



CSUCI Creates Academic Centers

Camarillo, Calif., September 29, 2005 - California State University Channel Islands announces the creation of the Center for Integrative and Interdisciplinary Studies (CIIS) and the Center for International Affairs (CIA), both of which reflect key elements of the University's educational mission.

"These centers help define the uniqueness of the University's mission statement and are meant to enrich and enhance the academic experience of our students," said Ashish Vaidya, CSUCI interim dean of faculty. "These two, along with two other centers being proposed, will ensure that our programs and curriculum reflect integrative and interdisciplinary approaches and emphasize multicultural and international perspectives."

The CIIS seeks to create and expand integrative and interdisciplinary ideas, courses, and programs, invite visiting scholars to collaborate with faculty and students on innovative projects, develop and present seminars, workshops, and conferences, and offer fellowships for faculty to pursue interdisciplinary scholarship, according to Jacquelyn Kilpatrick, professor of English and director of the program. The center will also foster links between disciplines, divisions, and institutions for the enhancement of interdisciplinary research and teaching.

The CIA seeks to internationalize the CSUCI educational experience, promote efforts to enrich the curriculum with global perspectives, encourage international faculty collaboration, and afford opportunities for students to study abroad, according to Vaidya, who is currently overseeing the activities of the center. It will also attract visiting scholars to the campus, encourage links to international institutions, and create events on campus and in the community that focus on global issues.