



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

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STUDENTS, COUNTY PARTNER TO HELP LOW-INCOME FAMILIES ***Tax Assistance and Food Stamp Screenings Offered***

WHAT: *Thrive San Diego* is a new partnership between the County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), California State University San Marcos and San Diego State University through which students screen low-income families for food stamp eligibility and for the completion of no-cost income tax returns.

County supervisors will be joined by two college presidents, County health officials, community service providers, and student volunteers to officially announce the *Thrive San Diego* partnership.

WHO: **Supervisor Greg Cox**, First District, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Ron Roberts, Fourth District, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, Director, County Health and Human Services Agency
Dr. Stephen L. Weber, President, San Diego State University
Dr. Karen S. Haynes, President, California State University-San Marcos
Adriana Santos and other SDSU and CSUSM Student Interns and Volunteers

WHEN: **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M.**

WHERE: **SAY San Diego**
4340 Genesee Ave. Suite 207—San Diego

WHY: Approximately 70 student interns and volunteers from CSUSM and SDSU participate in the campaign, which is expected to run through April 15.

Every year, HHS and its many partners set up Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) sites throughout the region where low-income families can file their income taxes at no-cost.

This year, nine of the 75 EITC sites have been designated "Super Sites" where students provide screening for food stamp eligibility in addition to tax preparation. Two of the "Super Sites" are completely managed and operated by students.

The students have been marketing the EITC and food stamp materials at schools, businesses, community centers, churches, and local grocery stores.

Nearly 20 institutions, agencies and organizations participate in the Thrive San Diego Initiative.

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