



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION

## **The AIEA 2026 Innovative Excellence in Internationalization Award**

The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) is pleased to present the Innovative Excellence in Internationalization Award to the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) in recognition of their iTable Basic Needs Program.

Launched in 2018, the iTable Basic Needs Program directly addresses the inequities international students face in accessing food security, housing security and other resources, particularly as they are excluded from federal and state programs such as CalFresh. By providing short-term, emergency grocery support along with wraparound connections to additional campus resources, the iTable Basic Needs Program ensures that international students have equitable access to nutritious food, housing and other needs enabling them to focus on their academic and professional success.

A collaboration between the International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO), The Hub Basic Needs Center, Student Affairs Case Management, and with support from Associated Students and the Chancellor's Office, the iTable Basic Needs Program is an exemplary model of cross-campus partnership. Its design and implementation reflect UC San Diego's values of inclusiveness, respect and a strong sense of communal responsibility. The program also aligns directly with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of No Hunger, Quality Education, and Reduced Inequalities, offering a replicable model that other institutions can adopt in serving international students. The iTable Basic Needs Program has provided significant emergency food support to international students, with the majority of participants reporting meaningful improvements in their well-being, focus and academic performance.

The iTable Basic Needs Program reflects UC San Diego's Strategic Internationalization Plan to "Think Globally, Act Locally" by ensuring international students have the resources they need to succeed, and reinforces a commitment - that many at UC San Diego share and is embraced by Student Affairs and Campus Life - to dismantle barriers, secure funding to enhance student support and amplify equity-focused services.

AIEA congratulates the University of California, San Diego on receiving this year's Innovative Excellence in Internationalization Award.