PRESS RELEASE: To place on website with Final Survey Report and Executive Summary following tonight's Board presentation. This is for web placement ONLY, not for press dissemination.

June 27, 2018

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Mt. San Antonio College Community Survey Shows Strong Support for College and Needed Upgrades

Walnut, CA – An independent community survey commissioned by the Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) shows residents strongly support the affordable, quality programs Mt. SAC provides. The College serves Baldwin Park, City of Industry, Covina, Diamond Bar, Glendora (southern portion), Irwindale, La Puente, La Verne, Pomona, San Dimas, Walnut, West Covina, Bassett, Charter Oak, Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights and Valinda.

Conducted in May 2018 by FM3 Research, the survey provides insight into constituent perspectives on current academic needs, with concerns about *safety*, *vocational education* and *affordability* topping the list. For example, eighty-five percent of respondents want *Mt. Sac to expand access to their high quality*, *affordable education so that more students can attend college*.

Residents identified a number of priorities including: preparing students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, repairing deteriorating gas, electrical and sewer lines, repairing decaying walls, drainage systems and leaky roofs, improving student safety, improving access for disabled students, and expanding vocational programs for disabled students, among other priorities.

Said Mt. Sac President and Superintendent Dr. William Scroggins, "Our district not only helps students transfer to four-year universities, but allows high school students to get a jumpstart on earning college credit by taking courses. We are so pleased that our communities value these services and want to see our college buildings and classrooms upgraded so we can continue this important work."

"Vocational education that provides job training, technical knowledge and specialized skills to compete for good-paying, modern careers is essential for our students. We must continue upgrading workforce development programs to train and prepare students for today's in-demand jobs and a competitive global economy," continued President Scroggins.

Residents also recognized the need to upgrade school security and keep students safe by installing security cameras, lighting and up-to-date security measures including improved security and emergency communication systems at the College.

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Up to 76% percent of respondents indicated they would support a 55% requirement education bond to make essential upgrades to Mt. SAC College.

For the final report of community survey results, visit <u>www.mtsac.edu</u>.

