



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **2020 Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award Winner Announced**

“This year we selected Jorge Montijo for his dedication, advocacy, and innovation in supporting students reach their dreams.”

**SACRAMENTO, Calif., October 2nd, 2020** — A high school counselor from Panorama High School has been selected as the winner of the Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award for outstanding achievements in high school counseling. Montijo started his career in education over 15 years ago with the Los Angeles Unified School District as an educator in the Special Education department working with students with special needs. Since then he has worked at various institutions while pursuing education himself. Montijo holds an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts, a Bachelors degree in Sociology and a Masters in Counseling from California State University, Northridge (CSUN). As Panorama High School’s College & Career Counselor, he has been able to help send the highest number of Panorama High School students into 4-year universities.

Mr. Montijo, was nominated by a colleague of his, Nancy Soto. In her nomination, Nancy stated “Mr. Montijo goes above and beyond to work with all Panorama HS students to ensure higher education equity and access for all of our students. If he leaves at 4PM- it is an early day for him. He has high expectation for students, but they rise to the occasion. He takes a team approach in his work and in his short time as the College & Career Counselor, he has managed to work with other school staff, counselors and teachers...Last month as our Panorama HS students were applying to their UC/CSU schools, he was able to get teachers to come volunteer during their Thanksgiving week off from school to come and read EOP questions and PIQs for the CSU/UC applications, respectively.”

“The work that I do as the College & Career Counselor could not be possible without the full support and contributions of my colleagues including those that work behind the scenes such as custodial, cafeteria, clerical, technology, and parent center staff,” said Montijo. “At Panorama High School & Magnets every senior is expected to submit at least 1 college and financial aid application. All our students know that applying to college is an expectation-regardless of their future plans. We have set high standards for our students to be college and career ready and provide them the support to help them meet this

expectation. Developing a college culture is the responsibility of every educator. We must not become complacent with our work but strive to be able to make a positive impact in the lives of all our students and the families we serve.”

“Every year it becomes more difficult to choose from the many deserving high school counselors that are nominated. This year we selected Jorge Montijo for his dedication, advocacy, and innovation in supporting students reach their dreams,” said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission. “Once we heard from fellow peers, students, and parents who described his work, it was made clear that Mr. Montijo was the right person for this award”.

The presentation of Mr. Montijo’s award, included a California Legislative resolution, a commemorative plaque and a cash prize sponsored by ECMC. Montijo was also honored via a Zoom ceremony earlier today where various family, friends, students, and community leaders were present.

Marmaduke Award nominations are solicited annually by the California Student Aid Commission and is named after one of the longest running executive directors of the Commission Arthur S. Marmaduke. He served the Commission for 25 years from 1960 to 1985 and the award was established in 1985 to carry on his legacy of making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.

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*The California Student Aid Commission administers the state’s \$2.8 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policy makers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing a higher education. Visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov> or follow us on Twitter @castudentaid.*