



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **“SYLVIA HOPP SCHOLARSHIP” ESTABLISHED TO HELP SAN ELIZARIO STUDENTS PURSUE COLLEGE DEGREES**

*New scholarship, established by CREEED, recognizes contributions former Superintendent Hopp has made to education in El Paso region*

El Paso, TX - The Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED) announced today the creation of the Sylvia Hopp San Elizario College Scholarship Fund, which will support a San Elizario graduating senior pursue a college degree or credential. The scholarship fund will award a total of \$20,000 in scholarships over the next 8 years to help students cover tuition or other costs associated with attending and completing college.

“Sylvia Hopp spent more than 40 years strengthening our education system so more students could graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in college and the workforce. We could not think of a better way to honor her legacy than by establishing this scholarship,” said Richard A. Castro, Chairman of the CREEED Board. “It also helps us fulfill our mission of getting our students to attain a postsecondary degree or credential.”

After an illustrative career spanning 42 years in education, Sylvia Hopp retired earlier this year from her post as superintendent of San Elizario Independent School District. During her 17 years at San Elizario Independent School District - five of which she served as superintendent - Hopp helped spearhead important district initiatives aimed at closing education attainment gaps and bringing needed resources to the school district, including passage of a \$28 million bond in 2014.

Under Hopp’s leadership, the district saw consecutive growth for five years in their STAAR Algebra I Test scores, and last year 37 percent of San Elizario High School students were rated as “College-Ready Masters” by state standards in math - the second highest in the region.

The first scholarship is expected to be issued to a graduating senior from the San Elizario School District in 2018. Eligibility descriptions and further information will be developed by CREEED, in consultation with Hopp, and released in February/March 2018.

“I’m honored by this scholarship fund, and even more excited about the opportunities that CREEED is creating for our students to pursue a college degree or credential,” said Sylvia Hopp. “During my time as an educator and administrator, I was constantly moved by the dreams and potential of our students and it’s important to have partners like CREEED who are making sure that student potential is harnessed and their dreams are made possible. We know that a college degree helps individuals and entire communities prosper and that is exactly what El Paso needs.”

This new scholarship fund builds on CREEED’s existing efforts to support El Paso students build the skills and knowledge they need to graduate college and career ready, including the launch of Girls Who Code chapters in El Paso, creating a teacher’s scholarship fund to expand the number of teachers who are credentialed to offer dual-credit courses in high school, and providing local school district and higher education institutions with grants to implement innovative initiatives that will systemically accelerate college readiness.

“At CREEED, we are thinking holistically about how we support students along their education journey, starting as early as kindergarten and providing supports along the way through college,” said Eduardo Rodriguez, CREEED’s Interim Chief Executive Officer. “Preparing students to obtain a college degree is one support, but also giving them the resources they need to obtain that degree is equally important. We are excited about the future college graduates that will benefit from the Sylvia Hopp San Elizario College Scholarship Fund.”

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**About the Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED):**

CREEED is a not-for-profit education policy and advocacy group focused on creating measureable outcomes and dedicated to closing the achievement gap for El Paso County students. We accomplish this goal by investing in policies, programs, and metrics that prepare students to succeed in college and our future workforce