



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **“My Name, My Identity” campaign announced at CDE Global Education Summit**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – “What’s in a name?” Shakespeare’s Juliet first mused more than 400 years ago. The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) kicked off a new program to help answer that question, the “My Name, My Identity” initiative, Thursday at the California Department of Education’s Global Education Summit.

The initiative, a collaboration between the SCCOE and the National Association for Bilingual Education, is designed to build a more inclusive, respectful culture throughout the county by asking educators and community members to make a [pledge](#) honoring students, neighbors and coworkers by promising to learn how to pronounce their names correctly. Names have deep and important ties to both family history and culture, and making the extra effort to use a person’s preferred name and pronounce it correctly is a small step that can create a big impact. Participants are invited to share the story behind their name, or that of their children, on the [My Name, My Identity Facebook page](#), or by tweeting [@mynamemyid](#) using the hashtag #mynamemyid.

“In the context of global education, we talk about how important it is for students to feel proud of who they are and to have the ability to connect with people from different languages and backgrounds locally, and also around the world,” said Dr. Yee Wan, Director of Multilingual Education Services.

Assemblymember Kansen Chu’s office was also on hand Thursday to present the SCCOE with a California State Legislature Assembly Resolution supporting the initiative, recognizing the importance of “building a respectful environment in school where a diverse perspective, culture and value is accepted, appreciated and celebrated.”

The initiative was unveiled before the 150 leading educators, institutes of higher education, policy makers, community leaders, and business partners, including Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who attended the Global Education Summit. Attendees investigated the status of efforts that are promoting global education in California and began developing an action plan with recommendations for expanding and improving students' global competencies statewide.

To learn more, visit the [My Name, My Identity](#) website. For more information about how the SCCOE is supporting English learner achievement and access to world languages for all students, visit the [Multilingual Education Services website](#). Photos from the kick-off are available [online](#).

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