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## **YMCA ANNOUNCES NEW COLLEGE READINESS PROGRAM FOR SAN YSIDRO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*Innovative pilot program includes support from key community partners*

**SAN YSIDRO, Calif. – Feb. 6, 2019** – The Border View Family YMCA is partnering with Winward Academy to improve college access and college readiness for the Advancement Via Individual Determination students, or AVID program at San Ysidro High School.

“As part of our efforts to reach more adolescent youth and promote healthy youth development, the YMCA helps support local schools that serve underrepresented youth by giving them access to resources, tools and skills that can build confidence and knowledge for life,” said Gaby Millan, Executive Director for the Border View Family YMCA. “This program is an incredible example of that effort.”

The YMCA College Readiness Program is being made possible through generous donations from City of San Diego Councilmember Vivian Moreno’s office (\$10,000), San Diego Gas & Electric (\$5,000) and the Winward Academy (generous in-kind and financial support).

The program, in its inaugural pilot testing phase, includes 135 high-achieving AVID juniors from San Ysidro High School. The school provides transportation to the Y for the courses, with full support from the principal, teachers and families alike. The ultimate goal is to help AVID students embrace great study habits, build confidence and prepare them to succeed in college and beyond.

“In many cases, most of the students will be first in their families to attend college,” added Millan.

For the curriculum, the YMCA relies on Winward Academy, an award-winning learning program that uses an interactive teaching approach with engaging video lessons to

simulate an in-person tutoring experience.

“We know that underserved students who are supported with Winward Academy show drastic increases in their college readiness,” said Jennifer Winward, Ph.D., Founder and CEO of Winward Academy. “They are nearly four times more likely to be college-ready in English, Math, Reading and Science. We’re hoping for similar or better results for our AVID students in this program.”

The program kicks off with a special event for students, their families, teachers, partners and donors on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM at the Border View Family YMCA. *(Editor’s Note: Event not open to the public).*

The Border View Family YMCA has proudly served the community since 1984. For more information, please visit [www.ymca.org/borderview](http://www.ymca.org/borderview).

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#### **About the YMCA of San Diego County**

The YMCA of San Diego County is the second largest Y Association in the nation serving more than 436,000 San Diego County residents and employing more than 5,500 people. Through a variety of programs and services focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y unites men, women and children - regardless of age, income or background - to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation’s health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The YMCA of San Diego County is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential as children of God through the development of the spirit, mind and body. Visit [www.ymca.org](http://www.ymca.org) to find your local YMCA or call (858) 292-YMCA (9622).

#### **About Winward Academy**

Test success, college success, and life success – they all begin at Winward Academy, an award-winning, online learning platform widely recognized as the first to honor over 40 years of research about learning theory. The platform supports student success on the ACT and SAT, in math class, and for college applications. Winward Academy provides a personalized learning experience for each student by tracking performance in all lessons and on practice tests. Feedback is provided immediately on every answer, right or wrong, and step-by-step video solutions are provided for every question. For more information on Winward Academy, see [winwardacademy.com](http://winwardacademy.com) or follow the company on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.