El Monte Union High School District
Community Committed to College and Career

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 16, 2026 **CONTACT:** Maria Hernandez **PHONE:** (909) 447-2406

El Monte Union Scholar Selected to Serve on LACOE Student Advisory Council

EL MONTE – Rosemead High School junior Catherina Cheung has grown considerably since coming to the El Monte Union campus as a freshman, working closely with her teachers on assignments, asking for feedback, learning from her mistakes, treating her classmates with respect, and bringing passion to everything she does.

Cheung is now bringing that enthusiasm to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) as a member of the 2026-27 Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, where she will help Rosemead, El Monte Union, and L.A. County students find their voices so they can make decisions that reflect their views and advocate for change.

"I participate in many activities on campus, and it has helped me see how students work together to make decisions," Cheung said. "School is a major chapter of our lives as teenagers, and there is so much going on that impacts us, thus it is key that we navigate these chapters in a safe and nurturing environment. My goal for the Student Advisory Council is to represent all students and change school life for the better."

Cheung loves a challenge. As a sophomore, she tackled Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus, a subject generally reserved for seniors, as well as other AP courses and programs. This year, Cheung founded Rosemead High's Research Initiative Club, which encourages students to work together to run real experiments and gather live data. Cheung hopes to make research more accessible to students.

"Congratulations to Catherina for her selection to the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council," El Monte Union Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. "Catherina is continuing a proud tradition of El Monte Union students who are passionate about leadership and determined to advocate for change."

With 86 students representing 47 school districts, the Student Advisory Council gives young leaders an opportunity to advocate for issues affecting their peers. In addition to participating in the council's broader efforts, Cheung serves on the Immigrant Committee, where she focuses on policies affecting immigrant and newcomer students.

As a first-generation student of Panamanian and Chinese heritage, Cheung brings a personal understanding of the importance of cultural representation, language access, and inclusion to her work, helping advance policies that support students from diverse backgrounds.

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“Navigating school as a first-generation student helped me shape resilience and understand the perspectives of the diverse experience that students undergo, which inspires me to go beyond the surface level of supporting students, especially newcomers,” Cheung said.

Cheung displayed her potential as a freshman while taking Rosemead High English teacher Stacy Lim’s Pre-AP English 1 class. Two years later, Cheung is supporting Lim as a teacher’s assistant in the same class. Lim said she not only sees Cheung’s academic potential, but her humanitarian qualities as well.

“Catherina treats everyone with empathy, kindness, and respect,” Lim said. “She creates opportunities for others with her involvement in clubs, is eager to tutor her classmates, and do community service. Even when she has setbacks, it makes her more determined to help others and provide them with agency. She has the humility to reflect, grow, and keep moving forward in her commitment to improving herself and those around her.”

Cheung is a member of Rosemead High’s Key Club, serving on the division leadership team, and helping the club prepare for the organization’s Fall Rally at Six Flags Magic Mountain in November. Club members will compete with peers from across Southern California in chant battles, all while helping raise money for civic events and charities.

Cheung also co-founded Rosemead STEMsters during her sophomore year and serves as the chapter’s public relations chair, overseeing social media and creating digital content to encourage student engagement. She also co-tutors elementary students in kindergarten through fourth grade at after-school programs, helping introduce young learners to science, technology, engineering, and math. On campus, Cheung is also a member of the KROSES K-Pop dance team, where she continues to pursue her interest in dance.

“Dancing is something I really love. I’ve been dancing since I was five years old, and it helps relieve stress. Being part of KROSES is so much fun, from performing at school events and talent shows to bonding with friends,” Cheung said. “All of these experiences have helped me build confidence and learn to work with others, and I know they will help me make the most of my role on the LACOE Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council.”

PHOTO CAPTION:

EMUHSD_LACOE STUDENT COUNCIL_1: Rosemead High School junior Catherina Cheung was selected to be a member of the Los Angeles County Office of Education 2026-27 Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council where she will help Rosemead, El Monte Union, and L.A. County students find their voices so they can make decisions that reflect their views and advocate for change.

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