

SANTA BARBARA

63°

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

Friday, October 10, 2014

SEARCH

Home Local Sports Editorials Opinions-Letters Obituaries Real Estate Classifieds Special Publications Archives

Local

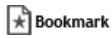
Translate Website



Select Language

Powered by Google Translate

Home » Local



UCSB bike giveaway benefits students

By RYAN BROWN NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT
October 10, 2014 6:25 AM

Fifty refurbished bikes were given to students Thursday during the first giveaway event for UCSB's Guardian Scholars program.

The program identifies previous foster children who have overcome adversity and provides them with academic resources.

Students gathered at two separate times for the lottery-style giveaway in front of the Associated Students Bicycle Shop on UCSB's campus.

For Eric Curry, receiving a bike for free relieved a financial burden.

"This means a lot to me. I've had five bikes stolen and I told myself I wasn't going to buy a sixth. It means a lot because it's a really nice bike and they didn't have programs like this at my previous institution."

He said he will use the bike as his main form of transportation.

"I bike everywhere. I don't have a car."

Jamey Wagner, program manager for the UCSB Transportation Alternatives Program, said a recent change in policy regarding abandoned bikes allowed the giveaway.

"They're all bikes that have been abandoned on campus and we hold them for a period of time and then we used to send them down to be auctioned. But a law changed recently that they can be given away or sold, so we're releasing them back to the community."

The project combined resources from UCSB Transportation Services, the campus police student patrol Community Service Organization, and the UCSB bike shop.

Members of the UCSB cycling team and employees at the campus bike shop made sure the bikes were in working order, had good tires and were registered with the campus. Each bike was outfitted with a U-bar bike lock and Mr. Wagner gave a brief presentation on how to lock the bikes properly.

Mr. Wagner said that even the style of bikes that were given away was taken into account.

"We focused on cruiser bikes because we wanted to make them really low maintenance and ... if they're less attractive someone will be less likely to steal them. There is some advantage to having a bike that functions well but doesn't look as well as another bike. And for anybody coming less than a couple of miles a cruiser bike works fine because it's flat around here."

Mr. Wagner said UCSB students make around 15,000 trips to and from campus each day. For Jennifer Kloster, being part of the program means she can join those students and won't have to walk.

"I'm going to bike a lot. I don't like walking so biking is really nice. I think it's an awesome program they have here. I haven't heard of anybody else doing this."

Aldair Serrano, an employee at the Associated Student Bicycle Shop who helped work on the bikes, said seeing his work go to students gave him a sense of pride.

"When I work on these bikes I like to make sure I do a good job so that people can benefit from the job we do here. Your work reflects how people are going to treat the bikes, and I feel a lot of pride working on these bikes."

email: rbrown@newspress.com

Share Story facebook Tweet



James Wagner, Bikes for Guardians program manager, hands off a bike to sophomore Dante Corpuz during Thursday's giveaway at the UCSB Associated Students Bike Shop.
MICHAEL MORIATTIS/NEWS-PRES

Related Stories

- The Show Must Go On : Story will conduct Fiesta orchestra despite injuries
ARCHIVE Jul 17, 2013
- THE COUNTY LINES
ARCHIVE Jun 15, 2004
- Mkpado steady in big home victory
ARCHIVE Feb 11, 2011
- CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: Mommy, can you come up?
ARCHIVE Sep 28, 2013
- Letters : Opinion: The driving force behind pedestrians' plight
ARCHIVE Apr 15, 2012
- They're learning to live with hope
ARCHIVE Apr 13, 2002
- White flight from schools linked to immigration crisis
ARCHIVE May 15, 2002
- Focusing attention on victims of violence
ARCHIVE Apr 26, 2001
- Playing in Sand
ARCHIVE Sep 17, 2014
- Budget cuts leave schools in lurch
ARCHIVE Aug 6, 2001