education, the consortium has been designated a National Resource Center in Latin American Studies for a four year period beginning in September 2006.

Known as "Title VI grants," the funds are competitively awarded for research and language training on specific world regions, as well as to expand curricular offerings, host visiting professors, conduct K-12 teacher training and other outreach programs and organize public conferences, among other activities. The funds also provide for year-long fellowships in Foreign Language and Area Study, as well as summer language study fellowships.

The awards just announced mark a renewal for the consortium. During the previous grant cycle, among the many outreach events, including international conferences and lectures, CILAS also earmarked funds to bring three Latin American visiting professors and began teaching Zapotec, an indigenous language of Southern Mexico. In the new grant cycle, CILAS will offer Aymara, a widely spoken indigenous language in the Andean region.

Speaking for the consortium, Christine Hunefeldt, professor of history at UC San Diego and director of CILAS said, "We have proven the value of this important work and look forward to expanding upon it, making it an even more valuable resource for vital work in Latin American and Iberian Studies."

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