



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
October 15, 2015

Contact: Ken Blackstone, SCCOE
(408) 453-6514

SCCOE recognized by President Obama for its commitment to Educational Excellence for Hispanics at White House ceremony today

SAN JOSE, CA – The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is proud to join the nearly 150 public and private sector organizations who answered the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics’ 25th anniversary call to action. The announcement is scheduled to be made at 1 p.m. PST today, Thursday, October 15, by President Obama at a White House ceremony in Washington, D.C. The announcement will be livestreamed, with all related content available at: www.ed.gov/HispanicInitiative.

The SCCOE has committed more than \$530,000 and additional in-kind staff time and advocacy for seven specific initiatives throughout the county to serve our students, schools, districts, parents, and community for the next two school years with the potential to reach many of the county’s more-than-100,000 Latino students. These commitments provide increased opportunities for language acquisition to English learners, high quality STEAM opportunities, a one-stop shop for families to access college attendance information, and the creation of a teacher pipeline that allows students to see themselves as the adult who serves them.

“We are extremely proud to be part of this sustained initiative that will help to open so many doors to high-quality educational programs right here in Silicon Valley,” said Jon R. Gundry, County Superintendent of Schools.

In October 2014, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics launched a Year of Action, and with it a national call for Commitments to Action in honor of its 25th anniversary. In the spirit of what President Obama calls a “shared responsibility,” the Initiative challenged the public and private sectors to make meaningful and quantifiable contributions to expand and support the educational outcomes and opportunities for the Latino community. Today, on the culmination of Hispanic Heritage Month, the President is announcing 150 Commitments to Action with a collective investment of nearly \$340 million which will build on, and accelerate federal, state, and local investments in high-quality education, from cradle-to-career for the nation’s Latino community.

###