Press Release
For Immediate Release
September 16, 2016

7,000 ATTEND CUSD COLLEGE FAIR
125 Universities, Colleges, Technical, Arts Schools & Military Academies Represented

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA – Over 7,000 students, parents and college representatives attended the Capistrano Unified School District’s 2016 College Fair, sponsored by the Capistrano Unified Council PTSA. Over 125 representatives from Universities & Colleges, Technical & Trade Schools, Art & Film Schools and Military Academies were there recruiting CUSD students. Organizers say attendance is up over 2,000 from 2015.

“The students were all asking great questions of the college representatives,” said San Juan Hills High School PTSA President and event organizer Debbie Bursey. “Harvard, Duke, Cornell, and Purdue were some of the big-name schools in attendance. We also had a lot of small art schools and so we hit all the bases,” Bursey says.

Brendan Brudevold, a junior at Aliso Niguel High School, said he had been looking forward to the college fair since school started.

“This definitely makes me feel better. Before I just thought I had to submit something to some far-away place but now I have someone to talk to who reassures me that you just have to do these few things and you need to do these requirements and you’re good to go,” Brudevold says. “Also they helped me a lot by telling me I am going to adapt to student life easily. That was very reassuring to me.”

Ivy League schools weren’t the only tables with long lines. The University of Iowa’s table had a steady stream of parents and students picking up pamphlets and asking questions. University of Iowa recruiter Scott Carlson says the college sees a lot of value in a CUSD-educated student. “Most all CUSD students are really college ready and that speaks to the teachers. We want those students that are ready to go to college. They are going to be our leaders on our campus.”

Bruce Tatrusko, a recruiter from Cornell University, echoed those thoughts. “We met a lot of great kids and parents, so we're hoping to see a resurgence of applications from this district in the coming months.” Capistrano Unified School District Board members and Superintendent Vital also visited the College Fair Thursday night. “To see the sparkle of excitement in the students’ eyes tonight as they get ready for that next step in their education…that’s why we do what we do,” stated Board President Amy Hanacek. “Knowing they are ready for that next step speaks to the quality of education in every CUSD school. From kindergarten to college and career, a CUSD education provides all of our students an amazing array of choices and opportunities."
For students like San Juan Hills junior Kristie Lynn, the College Fair turns college anxiety into college anticipation. “It’s amazing to see all of these booths together because I have never been in this sort of environment before,” Lynn says. “To see all of these schools I can choose from and potentially go to…it’s pretty awesome.”

A big thank-you to everyone who helped organize the event, including our sponsors: CUCPTSA; Outback Steakhouse, Laguna Hills; COSTCO, Capistrano Beach; Ciro Design and Brand U.