NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Rolando Bonilla
(415) 987-8025 cell
Rolando@fordandbonilla.com

Chancellor Rita Cepeda Announces Retirement from San Jose-Evergreen Community College District

After navigating the District to its strongest fiscal position ever, Chancellor leaves confident in District’s future

SAN JOSE, Calif., (February 10, 2015) – Tonight, the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District Board of Trustees announced that its Chancellor, Dr. Rita Cepeda, will be retiring in the summer of 2015.

“As Chancellor, there is no greater satisfaction than to see the gratification on the faces of the thousands of students who have earned their degrees and certifications from the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, knowing we have provided them a path towards achieving their academic and professional dreams,” said Chancellor Rita Cepeda. “The last five years have been an amazing journey that provided me the chance to strengthen this District, both academically and financially, so that it may continue to serve the residents of the Silicon Valley region for generations to come.”

During her tenure, Chancellor Cepeda was instrumental in restoring trust with voters and constituents, alike. While navigating the District through this generation’s most difficult economic crisis, Chancellor Cepeda helped move the District from being on “fiscal watch” with the State Chancellor’s Office to earning an AA rating from Standard & Poor’s and an Aa1 rating from Moody’s. During that time, Chancellor Cepeda also helped establish a clear blue print for student success and advanced community involvement through the creation of a Community Advisory Committee, leaving in place a strong legacy that will serve as a foundation for future success at the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District.

With the Chancellor retiring by the summer, the Board of Trustees will soon initiate a process to fill the Chancellor’s impending vacancy, beginning with open discussions about the next steps the District will take to attract a skilled, experienced administrator to fill Dr. Cepeda’s shoes.
“As a Board, we have the responsibility of seeking a Chancellor that will continue to build on Dr. Cepeda’s record of leadership and advance her many achievements,” said San Jose Evergreen Board of Trustees President Wendy Ho. “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank Chancellor Cepeda for all her efforts to transform our District into a statewide model for innovation and collaboration among stakeholders.”

In the coming weeks, more information will be released to the public about the steps the Board of Trustees will undertake in its effort to attract and retain the Chancellor Cepeda’s successor.

**About San Jose-Evergreen Community College District:** Located in the Santa Clara Valley, the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District encompasses more than 300 square miles, including a large portion of the city of San José and all of the city of Milpitas. The District includes the areas served by Milpitas and San José Unified School Districts, together with the Eastside Union High School District. The District is comprised of two colleges, Evergreen Valley College, established in 1975, and San José City College, the oldest community college in Santa Clara County, established in 1921, providing both college and technical education for the Silicon Valley workforce. For more information, visit [www.sjeccd.edu](http://www.sjeccd.edu).

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