



**For Immediate Release**

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**San José Unified School District**

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**From Kindergarten to College!**

**San José, CA. June 12, 2007.** The June 13th Kindergarten promotion ceremony at San Jose Unified's Anne Darling Elementary School won't be your typical punch and cookies celebration with paper mortar boards but rather college and university chancellors and presidents dressed in full regalia from the Silicon Valley Higher Education Roundtable (SiVHER), a consortium of higher education institutions in Silicon Valley, will attend the promotion ceremony. They will present the students with a SiVHER certificate, guaranteeing them a place in the participating institutions upon graduation from high school, if they meet admission requirements.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. at Anne Darling Elementary School 333 North 33<sup>rd</sup> St. San Jose. Featured speakers will be: From SiVHER, San Jose State President Don W. Kassing and Rosa G. Perez, Chancellor, San José-Evergreen Community College District; from San José Unified School District, Superintendent Don Iglesias.

Superintendent Iglesias commented, *"It is never too early to start thinking about college and the SiVHER Program targets and encourages our Kindergarteners. We are proud of our partnership with our local colleges and universities and will do all we can to ready our students for future academic success. This program increases their odds of attending higher education after graduation from our school district and we applaud our partners in this effort."*

Three years ago San Jose Unified's Board of Education identified five *Vital Priorities* tied to the strategic plan. Two of the vital priorities, "Creating a College Going Culture for ALL Students" and "Engaging Parents and Community in the Education of our Students" are supported by the SiVHER Certificate program. Last year's Kindergarten class at Anne Darling was also awarded the SiVHER Certificate and was fortunate to have volunteers read to them every Wednesday. The student's parents attended classes on how best to read to their students at home.

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