



MEDIA ADVISORY

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SCCOE allocates more than \$2 million for under-served students

SAN JOSE, CA – The Santa Clara County Office of Education’s (SCCOE) newly-ratified budget for the 2015-16 academic year includes more than \$2 million for new and growing programs geared toward narrowing the achievement gap and ensuring that traditionally under-served students have access to world-class educational opportunities.

“I am tremendously excited about our plans for the coming year,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry. “With the help of our valuable community partners, the SCCOE is looking forward to providing more services for students from all walks of life, from preschool to high school and beyond.”

One particularly exciting new venture is The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley’s “Family College Success Center,” in which the SCCOE has invested \$100,000 for its first year of operation at James Lick High School. While 29 percent of the Silicon Valley’s population is Latino, only 3 percent of the community’s high tech workforce identifies as such; the Family College Success Center is designed to change this dynamic through academic support, mentoring and workshops for students and families.

“The Family College Success Center will be a ‘one-start-shop’ for college-aspiring students and their parents to obtain college information and guidance to attend and graduate from college,” said Ron Gonzales, President and CEO of the Hispanic Foundation. “We are thrilled that the County Board of Education has decided to join this new and creative partnership.”

Officials from the SCCOE and Hispanic Foundation celebrated the partnership with a check presentation ceremony Tuesday morning.

“Every child deserves a chance to succeed, and it is our obligation as leaders to ensure that those opportunities are nurtured and supported,” said Darcie Green, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Education. “The Family College Success Center opens the door to a brighter future for Latino students and their families.”

Two more of the SCCOE’s biggest initiatives include Educare of California at Silicon Valley, a state-of-the-art early learning center that will serve 160 low-income students and families when it opens its doors in August, and Opportunity Youth Academy, a school opening this fall for young men and women seeking to finish their high school education and create a customized path to college or the workforce. Other SCCOE programs take on the achievement gap from a wide range of tactics and perspective, including professional development opportunities for teachers in high-need classrooms; academic programs to

encourage young black and Latino students to pursue science, tech and math careers; a host of events through President Obama’s “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative; and an \$89,000 investment in technology for migrant students in six counties.

Details about the 2015-16 budget can be found on the [SCCOE’s website](#), or contact Ken Blackstone for more information.

A video from the check presentation ceremony can be viewed on the [SCCOE website](#).



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