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MEDIA RELEASE

District Launches IPledge Walk/Run for the Class of 2021

What: Superintendent Bob Nelson announces fundraising walk/run for student scholarships

When: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020

2:30 p.m.

How: Microsoft Teams -- media interested in attending should RSPV by 11:30 a.m. on

Thursday, Oct. 1 to communications@fresnounified.org.

Fresno Unified will devote the month of October to highlighting the hard work and resiliency of the class of 2021, whose traditional senior year experiences thus far have been greatly restricted by COVID-19. A growing list of corporate and community sponsors have rallied around the seniors, pledging more than \$40,000 toward scholarships. Superintendent Bob Nelson will invite the community to join the effort through the 5K Walk/Run for the Class of 2021, a virtual event that encourages participants to run or walk on their own and share their support through the district's social media at #IPledgeFUSD. All participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt and swag bag.

The walk/run takes the place of the district's annual State of Education luncheon, traditionally the major source of support for the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund. Last year, the district awarded \$118,000 in scholarships to 61 graduating seniors.

"This month I challenge you to pledge how you will personally support our amazing class of 2021. None of our seniors could have imagined they would be spending even a portion of their last year of high school in distance learning," Superintendent Nelson said. "So, what can you do to make this senior year one of joy and success for our class of 2021?"

Register for the Walk/Run for the Class of 2021

The focus on the class of 2021 is part of the district's <u>IPledge initiative</u>, launched in September, which highlights the efforts of staff and students to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and make the most of virtual learning.

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