



## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release:**

November 26, 2018

**For further information contact:**

Ryan Brown

Phone: 408-531-6172 | Email: ryan.brown@sjeccd.edu

### **San José – Evergreen CCD Names New Chancellor**

(San Jose, Calif.) —The San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) board of trustees appointed a new chancellor during its November meeting, unanimously selecting Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland for the position. Clift Breland has been serving in the role in an interim capacity since July 2018.

Dr. Clift Breland previously served as San José City College (SJCC) president from 2013 until his appointment as interim chancellor. He has held numerous instructional and administrative positions in K-12 and higher education. His innovative leadership has positioned SJCC among the top institutions in the nation in career education and workforce preparation. He now brings that innovative leadership to the entire District. “We are very fortunate to have such a visionary and transformative leader in Dr. Clift Breland to serve as District chancellor,” SJECCD Board President Mayra Cruz said. “Having such a great candidate already in the District ensures a smooth transition as we move into the next phase for SJECCD and continue the upward trajectory of the District.”

During his time as SJCC president and his tenure as interim chancellor, Dr. Clift Breland worked to develop partnerships in Silicon Valley that provide meaningful educational and job training experiences for the diverse student body of SJCC and Evergreen Valley College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in consumer economics and a Master of Science degree in family studies from the University of Maryland, College Park; a Master of Science in education and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology, both from the University of Southern California.

“I am thankful to the board of trustees for placing their confidence in me to be the next chancellor of San José – Evergreen Community College District. The District’s values of opportunity, equity, and social justice align with my personal values as an educator,” said Dr. Clift Breland. “I am honored to have the opportunity to continue working alongside my colleagues, including San José City College Acting President Jorge Escobar and Evergreen Valley College President Keith Aytch in service to our students and the entire community. Our District is well-positioned for this next chapter.”

In November 2016, voters of the District passed Measure X, a \$748 million general obligation bond. “With Measure X, we have an opportunity to reshape our campuses and create truly cutting edge 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning environments,” Dr. Clift Breland said.

During a period when many community colleges around the state are experiencing declining enrollment, SJECCD has seen its enrollment increase in recent years. In 2017 the District launched the San José Promise, which provides up to two years of cost-free education for qualifying students. Currently, nearly 1,000 students are attending San José City College or Evergreen Valley College as part of this program.

### **About San José – Evergreen Community College District**

Located in vibrant downtown San José in the heart of Silicon Valley, San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) encompasses more than 300 square miles, including the majority of the City of San José and all of the City of Milpitas. The District includes the areas served by San José Unified School District, Milpitas Unified School District, and East Side Union High School District. SJECCD is comprised of: Evergreen Valley College, established in 1975; San José City College, the first community college in Santa Clara County, established in 1921; the Community College Center for Economic Mobility (formerly the Workforce Institute) established in 1988; and the San José – Evergreen Community College Extension at Milpitas, established in 2016. For more information, visit [www.sjeccd.edu](http://www.sjeccd.edu).