

# Enhancing Campus Culture and Climate for Persons of Varying Abilities (ECCC)

## Goal

To identify initiatives which enhance the campus climate and culture for persons of varying abilities.

## ECCC Impact

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the ECCC met monthly to become well-versed in the current status of the campus culture with respect to disability and access. As a result of the ongoing dialogue, the members of the committee gained valuable insight and were able to initiate and host several key activities to start changing the mindset of “meeting minimum compliance” to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, both physically and attitudinally, on our campus.

Below is a highlight of major activities supported by the ECCC and the impact of each activity:

ACTIVITY	IMPACT
Autism Awareness Month - Aztecs for Autism, Light It Up Blue and Aztecs for Autism Research	These events, part of a month long awareness campaign, brought awareness to the campus community about individuals with Autism as well as current Autism research being done on SDSU's campus. It also provided the opportunity to connect with the San Diego community-at-large.
Campus Cart Service - Evening Cart Service for Students	Student Disability Services (SDS) started evening cart service during the fall 2013 semester utilizing student workers. The lack of a staff member dedicated to work during the evening hours poses a potential risk to the students and student workers. The ECCC committee supported the recommendation to hire a part-time professional staff for fall 2014.
Cart Service for Faculty and Staff – agreement between Office of Employee Relations and Compliance (OERC)	OERC and SDS agreed to collaborate in order to more efficiently provide employees with cart service. This agreement will provide campus employees access to cart service during SDS cart hours of operation.

Wheelchair Accessible Cart Purchase	The current wheelchair accessible cart in the SDS fleet does not provide safe and fully accessible transportation for individuals using wheelchairs. The purchase of a new, wheelchair cart will provide access and transportation throughout campus to individuals who use wheelchairs.
Campus Access for Accommodations – Revise current policy	Revise current campus policy for requesting interpreters for campus events to reflect the recently revised process for request and use of institutional funding to cover the cost, not the individual event sponsor.
Program Evaluation of SDS – Implementation of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) program evaluation tool	Utilizing the AHEAD evaluation tool, SDS will gather information from campus stakeholders to determine a baseline for current services to students with disabilities.
University Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Policy - Identify deputy ADA compliance officers representatives from the following areas: representatives from each college, Operations, Auxiliary Services, Aztec Shops, Housing, Faculty Affairs, AS, Athletics, ITS, Library and staff-at-large	The deputy officers will serve as resources to individuals seeking accommodations as well as providing a network of trained university representatives who will help ensure our campus is accessible.

Overall, the activities of the ECCC have a direct, and positive, impact on the SDSU culture by showing commitment to providing and ensuring access, providing opportunities to learn from/about individuals with varying abilities, evaluating current practice of providing support to students with disabilities and adjusting according to the outcome of the AHEAD evaluation. The committee is in the process of determining how best to measure the current culture and climate so that the university can measure future impacts.