



El Monte Union High School District

Community Committed to College and Career

PRESS RELEASE

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El Monte Union State of the District Features Success Stories, Challenges

EL MONTE – El Monte Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga touted the District's successes, showcased award-winning academic programs through live student demonstrations and discussed the outlook over the next few years during the first-ever State of the District on Feb. 24.

"It has been an extraordinary year of successes for El Monte Union and we have been eager to share them with our community of students, teachers, administrators, parents and stakeholders – key drivers in shaping the achievement of our students and excellence of our District," Zuniga said.

Students from the VISTA video production academy at Mountain View High School kicked off the event with a live broadcast on the El Monte High School Auditorium stage that featured interviews of audience members, followed by a performance from the Arroyo High School acapella choir.

The event included an overview of the District's new vision, mission and goals, adopted this school year by the Board of Trustees, as well as its motto: Community Committed to College and Career.

"We have a lot of kids who face a variety of challenges," Zuniga said. "As educators, we hold the key to many of our students' hopes and dreams, and as a community, we have a responsibility to ensuring we can provide students with the opportunities to pursue their dreams of going to college and having a successful career."

Zuniga highlighted El Monte Union's accomplishments thus far, including achieving its 14th Golden Bell Award since 1994, being a top performing school district in student English language arts test scores and attaining its highest-ever attendance rates, just to name a few.

He also discussed the District's commitment to supporting college and career readiness by providing robust academic and co-curricular programs, including career technical education courses. Classroom innovation and technology was demonstrated by South El Monte High School students, who showcased their robotics skills and use of drones to enhance their learning.

The community also learned about facilities upgrades as well as community partnerships forged to ensure students receive emotional, academic and social support.

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In addition, the superintendent touched on the challenges ahead, including declining enrollment, the needs of immigrant students and underperforming student groups, and school safety.

"We as a District continue to do our due diligence to ensure students remain safe on campus, instill in them the belief that they will be successful, champion their civil rights, prepare them for the rigors of the future and embrace the challenges ahead with fortitude," Zuniga said.

Watch the State of the District, filmed by VISTA Academy students, at <http://bit.ly/2oJVMjk>.

PHOTO CAPTION:

030618_EMUHSO_STATEOFDISTRICT: El Monte Union Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga holds the District's first State of the District, which provided the community with an overview of the District's successes thus far and upcoming challenges on Feb. 24.

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The vision of the El Monte Union High School District is to empower and motivate our students to be resilient, college and career ready, lifelong learners and contributing members of our global society.