San José – Evergreen CCD Fills Key Leadership Role

(San Jose, Calif.) — Following a nationwide search, San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) has named Jorge L. Escobar as its vice chancellor of administrative services. Escobar, who has been serving in the role in an interim capacity since early 2019, will have responsibility for SJECCD’s financial planning, resource allocation, and performance of the institution. As the chief business officer, he will lead multiple units including fiscal services, purchasing, and risk management, as well as bond program, police services, maintenance, and operations, among other areas.

“This is a very important leadership position within our District and it is critical as we navigate through the challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 crisis,” said Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland, SJECCD chancellor. “While serving as interim vice chancellor, Jorge has infused the right level of energy and ideas in order to simplify, enhance, or automate the operational environment. During this time, he’s led highly complex situations with integrity and elevated the fiscal positioning of the District as we received re-affirmation of AA+ and AA1 credit ratings from S&P and Moody’s in April 2020.”

Prior to his appointment as interim vice chancellor, Escobar took on the role of acting president at San José City College (SJCC) where he previously served as vice president of administrative services. Before joining SJCC, Escobar held various leadership positions with Princeton University, Laureate International Universities - The National Hispanic University, St. Augustine Universities, and Merrill Lynch. He has extensive experience in strategic planning, business reengineering, financial management, business development, technology implementations, online education, and oversight of construction projects.

During his tenure at SJCC, the college opened an extension site in Milpitas, upgraded multiple buildings and classrooms, modernized the campus infrastructure, and completed construction of a new physical education building and gymnasium, among other projects.

Escobar’s educational background includes a Master of Science in education from Walden University, Bachelor of Science in business administration-finance from Rider University, Bachelor of Science in business administration management from Thomas Edison State College, and an Associate of Applied Science in business administration and accounting from County College of Morris.
“I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and to so many colleagues who have kept me focused on our mission with their guidance and support,” Escobar said. “My commitment is to bring the best out of our District with our faculty and staff, to the people. We stand on the shoulders of so many who have dedicated their lives to provide access to quality higher education and I feel obligated to bring transformative possibilities to that vision.”

“Jorge has shown unwavering commitment to our District’s core values of Opportunity, Equity, and Social Justice throughout his career and certainly while he has been with our District,” Dr. Clift Breland added. “I look forward to continuing to work closely with him as we strive to continue bringing innovative educational programs and services to the cities of San Jose and Milpitas.”

Escobar’s appointment was approved by the SJECCD board of trustees during its May 12, 2020, meeting.

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

Located in vibrant downtown San José in the heart of Silicon Valley, the San José – Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) 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 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 (previously known as 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.