

*Creating Opportunity, Equity and Social Justice*

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## **SAN JOSE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT CHANCELLOR RESPONDS TO VICE-FIRST LADY JILL BIDEN'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES AS WHITE HOUSE HOSTS SUMMIT ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

(October 4, 2010—SAN JOSE, CA) In a district-wide message to her leadership team, Dr. Rita Cepeda, Chancellor of the San José Evergreen Community College District asked San José City College and Evergreen Valley College, to step up and get involved as Vice-First Lady Jill Biden unfolds the *Summit on Community Colleges* by participating in a live webcast and be part of history in the making.

On October 5, Vice-First Lady Jill Biden is hosting the first-ever Summit on Community Colleges to call attention to the nation's 1,165 community colleges. As an educator herself and a community college instructor, Dr. Biden has described this summit as an important step in helping to meet President Obama's goal of having the best-educated, most competitive workforce in the world by the end of year 2020. Over the next decade, nearly eight in ten jobs will require higher education or workforce training.

The summit is an opportunity to bring together community colleges, business, philanthropy, federal and state policy leaders, and students to discuss how community colleges can help meet the job training and education needs of the nation's evolving workforce, as well as the critical role these institutions play in achieving the President's goal to lead the world with the highest proportion of college graduates by 2020. Some topics of importance include: Pathway to Baccalaureate, Increasing Community College Completion, Affordability, Community Colleges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Veterans and Military Families, and Partnerships.

MORE...

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Chancellor Cepeda added, “This Summit is a catalyst for change. With the support of President Obama’s administration, community colleges are now at the forefront of conversation in this country. And, it is our responsibility to make sure our students enter our colleges with full access and opportunity and they leave with the training and education they need to succeed.”

SJECCD will host webcasts throughout its two campuses, San José City College and Evergreen Valley College from 8 am – 1pm on October 5, 2010. The White House Summit can also be viewed on: [www.WhiteHouse.gov/live](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/live)

#### About San José/Evergreen Community College District

SJECCD prides itself in creating an environment focused on equity and excellence in student success, respecting the strength of the heritages and life experiences of its students and communities to build more responsive colleges. The District is nationally renowned for its advocacy to develop policies and educational approaches that incorporate the knowledge it has gained from critically analyzing global, national and immigrant experiences. SJECCD has approached its work with the intention of reframing the standard definitions of student and institutional success. The District’s core values are opportunity, equity and social justice. Each one of these values is incorporated into strategic planning and is a part of the foundational commitments the district makes to its communities as it uses the tool of higher education to bring them to life.

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