IVROP program preps students for college

BY KARINA LOPEZ | Staff Writer

IMPERIAL — Lisa Sauerberg said she has always found the workshops, presentations and various programs put on by Project ACE extremely helpful.

A member of the Project ACE, which helps foster youths in Imperial County, since she was 16, Sauerberg is still benefiting from the program today at 21 years of age.

Sauerberg was one of nearly two dozen high school and college students who took advantage of Project ACE’s Jump Start Program at Imperial Valley College here Monday.

The program is a joint effort between IVROP’s Project ACE and the Extended Opportunities Program and Services at Imperial Valley College and was established to ensure local students in the foster care system are aware of the educational opportunities available to them and understand the best way to take advantage of them.

Sauerberg has found the program informative, particularly the guest speakers.

“Tues., June 17, 2014

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“Mr. Padre” dies of cancer Monday at age 54. B1

SMILE OF THE DAY

“My grandson is playing and his team (Calexico Heat baseball team) is winning.”
Laura Rosales, 47, El Centro

OBITUARIES

Roberto Flores
73, Calexico

Max Gonzalez
70, Imperial

BRAWLEY

Grad’s speech gains notice

BY KARINA LOPEZ
Staff Writer

BRAWLEY — When Brooks Hamby delivered his salutatorian address at Brawley Union High School’s graduation ceremony on Thursday, his intention was to share a few encouraging thoughts and words from the “biggest, bestselling book of all-time in history” with his fellow graduates.

Yet in quoting the “bestseller” the 18-year-old used the names “God” and “Jesus,” which were deemed “unconstitutional” by the school’s administration, he explained.

Hamby said he was asked to omit references to “God” and “Jesus” in his rewrites, and rather than become upset or frustrated the Stanford-bound student said he tried his best to work with the administration’s requests while remaining true to himself.

SEE SPEECH | A5

PASSED 55-24

State officials OK $108B budget

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state Legislature on Sunday approved California’s $108 billion budget for the coming fiscal year, moving swiftly to beat a midnight deadline...
ACE
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During a communication and speech workshop, Sauerberg said she found motivation in the words of the presenter, Imperial Valley College professor Bruce Page.

“He told us a little bit of his background and told us that whatever struggles get in our way, they are just getting us ready for what is next,” Sauerberg said.

In addition to Page, Cynthia Lopez, founder of Valley Speech-Language Rehab in El Centro, gave the students a few tips to stay organized, such as jotting down everything on a calendar and getting involved on campus.

Flor Pineda said the different speakers and tutors have inspired her to do her best at the local college in order to become a preschool teacher.

“I love it so far, it’s helping me a lot,” said the 20-year-old. “It’s helping me with my English, math, grammar and speech. I’m excited to come back to school.”

Luis Torres, Project ACE program manager, said the program is intended to give the students a feel for IVC and teach them about resilience.

Only about 10 percent of former foster youths go on to college and less than half end up graduating, Torres explained.

“We definitely want to help change that and hopefully (the Jump Start Program) will help get them ready for college,” he said.

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