

Price Community Scholars Initiative

This is the first semester for a special, new scholarship initiative: the Price Community Scholars. Fifteen high-achieving students from City Heights and its surrounding areas will each mentor three middle-school students from the same neighborhood as part of the first cohort of Price Community Scholars at San Diego State University.

Funded by a four-year, \$472,500 grant from the Price Family Charitable Fund, each scholar will receive an annual scholarship up to \$7,500. The community service component is what makes this scholarship initiative different from others.

Price Community Scholars are among the brightest of SDSU's new class this fall with an average high school grade point average of 3.91. Most of them graduated from Crawford or Hoover High Schools but all reside in the City Heights area, which is a low-income area of San Diego.

"The Price Community Scholars program is a major step forward for San Diego State University and City Heights," said SDSU President Elliot Hirshman.

"We are deeply grateful to the Price Family Charitable Fund for joining us in envisioning how San Diego's best and brightest students can develop their leadership abilities while giving back to the City Heights community and mentoring our next generation of high-achieving students. This is a great example of how 'Leadership Starts Here' at San Diego State University."

As mentors, the Price Community Scholars are enrolled in an academic learning community with a focus on service learning, where they are trained to provide their middle school mentees with support and guidance that will prepare them for higher education. This in turn builds a community that enhances academic success, self-awareness, cross-cultural exchange and civic participation.

"The mentoring aspect of this program is what makes it unique," said Wendy Aleman, assistant director of Residential Education. "Our students will be helping to create a college-going culture in City Heights, a traditionally impoverished and under-educated neighborhood. They will perform weekly one-on-one mentoring with middle school students who share their same experience, gender and common interest."



The initial group of Price Community Scholars

Inspiring • Empowering • Mentoring • Serving

The SDSU Price Scholars will work with the middle school mentees to:

- Motivate and teach them to develop and enhance their academic skills
- Create awareness of the pathways to higher education and career mobility
- Engage them in the arts, culture and civic life of the San Diego community

"The Price Scholars will provide the social and cultural capital that first-generation college students might not have because their parents did not go to college," said Eric Rivera, associate vice president of Student Affairs, who will help oversee the program.

The scholars will also be given tools to help their mentees develop and enhance essential academic skills in both math and writing.

SDSU selected the 15 Price Community Scholars after interviewing nearly 50 local incoming first-time freshmen who are now enrolled at SDSU. They will serve in the program for four years.

The middle-school participants will be selected through consultation with counselors and teachers.

"We want this program to give these middle school students hope, we want them to see their future through the eyes of their SDSU mentors," Rivera said.