

## News Release

*For Immediate Release: October 11, 2001*

### *East Side ACCEL Middle College— Achieving its Goal!*

ACCEL Middle College, a special cooperative program between East Side Union High School District and San Jose City/Evergreen Community College District is realizing success. It's goal is to prepare high school students for college. Their graduates are successfully attending the following universities and colleges:

**University of California:** Los Angeles, Berkeley, Davis, Riverside, Santa Cruz , Irving, Santa Barbara, San Diego, **California State University:** San Jose, San Francisco, Humboldt, Sonoma, San Diego, **Private Universities:** Santa Clara, Tuskegee, Stanford, University of San Francisco, **Community College:** De Anza, and Evergreen Valley.

ACCEL students spend their junior and senior years of high school on the Evergreen Valley College campus instead of at their home schools. Students from all of the district's fifteen high schools have participated in the program.

To participate in the program, students must enroll and successfully complete 8 college units each semester, while also completing demanding, college prep high school courses. All students are enrolled in English, Social Studies, and AVID, all of which prepare them to meet four-year college requirements. Interested and qualified students apply to ACCEL after attending information meetings at their high school in February and/or evening meetings held at Evergreen Valley college two different evenings in March. All candidates must take the Evergreen Valley College placement test and demonstrate college readiness (level 2) in order to be considered for admission to the program. ACCEL maintains an enrollment of 40-50 students.

Although the majority of Accel students enroll in universities directly upon graduation from high school; other student remain at Evergreen Valley College and transfer to a four-year college.

This year begins the fifth year for the program and the staff hears regularly from its alumni who have completed their college degrees and are pursuing careers.

**Christian Rebugio**, ACCEL class of 1998, earned a degree in Computer Science from CSU Monterrey Bay in May 2001. Many might attribute his success to his "getting a head start". However **Diem Pham**, a junior at UCLA states that "participation in the ACCEL Middle College program is not about getting ahead; it's about being prepared."

For more information call **Cris Bent**, program manager 408.928.9127 or Accel office 408.274.7900 x6881.

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