

## News Release

*For Immediate Release: October 21, 2003*

# East Side and Santa Clara University Receive Teaching American History Grant

The United States Department of Education has awarded the East Side Union High School District over \$662,000 to implement a three-year project to improve teachers' knowledge, understanding and appreciation for American history through intensive, ongoing professional development.

The District, in collaboration with three K-8 school districts, will work with the Santa Clara University History and Education Departments to provide extensive professional development to approximately 150 teachers regarding major issues of American History and to provide the same opportunities for 25 pre-service teachers from the university who plan to teach in this content area at the middle or high school level.

The goals of this project are to enhance instruction in under-performing schools, nurture collaboration and mentoring among historians, teachers, and teacher educators, and provide guidance to American history teachers in grades 4, 5, 8 and 11 on using technology to develop effective instructional strategies for teaching students to access and work with primary historical documents.

In announcing the award, **U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige** stated that the Teaching American History grants provide "a powerful tool for teachers." "For three years, they link together our nation's history teachers with professional historians and other experts. We do this because teachers who have a deep and vast knowledge of their subject are better able to inspire their students, to fully engage their minds and to imbue them with a lifelong taste for learning."

"This grant is an exciting opportunity to partner with our feeder schools and Santa Clara University in improving instruction in American History, in providing support and training to new and experienced teachers, and in ensuring that our students have access to a first-class curriculum and highly qualified teachers," said East Side Union High School District **Superintendent Esperanza Zendejas, Ed. D.**



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