



EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

830 N. Capitol Avenue • San Jose, CA 95133

News Release

For Immediate Release:

Media Advisory

Third Annual Bilingual Certification Reception Honors Students from

East Side Union High School District

Students will be officially recognized by District for bilingual proficiency.

East Side Union High School District Office

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

6:30 p.m.

At a reception co-sponsored by the East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD), and Californians for Justice, two hundred and sixty four (264) students will be recognized for their bilingual skills. The bilingual certificate is an official recognition of their ability to speak, read, write, and understand both English and another language. Students from throughout the district, who are bilingual in English and Spanish (143), Vietnamese (111), French (5), or German (5), will be recognized and will receive an official notation on their transcript.

The program is one of only a handful in the country that officially certifies students as bilingual, and is part of a growing movement towards recognizing and valuing bilingual literacy. More than 60% of East Side high school students speak a language other than English, but young people are losing their home languages at a faster rate now than in any prior generation.

“On behalf of the entire East Side community, I want to applaud the students for their perseverance and accomplishments in two languages. Proficiency and high levels of literacy in both languages are expected in order to receive bilingual certification upon graduation. I wish to commend the Board of Trustees who will again officially recognize, honor, and celebrate bilingualism,” stated Superintendent Nunez.

Lucilla Ortiz, a CFJ leader and graduating senior who will be honored stated: “Bilingual Certification is a first step towards recognizing and honoring students who struggle to learn English or maintain their home language.”

Bilingual Certification will ensure that bilingual students are recognized, helping open the door to job opportunities as well as valuing language diversity in our community.

**Please Join us on Tuesday May 30, 2006 at the East Side Union High School District Office (830 N. Capitol Ave. San Jose, CA 95133)
Contact Aurora Quevedo, Ed.D. 347-5172**