



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 15, 2020

**Media Contact:** Sophia Fischer  
[sfischer@reaganfoundation.org](mailto:sfischer@reaganfoundation.org)  
818-292-4503

## **PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO HEAR THE CONCERNS OF SIMI VALLEY STUDENTS**

### **TEEN-LED PROGRAM CO-PRESENTED BY SIMI VALLEY YOUTH COUNCIL AND RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION & INSTITUTE**

**Simi Valley, California** – Substance abuse and vaping are on the minds of Simi Valley middle and high school students and public officials. The topic will be the focus of discussion at 10 a.m., Friday, January 17, 2020, during the sixth annual Youth Town Hall hosted by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute, 40 Presidential Library, Simi Valley, CA, 93065.

More than 400 students from nine local schools will attend. Five public officials and education leaders will be panelists. Students will lead the program, serve as moderators, facilitators, producers, social media correspondents, photographers, and ushers. To maximize participation among the teen audience, attendees pose their questions or share their concerns with the panel anonymously via Twitter. Participating schools are Hillside Middle School, Sinaloa Middle School, Valley View Middle School, Santa Susana High School, Simi Valley High School, Royal High School, Grace Brethren High School, Faith Baptist Schools, and Oak Park High School.

This year's panel of local officials are:

- Dr. Deborah Salgado, Simi Valley Unified School District director of Secondary Education
- Gabe Teran, Ventura County Office of Education Operations specialist of Health Prevention Programs
- Pat Montoya, president of Not One More, a drug abuse awareness and prevention group
- Vicky Gonzales, Ventura County Public Health Education and Health Policy Community Services coordinator
- Roland Roberts, Youth Development Specialist with Brite, a youth advocacy program

“We are pleased to once again partner with the Simi Valley Youth Council to create a forum for teens to hold critical conversations around issues that are important to them,” said Anthony Pennay, Chief Learning officer for the Reagan Foundation & Institute. “This program is a phenomenal model to encourage students to take ownership and facilitate an event for their peers, and furthers the Reagan Education Team’s vision of promoting civic engagement among students.”

Student leaders for the program are chosen through an application process run by the Simi Valley Youth Council. Issues discussed in previous years include mental health, public safety, and education.

### **About The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute:**

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the sole nonprofit organization created by President Reagan charged with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy, and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion, and the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation’s mission in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It now also serves as the final resting place of America’s 40th President and his first lady. [www.reaganfoundation.org](http://www.reaganfoundation.org)

# # #

Photos available upon request.