The institute has the following six centers:

- **The Center for Educational Leadership, Innovation, and Policy** examines issues that affect policies and practices of educational institutions, including their implications for leadership, planning, innovation, and organizational development. The center engages in research, development, and dissemination activities that focus on a few critical educational issues. As a result of its policy analysis and research, the center develops plans and programs which enhance organizational capacity to respond to the challenges and opportunities and which lead to the improvement of practice.

- **The Center for Emerging Leadership (CEL)** supports and educates youth and young adults with developmental disabilities through peer-to-peer mentorship as they transition into adulthood as leaders. This is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities. This was initially funded as a center under the corresponding grant competition in 2004.

- **The Center for Pacific Studies (CPS)** provides research, training, and technical assistance services in partnership with institutions of higher education, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations in the following Pacific Island jurisdictions: American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Republic of Palau, and the State of Hawaii.

- **Circle for American Indian Rehabilitation (CAIR)** is devoted to the continuing education, training, and technical assistance needs for programs funded through American Indian Rehabilitation Service Projects (Section 121 of the Rehabilitation Act).

- **The Collaborative for Distance Learning (CDL)** provides the technology and instructional design support for all Department and Interwork activities. This has been in operation since 1993 when initial funding was received from the US Department of Education.

- **The Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC)** was initially funded as a center under the Department of Special Education. It was transferred to the Interwork Institute in 2006. They have been serving individuals and families of children with disabilities and the professionals who assist them throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties since 1990.

The Interwork Institute's facilities are located at 3590 Camino del Rio North in Mission Valley. For more information visit the website at http://interwork.sdsu.edu.

**Center for Teaching Critical Thinking and Creativity**

L. Duesbery, Director

The Center for Teaching Critical Thinking and Creativity (CTCTC) advances performance and productivity in diverse communities by enhancing critical and creative thinking in schools. The center collaborates with teachers to develop and evaluate applications of research on critical and creative thinking applied to rigorous content and supported by appropriate technologies. CTCTC supports teachers’ continued development of their own expertise while taking advantage of their knowledge, skills, and experience in assessing effects on students’ critical thinking, creative productivity, and academic performance.
San Diego State University Literacy Center  
Sharan A. Gibson, Director

The SDSU Literacy Center supports collaborative partnerships that serve a variety of diverse literacy needs in our community including assessment and tutoring in reading and writing for children, adolescents, and adults; workshops for parents to promote family literacy; professional education for teachers through coursework and institutes; and, research to inform teaching practice and effect systemic change in literacy education. The center houses the Community Reading Clinic and the Reading Recovery® Program. Credentialed teachers enrolled in graduate reading, certificate, and credential programs as well as professional staff conduct the tutoring and assessments. Professional development for reading recovery teacher leaders occurs at the center, and institutes are planned for reading recovery and elementary teachers in the community. Literacy center faculty members engage in research on effective instruction in reading and writing, teacher practices, and early intervention. The SDSU Literacy Center is located in City Heights in the Dede Alpert Center for Community Engagement, San Diego State University, 4283 El Cajon Blvd., Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92105. For more information, visit [http://edweb.sdsu.edu/literacy/](http://edweb.sdsu.edu/literacy/).

National Center for Urban School Transformation  
Joseph F. Johnson, Executive Director

The National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) helps school districts transform urban schools into places where all students achieve academic proficiency, evidence a love of learning, and graduate prepared to succeed in post-secondary education, the workplace, and their communities. The center pursues this mission through the following strategies:

- **Strategy 1**: Identify, celebrate, and study urban schools and districts that are transforming teaching and learning, as evidenced by excellent learning results for all students;
- **Strategy 2**: Engage in focused, long-term partnerships that support urban school districts as they endeavor to create model, high-performing schools;
- **Strategy 3**: Disseminate useful information about effective strategies to transform urban schools.

NCUST staff members develop articles, reports, book chapters, and books that feature information learned through both Strategies 1 and 2. The center supports SDSU doctoral students in educational leadership and SDSU faculty as they pursue research designed to deepen the knowledge base concerning high-performing urban schools. The NCUST website ([www.ncust.org](http://www.ncust.org)) is a nationally known source of information about effective strategies for transforming urban schools.

Pre-College Institute (PCI)  
Cynthia D. Park, Executive Director

The faculty and staff of the Pre-College Institute (PCI), an institute to promote the advancement of pre-college education, implements programs to enhance teaching and learning in multicultural settings and studies their outcomes. The institute, operating from the university’s historic strength in teacher education and its proximity to Mexico, delivers services geared towards promoting educational advancement among pre-college students from low-income families. The institute also supports continuous professional enhancement of teachers from all cultural backgrounds and conducts systematic research and evaluation of the programs that deliver these services.

The institute offers services through five federally funded TRIO programs and partnerships with the Colleges of Engineering, Health and Human Services, and Sciences, as well as the Division of Undergraduate Studies and the Sweetwater Gear Up partnership with Compact for Success. The institute’s international branch offers exchange opportunities for university faculty and students to visit and study in other countries. To learn more, visit the website at [http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/sdsutrio/](http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/sdsutrio/).

Center for Social Equity Technical Assistance  
Alberto M. Ochoa, Director

The center conducts training and research on issues of social equity and bilingual/multicultural policy, and provides technical assistance to districts throughout southern California. The center conducts research in public equity and school finance. The center houses projects funded by federal, state, and private sources. Current projects include the Parent Leadership and the Social Equity project. The center functions within the SDSU Department of Dual Language and English Learner Education.

Center for the Study of International Education  
Laura J. Hall and Minjuan Wang, Co-Directors

The Center for the Study of International Education is a unit of the College of Education. It promotes faculty and graduate student research, explores study abroad and exchange possibilities for faculty and students, and disseminates information about international education to interested persons in the San Diego area. It also seeks to complement regular course offerings through sponsorship of lectures, conferences, and the development of bibliographic resources.

The center seeks to foster not only a network of interested faculty within the College of Education, but also encourages faculty involvement from other colleges on campus as well as from other organizations and universities in the San Diego area.

Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership (CESCaL)  
Patricia A. Hatch, Director

The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership (CESCaL) seeks to educate, collaborate, deepen understanding of, and improve partnerships between school counselors and administrative teams, graduate programs, and professional associations. The mission of CESCaL is to promote excellence in the field of school counseling and to assist school counselors, and their site and central office administrators, as they design, implement, and evaluate their school counseling programs. CESCaL provides training and consultation from state and national leaders in school counseling and administration with experience in implementing evidence-based practices and the ASCA National Model® for school counseling programs. CESCaL seeks to resolve critical issues that impede the operational efficiency, institutional legitimacy, and political social capital within the profession of school counseling.

The center’s website at [http://www.cescal.org](http://www.cescal.org) disseminates exemplars for educator use as a service to school counselors, school counselor educators, and administrators who supervise school counselors. Supporting Students – Saving Lives, a division of CESCaL, provides training for counselors and other educators to better meet the needs of LGBTQIA youth.

Center for Family, School, and Community Engagement  
Jeana Preston, Director

The Center for Family, School, and Community Engagement was established to link the university to the educational pathways of children from “cradle through college.” The center’s mission is to build the capacity of families, educators, and community partners to advance the education of children together by providing (1) platforms for engaging in collaborative problem solving; (2) leadership development for parents and educators to work together; and (3) through new research that shines a light on partnership practices to support the healthy development and school success of children. Improving educational outcomes for children in our communities is the shared responsibility of families, educators from preschool through the college years (P-16), and their communities. The center promotes partnership approaches that engage all stakeholders to advance practical solutions and actions to ensure healthy development and academic success for all children across the continuum from birth, through each level of schooling, college, and career.
The California Parent Center (CPC) is located within the Center for Family, School, and Community Engagement, under the direction of the Department of Child and Family Development in the College of Education. CPC functions as a statewide technical assistance center for school-family-community partnerships focused on assisting educators and parent leaders at preschool, elementary, and secondary levels to work in partnership to improve academic outcomes for students. CPC works directly with school districts to implement achievement-focused family, school, and community partnerships as a key strategy for turning around low performing schools. CPC works in consultation with the California Department of Education Title I Office.

For additional information, contact Jeana Preston, Director, California Parent Center at 619-594-4756 or 1-877-972-7368. Visit the website at [http://parent.sdsu.edu](http://parent.sdsu.edu).