



**San José / Evergreen
Community College District**

NEWS

Creating Opportunity, Equity and Social Justice

Contact: Monica Gomez
Public Information Officer
(408) 759-0626 monica.gomez@sjeccd.edu
www.sjeccd.edu

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT GRANTS SAN JOSE/EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT PERMISSION TO FILE AS AMICUS CURIAE

(November 2, 2009---SAN JOSE, CA) The San José/Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) has been granted permission to file a brief Amicus Curiae (or friend of the court), that allows the California Supreme Court to consider information and arguments presented as it reviews the legal challenge to AB 540. AB 540 is a State law enacted in 2002 that exempts students who have attended high school in California for three or more years and graduated, from paying nonresident tuition at California's public colleges and universities.

SJECCD is the only institution of higher learning in the state to file an amicus curiae that focuses primarily on the tremendous benefits that community colleges and our State as a whole reap by giving thousands of deserving students in California high schools an opportunity to pursue higher education that they might otherwise have to forego. Specifically, SJECCD provided briefing on the critical role played by AB 540 in enabling colleges and universities throughout California to comply with and further state legislative policy goals relating to diversity, bridging the achievement gap, reducing the drop-out rate and strengthening California's workforce, among others. SJECCD's brief also included the voice of students, offering a snapshot of the tremendous human and intellectual capital that would be lost to our campuses if the statute were overturned.

Board President Randy Okamura states: "We are pleased that the Supreme Court will consider our compelling public policy issues when making its decision. We are inspired by the hardworking and high achieving student leaders who attend our college campuses because of AB 540.

MORE...



**San José / Evergreen
Community College District**

NEWS

Creating Opportunity, Equity and Social Justice

Contact: Monica Gomez
Public Information Officer
(408) 759-0626 monica.gomez@sjeccd.edu
www.sjeccd.edu

Page Two of Two

Continuing access to college for thousands of our students who have attended public schools for most of their lives and who want to contribute and succeed is critical to our mission and critical to California’s future. “

SJECCD Chancellor Rosa G. Pérez agrees and says this effort helps layout the significance of the statewide bill. “AB 540 has strengthened our college campuses. By taking this action, we honor and recognize the immigrant experience as an asset and value it, as it makes us strong.”

SJECCD prides itself in creating an environment focused on equity and excellence in student success, respecting the strength of the heritages and life experiences of its students and communities to build more responsive colleges. The District is nationally renowned for its advocacy to develop policies and educational approaches that incorporate the knowledge it has gained from critically analyzing global, national and immigrant experiences. SJECCD has approached its work with the intention of reframing the standard definitions of student and institutional success. The District’s core values are opportunity, equity and social justice. Each one of these values is incorporated into strategic planning and is a part of the foundational commitments the district makes to its communities as it uses the tool of higher education to bring them to life.

###



**San José / Evergreen
Community College District**

Creating Opportunity, Equity and Social Justice

Contact: Monica Gomez
Public Information Officer
(408) 759-0626 monica.gomez@sjeccd.edu
www.sjeccd.edu

NEWS