



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Gavilan's Susan Dodd Crossing Ribbon Cutting Celebration**

**GILROY, CA** – Gavilan College will be celebrating the completion of its new steel and cement bridge with a special ribbon cutting event on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 11 am, at Gilroy Campus, 5055 Santa Teresa Boulevard. The event will also commemorate the naming of the newly constructed bridge as the "Susan Dodd Crossing," in honor of former faculty member, Athletic Director, longtime community member, and largest single donor for the construction of the bridge who worked at Gavilan for 37 years. Associated Students of Gavilan College will be hosting a welcome lunch reception for all students, following the ribbon cutting.

The original wooden bridge (circa 1967), connecting both sides of Gavilan's Gilroy campus, was tested in June 2019 and suffered from dry rot in the glulam support trusses. In July 2019 plans began to replace it. After three years of planning, contractor selection and implementation, the new bridge was finished on Monday, August 15, 2022.

Gavilan Governing Board of Trustees President, Edwin Diaz joyfully remarked:

*"This new bridge is symbolic of the next and exciting phase our college district has entered, with the arrival of our new Superintendent/President, Dr. Pedro Avila, and the implementation of the rest of the Measure X construction projects that will improve the lives of our South County communities."*

Gavilan Superintendent/President, Dr. Pedro Avila shared:

*“It is an honor for me to lead this college district through its reinvention and expansion. The communities we serve need a bridge to increase their earning potential, a solid foundation of support and resources to succeed. I am grateful for the years of dedication and donation to our college from Susan Dodd.*

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### **About Gavilan College**

Gavilan College is one of 116 California Community Colleges, a part of the largest system of higher education in the world. At Gavilan College you can prepare to transfer to a university, get training in a skilled career, build your academic skills, or attain needed classes for career advancement. As a small community college, Gavilan offers a more community-oriented and personalized experience than you might find at a larger school, with high educational quality and access to technology. <https://www.gavilan.edu>.