

**San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing March 1-31, 2025
As National Women's History Month**

WHEREAS, Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California for one week. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women first planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week; and

WHEREAS, Six years after Carter's proclamation, Congress, at the urging of the National Women's History Project, declared March of each year to be Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year; and

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background throughout our history have, despite hardship, exclusion, and discrimination, strived and sacrificed for equity and equality in communities across the country and have served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS, Suffragists, including pivotal leaders like Carrie Chapman Catt and Alice Stokes Paul, helped pass the 19th Amendment, ensuring that no American could be denied a vote on the basis of sex. Nine years earlier in October of 1911, suffragists in California had successfully campaigned for the state to become the sixth in the nation to grant women full voting rights. Women have continued to advocate for civil rights, pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and work toward securing the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Women fought to end slavery, advocate for civil rights, and pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Equal Rights Amendment originally approved by Congress in 1972. That same year, Title IX of the Education Amendments was enacted to prevent sex-based discrimination in education, expanding opportunities for young women in academics and athletics. Generations of women continue to lead the fight for social justice from societal equity to climate justice; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area was the home to many women who have achieved significant firsts, including Kamala Harris, the first woman elected as Vice President; Dianne Feinstein, the first woman elected as California's U.S. Senator; and Dr. Jennifer Doudna, a Nobel Prize-winning biochemist known for pioneering CRISPR gene editing research, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Women's roles as caregivers--whether as mothers, grandmothers, sisters, or aunts (biologically or not)--have nurtured generations, helping to provide the foundation for countless advancements in justice, culture, and society; and

WHEREAS, Standing on the shoulders of the women who came before them, today's women and girls continue to carry forward the mission of ensuring our daughters have the same opportunities as our sons. Women are leading the fight for justice, opportunity, and equality, and continue to lead groundbreaking civil rights movements for social justice and freedom; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical political, economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force in education, medicine, government, law, business, military service, and every other field, and American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation; additionally women have been instrumental in the fields of science, the arts and athletics; and

WHEREAS, The SMUHSD workforce is made up of 61% women. In 2023, 70% of new hires were women. Our student body is made up of 47% women; and

WHEREAS, SMUHSD and our communities recognize the importance of understanding women's history and sharing it with our students, particularly with regard to honoring the significant and longstanding contributions women have made in this Nation, in California and our local community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District that the District takes great pleasure in recognizing March 2025 as National Women's History Month and urges all citizens, staff and students to join in celebrating the accomplishments and persistence of women everywhere.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and adopted on this 27th day of March, 2025.



Superintendent

Robert Griffin

President, Board of Trustees