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MILESTONE SETTLEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSIONS REACHED BETWEEN STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA – May 14, 2021 – The Dolores Huerta Foundation along with five other community organizations, parents and students reached a historic settlement with the University in *Smith v. Regents of the University of California*. This settlement will broaden access to UC campuses for students across the State by eliminating consideration of the SAT and ACT from admissions and scholarship decisions. Despite condemning the SAT and ACT as racist tests, the Regents voted in May 2020 to continue using those tests in University admissions and scholarship decisions for another two years. In August 2020, the *Smith* plaintiffs won a court order requiring the University to cease using the tests while their lawsuit was ongoing, which forced the University to abandon its plan to consider SAT and ACT scores for students applying to enter UC campuses this fall. This settlement **extends the University's test-free policy through at least 2025**, preventing the University from reverting to its planned test-optional admissions policy.

This settlement will have a profound influence on higher education nationally. The elimination of the SAT/ACT tests as a requirement for admission into the UC system has already resulted in a historic change in the UC applicant pool. According to University of California data, "The UC system received the highest number of applications fall 2021 in its history, receiving a total of 249,855 applications. **This included a 21.8% growth in freshman applications from African American students and a 12.2% increase in Chicano/Latino students.**"

Organizational plaintiff **Dolores Huerta Foundation Executive Director, Camila Chavez** acknowledged this victory while adding, "We believe that white supremacy can only be dismantled if we address all forms of racism. As one of the six organizations that were plaintiffs in this case, in solidarity with our partners and families, we celebrate the elimination of the SAT and ACT tests as a determining factor for admissions and scholarship consideration by the University of California. Systems that have disparate outcomes for historically disenfranchised people must be eliminated. While this is a giant step forward and a victory for the students and parents who worked to make this happen, we will continue to demand transformative and sustained education justice. Our work is not done."

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About DHF

The Dolores Huerta Foundation is a 501 (c)3 organization whose mission is to inspire and organize communities to build volunteer organizations called Vecinos Unidos chapters empowered to pursue social justice. Vecinos Unidos members develop their community organizing, civic engagement, and leadership skills by working on policy advocacy on issues such as health, environment, education, and youth development in their communities. Learn more about the Dolores Huerta Foundation at www.doloreshuerta.org.

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