**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Latino student conferences to inspire teenage students March 4 and 22**

*Nationally known speakers tell of overcoming obstacles*

Two upcoming events will have Clovis Unified intermediate and high school students learning about the Latino culture, hearing from inspiring speakers and meeting community mentors who will be sharing their stories.

The CUSD Latino Student Success High School Conference, March 4, and the Officer Jesus Ceron Latino Student Success Middle School Conference, March 22, are the final two of the district’s 2023-24 series of leadership conferences that are open to all students regardless of ethnicity.

“Knowing each other’s culture and diversity is important and can lead to better understanding between students and our community,” said event organizer CUSD Coordinator of Community Relations Saul Salinas, Ed.D.

At the high school conference, students will hear from **Gabe Salazar**, who was recognized as the No. 1 Latino Youth Speaker by “Popular Hispanics” magazine. He encourages students to dream big as he shares how he overcame homelessness, hopelessness and gang influences to become the first in his family to go to college. (*Learn more: gabesalazar.com*)

At the intermediate conference, will be best-selling author **Ovi Vásquez,** a well-known speaker who inspires students with his story of growing up in Central America without electricity and his journey to the U.S. as a teenager and being mislabeled as a truant. Determined and on his own, he overcame his obstacles, ultimately attending Harvard Business School, working for global corporations and writing six books. (*Learn more: ovinspires.com*)

The conferences are designed for students to learn about themselves and others, and to become aware of opportunities beyond school during college and career sessions. Keynote speakers provide relatable experiences that encourage students to dream big and pursue their passion. Breakout sessions include opportunities to meet local mentors and take part in cultural demonstrations.

**WHAT:                Clovis Unified Latino Student Success High School Conference**

**WHEN:**                March 4 – 9:15 a.m. – Opening Ceremony; 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Breakout Sessions

**WHO:**                   Around 600 students to hear from popular speaker **Gabe Salazar**

**WHERE:**              Performing Art Center at Clovis North Educational Center, 2770 E. International, Fresno

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**WHAT:                CUSD Officer Jesus Ceron Latino Student Success Middle School Conference**

**WHEN:**                March 22 – 9:15 a.m. – Opening Ceremony; 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Breakout Sessions

**WHO:**                   Around 300 students to hear from nationally known speaker **Ovi Vásquez**

**WHERE:**              Kastner Intermediate School, Fresno

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