



Dear Community Partner:

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is pleased to announce that on March 8-10<sup>th</sup> of 2009, it will celebrate 40 years of excellence in serving students in the California State University System (CSU). EOP emerged from the Civil Rights movement of the late 1960s, as a response to the call for access and equity to higher education. As a result of this hard fought, student-led campaign, there is an EOP at 22 California State University campuses today to provide access and support services for students from first generation, low income, and historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Since the passage of Senate Bill 1072 (the Harmer Bill) nearly 40 years ago in April 1969, EOP has made a lasting impact in the lives of several thousands of students who have graduated from college. Through its commitment to providing access and innovative support services to thousands of underrepresented students each year, EOP remains a critical component of the California State University system.

To celebrate the accomplishments of the program, a system-wide conference will be held to commemorate the impact that EOP and its allies have had in the lives of our students for over the last 40 years. It will also focus on the ongoing commitment necessary to build capacity at multiple levels so that current and future EOP students can benefit from, and take leadership roles to ensure the program continues to provide educational opportunities to historically underrepresented students. The four goals of the conference are as follows:

- To celebrate 40 years of excellence
- To build community system-wide and provide professional development opportunities for conference attendees
- To educate and empower EOP students
- To build capacity for the future

It is our sincere goal that you will partner with EOP through charitable donations to help the program realize the aforementioned goals of the conference. Please make your checks payable to the California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6068. We will provide you with a gift receipt indicating that your contribution is tax deductible. Note: If you are making an in-kind donation, you are welcome to provide such donations to the EOP Program in your local area.

Thanks for your support of EOP and the 2009 EOP Statewide Conference! Your support as a community partner will help us achieve another 40 years of excellence!

Sincerely,

The EOP Conference Steering Committee