

For Immediate Release: May 27, 2020

Galt Joint Union High School District Named a College Board Advanced Placement District of the Year

**District Recognized for Increasing Access and Performance, Particularly for Traditionally
Underrepresented Minority Students**

GALT, CALIFORNIA— Galt Joint Union High School District in California has been named a College Board Advanced Placement® District of the Year for being the national leader among small-sized school districts—defined as having less than 8,000 students—in expanding access to Advanced Placement (AP®) courses while simultaneously improving AP Exam performance. Galt Joint Union students, teachers, district and school administrators, and College Board leadership celebrate these achievements as the school year ends.

Galt Joint Union High School District was one of 250 school districts across the U.S. and Canada that achieved placement on the annual AP District Honor Roll. From this list, three AP Districts of the Year—one for each category of district population size: small, medium, and large—were selected based on an analysis of three academic years of AP data. Galt Joint Union High School District is one of seven California districts to earn this honor in the past decade.

“We are so very honored and excited about this distinct honor,” said William Spalding, Superintendent of Galt Joint Union High School District. “It comes after years of hard work, dedication, and a single-minded pursuit of vastly expanding college-going opportunities for students and continuously improving teaching and learning of advanced subjects. Galt has a rich and proud heritage in career and technical education and Agricultural education. It’s what we’re known for. This distinction demonstrates that we are a ‘both/and’ district, not an ‘either/or’ district. We offer rich and expansive preparation for careers *and* college—we can do both, and well. We are FFA *and* Ivy League. It also goes to show that you can both expand your AP offerings and the variety of students who take the courses, and still increase your levels of achievement. We are immensely proud.”

“This award shows that Galt High School is challenging many students to achieve at the highest levels,” said Trevor Packer, head of the College Board AP Program. “Galt is ensuring that a more diverse population of students is earning college credit in a wide variety of AP subjects. Congratulations to all the educators and students whose dedication and hard work garnered this well-deserved recognition.”

From 2017 to 2019, Galt Joint Union High School District:

- Simultaneously and continuously increased the number of students taking AP classes while improving successful outcomes (a score of 3 or higher) on AP Exams, with 69% of all AP students scoring a 3 or higher on at least one exam in 2019;
- Increased AP student participation by 11% annually and the percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam by 9% annually; and
- Increased the percentage of traditionally underrepresented minority AP students earning a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam by 11% annually—an increase of 38 students since 2017. (Over 59% of Galt’s AP students are American Indian, African American, Hispanic/Latino or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. Forty-eight percent of the district’s AP students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.)

Increasing access to AP coursework while simultaneously increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher is the ideal scenario. It means the district is successfully preparing a larger number of students for the rigor of AP and college studies. Participating in AP coursework can lead to college savings for families. The typical student who scores a 3 or higher on two AP Exams can save, on average, \$1,779 at a public four-year college and over \$6,000 at a private institution.

In 2019, more than 4,000 colleges and universities worldwide received AP scores for college credit, placement, or consideration in the admissions process. Many colleges and universities in the U.S. offer credit in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores.

To learn more about AP, visit **exploreap.org**.

About Galt Joint Union High School District

Galt Joint Union High School District provides a high school education (grades 9-12) for students from the Galt Elementary, Oak View Elementary, New Hope Elementary and Arcohe Elementary School Districts. The district is located approximately 30 miles south of Sacramento on both sides of CA Highway 99. Originally an agricultural region, the district now remains partially agricultural, but has also become a southern suburb of Sacramento, with extensive housing developments and associated commercial and retail businesses.

The district has approximately 2200 students: 54% Hispanic or Latino, 36% White and 10% other races. 7% of students are designated as English learners, and 59% are socioeconomically disadvantaged. For most of the district’s history, the students have been served by one comprehensive high school, Galt High School. As the number of residences in the district increased in the 1990’s and 2000’s, a second comprehensive high school,

Liberty Ranch High School was built, opening in 2009. Both schools offer a full comprehensive high school program to their students, including AG classes, AP classes, and CTE Pathways classes. Intervention and support classes are offered to students who need them, with a special focus on English Learners and Students with Disabilities.

The district also operates Estrellita Continuation High School on a satellite campus near Liberty Ranch High School. Students are referred to Estrellita by a committee that determines the best placement for a student based upon their academic, behavioral, and socioemotional needs.