

News Release

For Immediate Release: September 12, 2000

Superintendent Joe Coto Participates with U.S. Secretary of Education in Townhall Meeting

Last week on the Little Saigon radio station Superintendent Joe Coto of the East Side Union High School District participated with U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard Riley, in a National Townhall meeting conducted via radio.

The broadcast was organized to allow Secretary Riley to address his national educational priorities to the Vietnamese communities throughout the United States. East Side was asked to participate because it was the first district in the nation to offer Vietnamese as a foreign language. The district piloted the first course, Vietnamese 1, to 100 students in 1993. Today the district offers Vietnamese 1, 2, 3 & 4 and over 1,000 students are enrolled in these classes. The Vietnamese language courses offered by East Side meet the foreign language requirement for entrance to University of California and the California State University systems. East Side teachers and staff also took the initiative to develop a set of textbooks to assist instructors in teaching these courses. The textbooks have been shared with many school districts in the nation.

Secretary Riley asked Superintendent Coto to participate in the Townhall to highlight this successful initiative. During the broadcast Secretary Riley complimented East Side for being a pioneer in this effort and encouraged other districts to initiate similar programs.

Parents from around the country participated in the Townhall and applauded East Side's pioneering efforts.

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