Adela de la Torre - Short Bio

Adela de la Torre became the 9th permanent president of San Diego State University on June 28, 2018, the first woman to serve in the role. She is committed to student success.

Under her direction, the university will pursue the highest levels of teaching, research, innovation, and collaboration excellence, focusing on graduating exceptional global citizens, compassionate leaders, and ethical innovators who impact the San Diego community and the world at large.

She is committed to championing local, binational and global relationships, transparent communication, productive collaboration, sustainable infrastructure, and expansion to Mission Valley in order to augment the university’s impact for the next 121 years.

Dr. de la Torre brings to SDSU nearly 30 years of service in leadership roles within institutions of higher education, including the California State University system, the University of Arizona and the University of California, Davis. In all of her various leadership and teaching positions throughout her career, Dr. Adela de la Torre has endeavored to provide equal access to health and educational opportunities for all students, with a particular focus on improving outreach, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified students from underserved communities.

Dr. de la Torre has a long and successful history of external fund development, including garnering over 20 million dollars for her own research from external granting agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), United Stated Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Education (DOE), Koret Foundation, and the California Endowment. At UC Davis, she worked closely in identifying and qualifying donors to support major capital campaigns, the first of which brought in $1.13 billion in 2014.