



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Educare honors SCCBOE, Superintendent Gundry for commitment to early learning**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – Leaders from Educare California at Silicon Valley honored the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) and County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry for their leadership role in establishing California’s first Educare preschool. The special recognition was part of this week’s SCCBOE meeting.

“Educare California at Silicon Valley is a landmark for early education; by that I mean we are making a clear statement that high quality early learning opportunities should be available for all our kids,” said Jolene Smith, Board Chair of Educare California at Silicon Valley and CEO of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. “Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the children of this community – not only the 168 children in our classrooms now, but for generations to come.”

Superintendent Gundry and trustees were presented with a plaque featuring student artwork. In addition, they received glass clocks with the Educare logo, symbolizing the minutes, hours and months that Educare students will be in the classroom receiving high-quality instruction that they may not otherwise have been able to access.

The new preschool is California’s first Educare School, serving high-need students and families to ensure they have the best possible preparation for primary school. The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has been engaged in this project since its inception five years ago and has helped to lead this robust public-private partnership that is dedicated to improving the quality of early education, child development and family engagement for all children.

The SCCOE is also leading the charge for expanded access to high-quality early learning through its [Strong Start coalition](#), comprised of community leaders, early education providers, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, members of the business community and other key stakeholders who share the belief that excellent learning opportunities for children ages 0 to 8 is Santa Clara County’s number one priority as a community.

For more information about early learning in Santa Clara County and what you can do to help make access to high-quality preschool possible for all children, visit the [Strong Start website](#).

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