SDSU opens Chinese Exploratorium

BY ROMAN FLORES
Staff Writer

CALEXICO — San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus’ Confucius Institute continues to gain speed as it opened its new Chinese Cultural Exploratorium Center here Wednesday morning.

The Confucius Institute is a partnership between SDSU and China’s Xiamen University to promote Chinese language and culture.

Since its inception in March 2009 and opening in March of this year, the program has expanded to seven classrooms in kindergarten-through-12 public schools in San Diego and three classes offered at SDSU-IV, both for students and the community at large.

Now, with the opening of the new Chinese Cultural Exploratorium Center, the program is continuing to grow locally.

“This is an interactive computer program where students and individuals can come and learn about the Chinese language and culture through (interactive software),” said Lilly Cheng, managing director of the Confucius Institute.

The large, touch-screen monitor includes programs that enables users to “learn about Chinese food, Chinese opera, go and explore places such as The Great Wall and The Forbidden City,” Cheng said.

“It’s a tool that can be utilized by anyone,” Miriam Castañón, international programs coordinator for SDSU-IV, said. “It can be used to learn or to teach.

“We have the capacity to — in the future — be able to communicate across the world in real-time (live video chat),” she said. “Anyone can come and use it.”

Castañón said there are many advantages to having this technology available in the Imperial Valley.

“We need to give our children that advantage in our community,” she said, noting that learning Chinese gives students an edge in international business as well as the job market.

“It starts here but we need to prepare (our students),” she said.

“If we’re having fun with it imagine the little kids,” Castañón said as faculty and staff tried out the photo features of the software.

“This is here and it’s here to stay,” she said.

Staff Writer Roman Flores can be reached at 760-337-3439 or rflores@ivpressonline.com

Video online

See video of the Chinese Exploratorium at ivpressonline.com

Writer Roman Flores can be reached at 337-3439 or rflores@ivpressonline.com
residents, Reel said, no injuries were re-
quired. Roughly $60,000 in damages was done to
the contents and the structure, Reel said.
Maria was getting ready to go to
school, she said, when and her mother, Flor
Hernandez, 33, felt a shake-
sensation coming from
the rear of the apartment.
Hernandez called 911,
mia said.
hen their home went
in flames, Maria said.
said "Get the baby!
the baby," Hernan-
d recalled telling her
ter as El Centro fire-
ters busied themselves
ning the interior of the
ched home.

iff Writer Silvio J. Panta
be reached at span-
pressonline.com or
60 337-3442


DISTRIBUTION

es might
s month

these people paid for
ember."
ve had some phone
are concerned about
ceiving payment for
holidays," he said,
ing that the payroll
time be-
e the district and the
ial County Office of
 action.
e said the new board
uld take action on this
uring its next meet-
scheduled for Dec. 9.

iff Writer Roman Flo-
can be reached at
-337-3439 or rflo-
pressonline.com

after standoff
at about 2:30 p.m.
dnesday, after four
allesteros, who was on
ble for auto theft, had


SDSU opens Chinese Exploratorium

BY ROMAN FLORES
Staff Writer

CALEXICO — San Diego State
University-Imperial Valley cam-
pus' Confucius Institute continues
to gain speed as it opened its new
Chinese Cultural Exploratorium
Center here Wednesday morning.

The Confucius Institute is a
partnership between SDSU and
China's Xiamen University to pro-
mote Chinese language and cul-
ture.

Since its inception in March
2009 and opening in March of
this year, the program has ex-
panded to seven classrooms in
kindergarten-through-12 public
schools in San Diego and three
classes offered at SDSU-IV, both
for students and the community
at large.

Now, with the opening of the
new Chinese Cultural Exploratori-
um Center, the program is con-
ing to grow locally.

"This is an interactive computer
program where students and indi-
viduals can come and learn about
the Chinese language and cul-

cloide such as The Great
Wall and The Forbidden City," said.
"It's a tool that can be utilized
by anyone," Miriam Castaño, inter-
national programs coordinator for
SDSU-IV, said. "It can be used to
learn or to teach.

"We have the capacity to — in
the future — be able to communi-
cate across the world in real-time
(live video chat)," she said. "Any-
one can use it."


Video online
See video of the Chinese
Exploratorium at
lpressonline.com

nese gives students an edge in in-
ternational business as well as the
job market.

"It starts here but we need to
prepare (our students)," she said.
"If we're having fun with it
involve the little kids," she said.

The Exploratorium is an in-
tricate, interactive, multimedia
display that uses a variety of
technologies to provide an in-
Depth understanding of Chinese
language, culture, and history.

The center is open from Mon-
de to Thursday from 10 a.m. to
p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to
1 p.m. The Exploratorium is
located at 1000 W. El Cielo
Road, Calexico 92231.