Dr. Nancy Frey (Professor, STE) has been awarded the Early Achievement Career Award for Significant Contributions to Literacy Research and Education from the National Reading Conference. Only one such recognition is given nationally each year. Dr. Frey was presented with this award at the 58th Annual Meeting of the National Reading Conference in Orlando, Florida in early December.

The International Training Center is celebrating 25 years of regular broadcasts to 15 Central and South American countries as well as to China, India, and Spain. These broadcasts have been viewed by thousands, with viewers also receiving learning workbooks and, for the past five years, having access to additional web-based learning materials. Dr. Fred Saba (Professor, EDTEC), who also makes occasional technology- or education-related presentations, moderates these programs at KPBS. In total, nearly 150 individual broadcasts have been presented.

Dr. Nancy Farnan (Director, STE), has been appointed by the California Department of Education (CDE) and California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) to serve as a member of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP) Review Advisory Panel. The panel’s charge is to review and suggest revisions to the current CSTP to ensure they respond to today’s educational demands and the needs of California’s K-12 population.

The 9th Annual 7th Grade Campus Visit, sponsored by Compact for Success, took place this past October, with a record number of parents and students (nearly 4,000) from the Sweetwater Union High School District participating. SDSU President Stephen Weber and Sweetwater Superintendent Jesus M. Gandara spoke to students and parents about SDSU guaranteed admissions and encouraged all to strive to do their best in school, as well as signing the Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding, which commits the Sweetwater Union High School District and San Diego State University to collaborate on all Compact for Success activities through 2014. The theme of this year’s campus visit was “I pledge to go to college,” and all students signed a banner to commit to this pledge [see photo].

Dr. Carla Mathison (Professor, STE) and Dr. Elsa Billings (Assistant Professor, PLC) presented the findings of their study, “The Effect of Primary Language Advanced Organizer Podcasts on ELL’s Academic Performance,” at the E-Learn 2008 World Conference in November. This study was the first in a larger research agenda designed to examine the use of new technologies to facilitate learning and academic vocabulary development in 3rd-5th grade ELL’s at School In The Park, a program within the City Heights Educational Collaborative.

As members of the Master of Arts cohort who focused on Urban Education, Marcelina Madueño, Miriam Atlas, Tamiko Stratton, Jennifer Olinger, Dana Riggs, and Cindy Page published two articles, entitled “Addressing Student Trauma in the Wake of California Wildfires,” and “How Schools Can Help: California Teachers Recall the Wildfires.” Their pieces were part of a special section in the January/February 2008 issue of Social Education, for which their graduate advisor, Valerie Ooka Pang (Professor, STE), served as the guest section editor. Social Education is the largest publication of the National Council for the Social Studies. Teachers described their experiences and those of their students with wildfires providing recommendations about how to assist students in dealing with the trauma they experienced. Not only did teachers explain how they led several in depth discussions about student fear and anxiety, but they also explained the importance for school districts to send phone messages about the status of schools to all parents in English and Spanish. The authors concluded with additional suggestions for school preparedness.