

News Release

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Kickoff Event to Highlight Launch of the Stanislaus Education Partnership

Representatives from the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), California State University, Stanislaus (CSUS), and Modesto Junior College (MJC) will announce the launch of the **Stanislaus Education Partnership** at a kickoff event on **Thursday, June 18 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Stanislaus County Library (1500 I Street, Modesto).

Goals of the Stanislaus Education Partnership include:

- Increasing college enrollment in the region
- Increasing college graduation rates
- Reducing the time to a degree
- Closing the achievement gap for underrepresented students

Recognizing that many successful programs are in place, the Stanislaus Education Partnership will focus on scaling-up evidenced-based best practices to reach a broader population of students. Those slated to speak at the event about the partnership goals are: Tom Changnon, Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Sheley, CSU, Stanislaus President, and Jill Steans, MJC President. Also scheduled to speak about the importance of collaborations and partnerships are Marian Kaanon from the Stanislaus Community Foundation and David White with the Stanislaus Business Alliance.

“Modesto Junior College is excited to embark in this new educational partnership,” said MJC President Jill Stearns. “We believe that the formal and purposeful commitment of Stanislaus County Office of Education, MJC, and California State University Stanislaus to work together to ensure pathways to higher education for students is a positive step. We are committed to

increasing the education rates in Stanislaus County and creating a skilled workforce that is prepared to meet the needs of our local employers.”

Superintendent Tom Changnon is also excited about the increased collaboration between these educational entities. “We have launched Destination Graduation to increase the numbers of high school graduates in this county, and this new partnership provides the students who want to go on to college a better opportunity to do so and then to be successful once they enroll.”

Joseph Sheley said that the economic health of the region depends on a well-educated populace, and that the Partnership is a positive step in that direction. “The better we prepare students to succeed at every step in their education, the better prepared they will be to succeed at college and in the workplace upon graduation.”

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