



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 8, 2023 CONTACT: Maria Hernandez PHONE: (909) 447-2406

## El Monte Union School Recognized as 2023 Model Continuation High School

**EL MONTE** – Fernando R. Ledesma High School (FRLHS) has been recognized as a 2023 Model Continuation High School by the California Department of Education (CDE) for successfully providing a high-quality education to students through modern and innovative practices, including leading-edge technology, social and emotional wellness services and college and career pathways.

Fernando R. Ledesma High School is one of 37 schools in the state to be recognized by the CDE, which awards schools that provide exemplary programs to at-risk youth through the use of innovative instructional strategies, flexible scheduling and guidance counseling services.

“Congratulations to our students, families, faculty, staff and community members for coming together as a team to create a model school atmosphere for our students,” FRLHS Principal Freddy Arteaga said. “My goal has always been to lead a school that all stakeholders and community members can be proud of. We are extremely excited for the opportunity to connect with other continuation schools to help them in their journey toward one day becoming a model school.”

FRLHS currently provides MacBooks and Chromebooks for all students, removing many barriers to their success. Students also have the opportunity to engage in enriching programs, clubs and activities through the Learning Enrichment & Academic Resources Network (LEARN). The program includes art, music, wellness activities and tutoring services which encourage academic and social growth for students.

In 2022, FRLHS celebrated the grand opening of the Multipurpose Building and Gymnasium. The site houses a performance space, sports facilities, a snack bar, concession and lobby areas, restrooms, classrooms and a learning garden.

To become a Model Continuation High School, applicant schools undergo a series of evaluations, including classroom observations, interviews with parents and students, and an assessment of the school’s overall infrastructure and resources. FRLHS will retain its designation for three years and will be recognized at the California Continuation Education Association Plus 2023 State Conference in San Diego from April 27 to April 30.

“This recognition would not have been possible without our dedicated teachers and staff who work tirelessly to ensure the success of our students,” Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. “I’m honored that our school was recognized as a Model Continuation School, and hope this award inspires the community to continue striving for greatness.”

**PHOTO CAPTIONS:**

**EMUHSD MODEL SCHOOL 1:** Fernando R. Ledesma's principal Freddy Arteaga (left), security guard Alejandra Rodriguez (center), and community liaison Ernie Alvarado (right) host the California Department of Education during the Model Continuation High School visit on Nov. 10, 2022.

**EMUHSD MODEL SCHOOL 2:** A Fernando R. Ledesma High School student and paraeducator Marisa Fry engage in classroom activities during the California Department of Education Model Continuation High School site visit on Nov. 10, 2022.

# # #

*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.*