

## Summer Bridge program to begin; part of educational outreach program

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SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM BEGINS AUG. 16

More than 200 incoming freshmen, most from San Diego County and the Imperial Valley, will get an early start on academics at the University of California, San Diego in an educational outreach program called Summer Bridge, according to program coordinator Carolyn Buck.

"Students who take part in this program have been previously identified as needing assistance with academic preparation for college level reading, writing, mathematics, science and the study skills needed for academic success at UCSD," she said.

This is the eighth consecutive Summer Bridge program, Buck said, and it has been instrumental in reducing the number of dropouts among ethnic students. Students who complete the Summer Bridge program, which starts on Aug. 16, acquire four units of credit on their records. They also learn how to find their way around campus, who to talk to when they need answers, and how to develop self-awareness.

High school students hear about Summer Bridge through recruiters in UCSD's Early Outreach Program, from academic admissions, from college orientation during the summer months, and from Buck when she talks to special interest groups who visit the UCSD campus during the academic year.

"The students who finish Summer Bridge do so with increased feelings of self confidence, motivation and awareness of how to achieve their educational goals," she said. "It provides them with the opportunity to develop the academic success skills characteristic of independent, competent students."

Summer Bridge consists of four weeks of intensive study; and some play to keep 17 and 18-year olds from getting cabin fever. The course focuses on mathematics, science and reading and writing skills.

A typical day's schedule is highly structured. Students set out for the classrooms at 8:30 a.m., breaking for a 45-minute lunch break, then head back to the classroom until approximately 5 p.m. After dinner, students are expected to hit the books until bedtime at 11 p.m.

The "all work and no play" theory is not tested during Summer Bridge. Approximately one-third of the students become involved with the Bridge Magazine, a collection of student essays and poetry which, when completed, is distributed to UCSD faculty, staff and to new "bridge" students.

The Readers Theater, another showcase for students' writing, and the Talent Show, provide activities where students can participate to display their individual talents, and to make friends. As one Summer Bridge student put it, "The Summer Bridge Program is the ideal place for newly admitted students...it makes the student aware of his strengths and weaknesses; that's essential to the success of the students here at UCSD."

(August 8, 1985) For more information contact: Alixandra Williams, 452-3120