

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND CELEBRATING ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2316-1**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools are honored to join communities throughout the country to recognize and celebrate April 2023 as Arab American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County office of Education (SCCOE) acknowledges and continues to learn about Arab and Arab American communities and cultures, their unique differences and similarities; and

WHEREAS, every year, since 2017, during April the U.S. celebrates Arab and Arab American culture and contributions to our nation and local community; and

WHEREAS, this is an opportunity to share the historical contributions of Arab and Arab American people including those that have significantly impacted the field of science. Ahmed Zewail immigrated to America from Egypt, he earned his Ph.D. and later won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999. He was the first Arab to win a Nobel Prize in the scientific field; and

WHEREAS, in 1959 the first Arab American began serving in the U.S. House of Representative, George A. Kasem. The first Arab-American Senator was recognized as James Abourezk and appointed in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans are represented in 56 of California's 58 counties. There are estimated to be [over 700,000 Arab Americans in California](#), with the largest number of Arab Americans by any state. The population of Arab speaking ancestry grew by more than 34% between 1990 and 2000, according to the Arab American Institute; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE remains dedicated to providing resources and programming for multilingual communities; offers translation services and training for teachers, schools, and school districts; continues recruitment efforts to attract diverse educators into the teaching profession; promotes multilingual education through our Multilingual Education Services and involvement with the California Association of Bilingual Education (CABE), and continues to support safe schools for all students; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE recognizes the significant contributions of Arab and Arab American people in our community, state and the world, as leaders, scientists, politicians, educators, public servants, and more; so

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools celebrate the diversity and contributions of the Arab and Arab American community during Arab American Heritage Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 15, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: President Chon, Vice President Sreekrishnan, and Trustees Berta, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Rocha

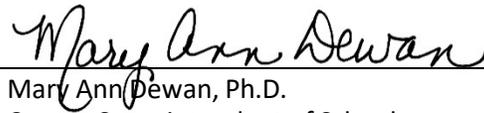
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools