

**San Diego State University (SDSU) College of Education
Application to Serve on Oversight Committee, Mid-City CAN**

1. What is SDSU's history working in City Heights?

San Diego State University (SDSU), founded in 1897, is the largest and oldest higher education facility in the San Diego area; it serves a student body of approximately 35,000. SDSU have been extensively working in City Heights, particularly since 1998, when SDSU became involved with the City Heights Educational Collaborative, partnering with the San Diego Unified School District, Price Charities, and the San Diego Education Association. The principal goals of the collaborative are to significantly enhance the academic achievement, health and social development of students (K-16). Under an agreement with the San Diego City School District, SDSU has the operating authority for three City Heights Collaborative schools—Rosa Parks Elementary, Monroe Clark Middle School and Hoover High School. The Collaborative has established parent centers at the three campuses to increase parent involvement, as well as, health and dental clinics to provide care to students. In addition, nurses and social workers have been added to improve care and support of students at all three schools.

Here are some reasons that SDSU would make a good partner as the City Heights community decides a 10-year plan for addressing the 10 California Endowment outcomes. SDSU students from numerous departments are already working with the City Heights Educational Collaborative devoting more than 150,000 hours to promote positive health outcomes, violence prevention, and academic success in the City Heights area. We offer a workforce of eager students who gain valuable internship experiences while helping serve children and families in City Heights. SDSU offers faculty who have expertise in the broad spectrum of areas (health, education, social services, violence prevention) that are the foci of California Endowment. SDSU faculty have already received more than \$28 million in additional grant and gift awards in support of the City Heights Educational Collaborative.

I'm attaching a table that overviews a sample of SDSU projects and internships that correspond to California Endowment outcomes. The table also describes SDSU projects that involve collaborations with many of the stakeholders recommended by the California Endowment.

2. Does SDSU have an established base of residents with whom it works?

SDSU has largely focused on youth and families at the three City Heights Collaborative schools, however, they have also been working with youth and families at other schools, community agencies, and on County-level projects that impact the City Heights area. SDSU faculty specializations in family, community and multicultural engagement, particularly in the College of Education, include: early childhood education, gender issues and spirituality, family relationships and relationship violence in Latino populations, children with special needs, health disparities among minority populations, intergenerational relationships in Asian families and Sudanese immigrant experiences, conflict mediation and strength based counseling; healing with trauma and immigrant and refugee experiences, multicultural/cultural competent program

development, positive youth development, African-American youth and educational equity, cross-cultural consultation, Native American school psychology, and educational reform.

Addition to this expertise in focus areas emphasized in the California Endowment grant, SDSU is committed to serving the diverse [San Diego](#) region and in fact ranks among the top ten universities nationwide in terms of ethnic and racial diversity among its student body and number of bachelor's degrees conferred upon minority students. For example, SDSU was No. 6 in the nation and No. 2 in California for bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics (*Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*, May 2008) and No. 10 in the nation for bachelor's degrees conferred to ethnic minorities (*Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, June 2008). SDSU ranks No. 19 in the nation for graduate schools awarding master's degrees to Hispanics (*Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*, April 2008) and SDSU ranks in the top 20 in the nation for ethnic diversity (*US News & World Report "America's Best Colleges 2009 Guide"*, August 2008). Given SDSU's status as a minority institution, its close proximity to City Heights, faculty expertise in challenges facing its residents, and its history of service provision, SDSU is well-equipped to continue working and expanding its programs for residents within City Heights.

3. What role does SDSU envision fulfilling during the 9-month planning process?

SDSU has experience in participatory community work, and have worked with school districts, social service agencies, and youth and families to understand unique community needs and then work to provide tailored services that the residents want. SDSU's College of Education has appointed Dr. Audrey Hokoda to serve as their representative to serve on the oversight committee, listen to the concerns of the residents, and serve as a liaison with SDSU faculty to provide a list of options and ideas that may address the 10 California Endowment outcomes. Her expertise in violence prevention, her history of collaboration with schools and agencies in City Heights, and grant writing experience may contribute to the planning of activities during this process.

4. What expertise and resources will SDSU offer and which outcome areas will we focus on?

Please see the attached table that overviews a sample of SDSU projects, the corresponding California Endowment outcome the project addresses, and the list of stakeholders who have partnered with SDSU. The table demonstrates many of the resources and areas of expertise SDSU can offer.

Contact Information:

Audrey Hokoda, Ph.D.
San Diego State University
College of Education
Child and Family Development Department
ahokoda@sdsu.edu
(858) 484-2069; (619) 840-6096