For immediate release May 24, 2016

Latest volume of 'Why I Teach' PSA series one component of countywide effort to recruit for teacher shortage

Contact: Ken Blackstone

(408) 453-6662

SAN JOSE, CA – The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has released the <u>fourth</u> <u>volume of the Teacher PSA series</u>, in which the 2015-16 district teachers of the year from around the county share just a few of their thoughts about why they find teaching so rewarding.

The video profiles Janet Londgren from Antonio Del Buono Elementary School in Gilroy Unified School District, Rusila Racinez from county-authorized charter Sunrise Middle School, and Elizabeth Faison Sharkey from Raymond J. Fisher Middle School in Los Gatos Union School District. All the teachers who will be featured in the series of videos were honored during the SCCOE's 2015-16 Teacher Recognition Celebration last fall in Campbell.

The PSAs, which will be rolled out every week until the end of June, are also part of a wider countywide initiative to address the teacher shortage. A few months into last school year, there were still almost 4,000 teaching positions open in the state of California.

The SCCOE is working on recruiting and developing the next generation of excellent teachers through many means, including its upcoming <u>Instructional Assistant Job Fair</u> on June 11 and <u>Step into Teaching: Opportunities in Silicon Valley Public Schools Event</u> on June 18. This inaugural event will help candidates who may have never considered teaching see themselves in the position by helping them learn and prepare for the joys of a teaching career.

To watch all the videos from "Why I Teach," visit the YouTube playlist.