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NOVEMBER 16, 2020

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## **SEBASTIAN CAZARES ELECTED TO COC BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS YOUNGEST EVER ELECTED IN SANTA CLARITA, LA COUNTY HISTORY**

In a historic victory, Sebastian Cazares was elected by the voters of Santa Clarita Community College District Trustee Area 3 to serve on the College of the Canyons Board of Trustees, becoming the youngest-ever elected official in Santa Clarita history at the age of 20.

“I am truly humbled to be elected by the community members of my hometown,” said Cazares. “This campaign was powered by a diverse coalition of students, educators, and college staff who wanted meaningful representation in government. Our historic win means that COC’s students, for the first time, will have someone on the Board of Trustees who knows intimately the struggles they’re experiencing.”

As of November 13, Cazares earned 13,407 votes, 52.06% of the total votes counted in Trustee Area 3.

“As a Saugus High and COC alum, our public schools built me into the passionate advocate I am today,” said Cazares. “I’m ready to fight for equity for our students, educators, school staff, and community members — especially our most marginalized — with all the strength and tools I’ll have as a trustee.”

When sworn in, Cazares will be the youngest current college trustee in California and the youngest-ever elected official on record in L.A. County. Cazares joins Napa Valley College trustee Gabriel Sanchez, elected in 2015, as one of the youngest college trustees and one of the youngest Latinos ever elected in the state. In addition to overturning the previous record of being the youngest-ever elected official in Santa Clarita history, Cazares’ win comes from the work of a team composed almost exclusively of young people of color. Cazares’ team is led by campaign manager Joelle Min and field director Mai Nguyen Do, both Academy of the Canyons and COC graduates.

Cazares is endorsed by the COC Faculty Association, California Teachers Association, American Federation of Teachers Local 6262, Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, and California School Employees Association Chapter 725. He is also supported by local leaders, including trustees Dr. Edel Alonso and Joan MacGregor, and youth advocates such as 2019-20 Saugus High School Student Body President Andrei Mojica and 2019-20 COC Board of Trustees Student Representative Basil Aranda.

During his term as COC Associated Student Government President, Cazares presided over a nearly \$1 million dollar budget and a variety of services critical to ensuring the success and well-being of the COC community. He also advocated on behalf of students at the California State Capitol and served on the Independent Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee for Measures E and M.

Cazares is a lifelong Saugus resident. He gained his passion for advocacy at Saugus High School and represented the school at American Legion Boys State. After graduating from Saugus High in 2018, he continued his education at College of the Canyons and was later elected to serve as the college’s ASG president. Cazares is currently a UCLA undergraduate studying American Politics and Chicano Studies. He is inspired by family, including his relatives who served in the military and marched with Cesar Chavez in the fight for civil rights, as well as his parents and brother, who fuel his dedication to service.