Dr. Jose Luis Alvarado, Associate Dean of the College of Education, was recently honored by the Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel (WESTOP) with the 2010 WESTOP TRIO Achiever Award at the WESTOP annual conference in Long Beach, CA. WESTOP is a regional network of members interested in furthering access to educational opportunities for economically and educationally disadvantaged persons and persons with disabilities, and furthering policies at both the state and federal level which would advance educational equity. The Achiever Award recognizes the accomplishments of educational professionals whose community or professional activities have served their fellow human beings and are focused on the improvement of society.

SDSU’s Child and Family Development Department, led by Dr. Shulamit Ritblatt, has been awarded a competitive-based grant from Children’s Mental Health Services in the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) to open California’s first Early Childhood Socio-Emotional, Behavioral Regulation, Intervention Specialist (EC-SEBRIS) Certificate Program. The grant is funded for the next four years. The EC-SEBRIS Certificate Program meets the needs of early childhood education professionals by providing appropriate field-based training for recognizing and responding to behavioral challenges. In accordance with Congressional recommendations, CFD and SDSU faculty will instruct and mentor early childhood educators to implement early intervention behavioral support services based on the Response to Intervention (RTI) and the Recognition and Response models to children and staff on their site. The EC-SEBRIS Certificate Program aligns with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards and follows the Training Guidelines and Personnel Competencies for Infant-Family and Early Childhood developed by CA Childhood Mental Health Training Guidelines Workgroup, 2009. It focuses on the professional preparation and skills enhancement of 30 early childhood educators per year, for a total of 120 completing the program by year four. These skilled and well trained early childhood professionals will reduce the level of risk, enhance developmental outcomes, and therefore reduce costs of future needed interventions for these children when they are attending school. This grant award and certificate program is a significant recognition by the mental health field to bring primary prevention in early childhood to the forefront. Investing in the training of early childhood educators to enhance mental health, school readiness, and socio-emotional development, is a major transformation in the field of early childhood education.

Congratulations to Dr. Frank Harris III (ARPE), who has had his first book, College Men and Masculinities: Theory, Research, and Implications for Practice, published by Jossey-Bass. Co-edited with Dr. Shaun Harper, College Men and Masculinities is a comprehensive handbook that offers a compilation of the best classic and contemporary research on male students in higher education. Each section also includes a wealth of forward-thinking strategies and suggestions that faculty and institutional leaders can creatively employ on their campuses to reverse problematic trends and outcomes among male undergraduates.

Congratulations to Reuben Escobar, a first year student in the School Counseling Program, for winning a Foundation Scholarship from the American School Counselor Association, sponsored by Anheuser Busch and the ASCA Foundation. ASCA received more than 150 applications for the ten $1,000 scholarships. A review committee consisting of counselor educators from around the country selected the scholarship recipients based on overall content of the applications, as well as the applicants’ gender, ethnicity and geographic location. Congratulations, Reuben.

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