



For Immediate Release

San José Unified School District

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**22 Pioneer High School Students will receive the
President's Volunteer Service Award
for 4,140 hours of service over a 12 month period of time!**

San Jose, CA - Sunday, October 29, 2006. Pioneer High School has earned the honor of being a National Leader School for Service Learning and 22 of their students have validated this title with their dedication to service by earning the President's Volunteer Service Award. <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/>

These students will celebrate and accept their awards on Monday, October 30th, at Pioneer High School, 1290 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, 95118. The presentation will be in the school's Library-Media center from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Terry Christensen, will be the keynote speaker for the event. Terry Christensen is a specialist on state and local politics. He is the Executive Director of CommUniverCity. This is a partnership for service, learning, and empowerment between the Community, the University and the City. Terry has served on numerous civic committees and commissions and currently is a member of the Advisory Board of City Year/Silicon Valley and Program Chair for the Commonwealth Club/Silicon Valley. Terry is also a longstanding professor at San Jose State University.

San Jose Unified School District Superintendent, Don Iglesias, congratulates the students and school with the following statement, "San Jose Unified is proud of the Service Learning Program at Pioneer High School and our 22 students receiving the President's Award. It is critical for our future as a nation, that we teach our students the importance of giving back to their communities by helping others and supporting activities that promote an improvement of living conditions for all of us. Pioneer High School serves as a model school by using Service Learning as a key education reform strategy for student achievement. Pioneer's students lead the way in proving this current generation of students cares about their neighborhoods and that they will rise to the occasion by taking a leading role as change agents in making the future of San Jose bright and full of possibilities for everyone."

All of San Jose Unified School District's high school students must complete 40 hours of community service as a requirement for graduation. These 22 outstanding students from Pioneer High School are truly dedicated to civic engagement.

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