Dr. Cheryl James-Ward (Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership), was among 400 U.S. school district leaders and education decision-makers who participated in the 2009 Chinese Bridge Delegation: Taking the Next Step, a one-week education visit sponsored by Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters (the nation’s official agency authorized to promote Chinese language and culture internationally), in partnership with the not-for-profit College Board. More than 2,000 U.S. educators have been to China through the program since its inception in 2006. In June of 2010, Dr. James-Ward will lead the Department of Educational Leadership and the College of Education in its first Chinese and American Educational Leadership Institute to be held at San Diego State University.

Strategic Communication During Whole-System Change: Advice and Guidance for School District Leaders and PR Specialists, co-authored by Dr. Patti Chance (Chair, Department of Educational Leadership), was recently recognized by the Division for Systemic Change in the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) as their “Outstanding Change Book.” Congratulations, Dr. Chance.

College of Education alumnus Rick Shearer recently defended his doctoral dissertation successfully at Penn State University, and has been appointed Director of Instructional Design at Penn State’s Distance Education Program, the World Campus. He manages a staff of 150, most of whom are instructional designers.

Congratulations to Dr. Joe Fulcher, a graduate of the College of Education, who was recently appointed to the position of Chief Student Services Officer for San Diego Unified School District. The position is very much equivalent to Assistant Superintendent in many school districts. Dr. Fulcher is a graduate of the Community-Based Block, Pupil Personnel Services, and School Psychology Programs, and received his doctorate from the SDSU/Claremont Multicultural Education Program.

Teaching Visual Literacy, edited by Dr. Nancy Frey (Professor, School of Teacher Education) and Dr. Douglas Fisher (Professor, School of Teacher Education), has been named an “Editor’s Choice” in professional reading by Library Media Connection (LMC) magazine. According to a recent press release, the award singles out what the reviews editor considers the best of all the exceptional titles reviewed over the last editorial calendar year. Featuring articles by experts in visual literacy, Teaching Visual Literacy guides teachers and literacy specialists in using picture books, comics, graphic novels, film, anime, and other visual forms to capture the interest of learners, support multiple literacy competencies, boost critical thinking skills, and extend the understanding of students with disabilities. Congratulations to Drs. Frey and Fisher for this recognition.

Dr. Lou Murillo (Director, Compact for Success) was recognized at the recent Annual Tardeada Gala of the California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA), as one of three honorees who assist children of color to break the barriers to higher education. The CRLA provides free legal services to California’s rural poor and agricultural workers.

SDSU College of Education students Robbie Chasse, Vanessa Davis and James Farrar have been selected as 2009 Math for America San Diego Fellows. Now in its second year, MfA SD is a non-profit organization dedicated to significantly improving mathematics education in San Diego County public secondary schools by providing significant financial support and encouragement to new exemplary mathematics teachers. Congratulations to this year’s fellows.