For Immediate Release

LVJUSD Adopts Student-Driven Climate Change Resolution

November 7, 2024 - Livermore, CA - In recognition of youth advocacy and environmental education, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) has approved a student-driven Climate Literacy Resolution that recognizes the importance of climate education that equips students with essential knowledge and skills to tackle climate change. Authored and championed by high school students, the resolution represents a milestone in youth-led action within the community and is a direct outcome of the Livermore Youth Climate Summit (LYCS), a collaborative initiative hosted in the fall of 2023 by the Quest Science Center with support from LVJUSD, the City of Livermore, Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District, and the Tri-Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance.

Driven by increasing student interest following the 2023 LYCS, Quest created a new Tri-Valley Youth Climate Action Program where four young leaders emerged —Claire Gresham and Alexander Pepper, recent graduates of Granada High School, and Shrish Premkrishna and Thaarak Sriram, currently seniors at Livermore High School— who made it their mission to create a climate literacy resolution for the district.

Under the guidance of Quest mentors, the road to the resolution began with conducting a survey to gauge the perspectives of their peers and teachers regarding climate literacy. With over 600 responses from across LVJUSD's high school communities, the survey revealed overwhelming support for enhanced climate education, setting the stage for further steps. "To watch these students take the initiative they have has been an inspiration. Quest Science Center looks forward to continuing to support the District and its students in achieving the goals outlined in the resolution," expressed Quest mentor, Vaughn Draggoo.

Students also arranged meetings with the superintendent and board members who provided their perspectives and suggestions for creating a resolution that garnered support from the Livermore Education Association (LEA), whose leaders appreciated the student-led initiative's commitment to collaboration and long-term impact. "When I joined our district, the students brought me up to speed on the tremendous amount of work they had put into the process of creating the resolution. I greatly valued their dedication and supported their efforts wholeheartedly," remarked Superintendent Torie Gibson.

Following a detailed briefing and discussion by Draggoo, Premkrishna, and Sriram at the October 15, 2024 Board of Education meeting, the resolution was formally approved by the Board, cementing climate literacy as a district priority. Tricia Pontau, Sustainability Manager for the City of Livermore, attended the meeting and provided comment on the City's support of resolution, "In conjunction with the City of Livermore's Climate Action Plan that outlines key strategies for reducing emissions and preparing our community for climate impacts, the City is deeply

committed to working with LVJUSD to provide students with opportunities to apply their climate knowledge in real world ways." She went on to share examples of how students have already engaged with city officials in regard to climate and sustainability efforts which included conducting lighting efficiency studies and measuring urban heat islands using custom mobile temperature sensors.

The resolution highlights the power of student-led advocacy and reinforces LVJUSD's commitment to fostering future-ready leaders. Through collaborative initiatives like this, LVJUSD continues to exemplify the role of education in addressing global challenges, empowering students to effect real change. "Passing this resolution gives me absolute faith that the future of Livermore and beyond will be eternally stable in the hands of our new generation, the young adults and students who cared enough to push for this," expressed Claire Gresham, a key student leader who made this happen.

Full text of the resolution can be found here.

Photo Courtesy of LVJUSD

Photo 1: Thaarak Sriram (left) and Shrish Premkrishna (right) presenting the climate resolution to the LVJUSD Board of Education.

###

ABOUT LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LVJUSD is an award-winning district that serves more than 13,000 students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade at nine elementary campuses, two TK-8 schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, and two alternative schools. The LVJUSD features International Baccalaureate Programmes, a Dual Immersion Program, and a STEM pathway, TK-12. The mission of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District is to ensure each student will graduate with the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world. For more information about the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, please visit www.livermoreschools.org

ABOUT QUEST SCIENCE CENTER
Quest Science Center was founded in 2018 with a mission to inspire and nurture everyday exploration for lifelong engagement with science and technology. Quest is committed to fostering inclusion and to creating a welcoming experience, so people of all ages and backgrounds feel a sense of belonging and excitement in the exploration of science.Quests programs include free public events, informal education in regional K-12 schools and an annual Tri-Valley Innovation Fair in the Spring. In 2023 Quest launched a new initiative for high school students focused on planetary health that includes the Tri-Valley Youth Climate Action Program. For more information, please visit https://quest-science.org

ABOUT THE CITY OF LIVERMORE
Incorporated in 1876, the City of Livermore (livermoreca.gov) is the easternmost city in the San Francisco Bay Area. With just over 90,000 residents, Livermore's heritage is an eclectic blend of wine-making, cattle ranching and agriculture, cultural arts, and cutting edge technology. The city's renowned reputation in science, technology and innovation is showcased at Sandia National Laboratories and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory which has been internationally recognized for its work in creating Element 116 and having it placed on the Periodic Table – Livermorium. The San Francisco Premium Outlets on Interstate-580 and the city's award-winning downtown provide a wide range of shopping, dining, and entertainment opportunities for residents and visitors alike

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:
Michelle Dawson, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, mdawson@lvjusd.org (925) 960-2917
Rick Stulen, Quest Science Center, rstulen@quest-science.org, (925)487-8518
Tricia Pontau, City of Livermore, tpepontau@livermoreca.gov,(925) 960-4039