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Source: San Diego State University

Afghanistan Awards \$2 Million World Bank-Funded Contract to SDSU

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Nangarhar University-Based Program to Teach English and Technology Skills

SAN DIEGO, Dec. 20 /PRNewswire/ -- The Ministry of Higher Education in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has awarded San Diego State University a nearly \$2 million contract to assist Nangarhar University, located in Jalalabad, in re-establishing higher education programs.

The contract, funded by the World Bank, will establish a three-year project. During the project, SDSU will help Nangarhar University train faculty in English language instruction, develop a four-year English language program, create an International Learning Center and expand information technology resources.

Throughout the project, special seminars and lectures will be offered monthly through Nangarhar University's International Learning Center. A guest house is currently being built to provide housing for visiting faculty. Additionally, monthly computer and Internet training courses will be offered for faculty and students.

"This unique partnership is an opportunity to assist Nangarhar University and its community to find solutions that are their solutions," said SDSU Interwork Institute Director Fred McFarlane, who also serves as chair of the department of administration, rehabilitation and postsecondary education in the College of Education. "We hope to provide educational expertise and help them in achieving their goals."

SDSU and Nangarhar University began working together in March 2004 when Steve Brown and Fary Moini of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club initiated contact with SDSU. SDSU Interwork Institute project coordinator Steve Spencer traveled to Afghanistan with Brown and Moini to provide initial training for faculty to use computers and Internet resources. The computer lab was privately funded through donations from Brown and John Moores, owner of the San Diego Padres.

Funding for the International Learning Center and guest house was also donated by Brown and Moores. These commitments helped establish the foundation for the partnership between Nangarhar University and SDSU.

In March 2005, SDSU and Nangarhar University established a five-year Memorandum of Understanding to provide the framework for seeking additional funding to support urgently needed program development at Nangarhar University.

"In February 2006, Nangarhar University Chancellor Amanullah Hamidzai visited SDSU," said SDSU President Stephen L. Weber. "During that meeting, we agreed to work together in submitting a proposal to the World Bank. SDSU and Nangarhar now have a great opportunity to work together in restoring and expanding higher education in Afghanistan."

Initial funding for the partnership was provided by SDSU's President's Leadership Fund and the Fred J. Hansen Institute for World Peace.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The

World Bank is made up of two unique development institutions owned by 184 member countries -- the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association. Each institution plays a different, but supportive, role in the World Bank's mission of global poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards. For more information on the World Bank, please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/>.

San Diego State University is the oldest and largest higher education institution in the San Diego region. Since it was founded in 1897, the university has grown to offer bachelor's degrees in 81 areas, master's degrees in 73 areas and doctorates in 16 areas. SDSU's more than 34,000 students participate in an academic curriculum distinguished by direct contact with faculty and an increasing international emphasis that prepares them for a global future. For more information, visit www.sdsu.edu.

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Source: San Diego State University

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