



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **SCCOE celebrates Alternative Education Graduation and Special Education Completion Ceremonies**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – There is much cause for celebration next week for the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). Both the Alternative Education Graduation and Special Education Completion Ceremony will be held for the classes of 2016.

“The Special Education Completion and Alternative Education Graduation are very special events because these students overcome extraordinary obstacles to be here, and their accomplishment is the result of the SCCOE’s commitment to improving student equity and providing a high-quality education to all of our students,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry.

The Alternative Education ceremony will honor 70 students from Blue Ridge, EDGE/PEAK, Odyssey, Osborne, Snell, Terra Bella, Opportunity Youth Academy, and Independent Study. Of the 70 students, 13 will be the first to complete Opportunity Youth Academy. Launched in November 2015, Opportunity Youth Academy is a high school diploma completion opportunity for 16- to 24-year-olds which focuses on paths to college or career training.

The SCCOE’s Alternative Education Department provides educational programs for students under court supervision, and who are expelled or who are deficient in credits and have experienced challenges in matriculation in the traditional school settings.

The Alternative Education Graduation will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31 in the San Jose Room of the SCCOE’s Ridder Park office.

On Wednesday, the festivities will continue with a completion ceremony for 37 students served through the Special Education program of the SCCOE. More than 1500 students with disabilities from birth to age 22 are served directly by the SCCOE in this program. It provides a variety of services for children and students with severe or low-incidence disabilities through instructional programs divided into Early Education (birth to age 3), preschool, elementary, secondary and post-senior.

The Special Education Completion Ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1 at the Robert W. Quinlan Community Center on North Stelling Road in Cupertino.

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