

## **News Release**

*For Immediate Release: January 30, 2001*

### ***East Side Pursues Creative Options for Challenged Students***

In an effort to provide greater options and alternatives for limited English speaking students, last night, the East Side Union High School District Board of Trustees approved a request by the National Hispanic University to open a Latino College Preparatory Academy Charter School. This request was the second one received by the District and approved by the Board.

This Preparatory Charter School will open next September and will target 100 limited English speaking 9th-grade students who have low reading, writing and computational skills. The students will undergo intensive reading, writing and English language arts instruction using the state-approved resources and frameworks. They will also receive instruction in other core and elective areas. In cooperation with the District, the students will participate in regular high school extra-curricular activities such as sports, clubs and internships.

The previously approved charter, MACSA Academica Calmecac, is aimed at providing support to students who are not experiencing success in the traditional school and likely to drop out of school. The purpose of both of these charter schools is to provide small learning environments where students receive intensive and personalized support.

Approximately 20% of East Side's 24,000 students are English language learners and many have difficulties transitioning in the traditional high school environments. Board President Craig Mann was encouraged by last night's action. "I am very proud of the courage this board demonstrated last night by approving the National Hispanic University Charter Petition. We clearly understand that students' interests are the only reason we exist as a Board, not for individual political interests or for the benefit of any particular interest groups. The East Side School Board believes that it will take quantum leaps of faith, innovation, personal courage and continuous improvement to guarantee that all of our students are offered choices within the public school system that will lead to success in and beyond school."



**Superintendent**  
Joe Coto

**Board of Trustees**  
Craig Mann, President  
J. Manuel Herrera, Vice President  
Jeff Ota, Clerk  
Patricia Martinez-Roach, Member  
Pat Juanita Ramirez, Member

**DISTRICT CONTACT:** *Lorraine Guerin,*  
*Director of Planning 408.347.5040*