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For Immediate Release

CSM Athletes as Readers & Leaders Honored

Innovative Literacy Partnership Recognized by Congresswoman Jackie Speier

Athletes, administrators, faculty, staff, and children and families gathered this last month to celebrate the one year anniversary of the CSM Athletes and Readers and Leaders program, where participating athletes were surprised and honored with certificates of appreciation from U.S. Congresswoman, Jackie Speier, and expressions of encouragement and support from both the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics baseball teams. The standing room only event was also attended by the

District Chancellor, a member of the Board of Trustees, the College President, College Vice-Presidents, the Dean of Athletics, Vice President of Communications of the California School Library Association.

Last spring the College of San Mateo Library started working with coaches in the college's athletics programs, the college child development center, and faculty to help launch a new literacy and wellness initiative called CSM Athletes as Readers and Leaders.

The program was designed to promote childhood literacy, help fight childhood obesity and to help athletes appreciate their roles and influence as role models.

This unique partnership worked to te some of the college's to be classroom readers and provide positive role models for the college campus' youngest students: pre-schoolers.

Focusing specifically on the areas of literacy, exercise, and nutrition, student athletes from across a variety of athletic disciplines visited the Mary Meta Lazarus Child Development Center throughout the last year to read picture books to pre-school students, engage in discussions about health and fitness issues, promote healthy habits, and increase their own awareness of athletes as role models. Library staff, administration, and librarians worked as a bridge between the athletic departments and child development center, organizing athlete applications and coordinating training sessions, in addition to taking the opportunity to strengthen the library collection of pre-school age titles relating to health, nutrition, and exercise.

To learn more about this innovative cooperative program, visit
<http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/library/ar1>.

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