



For Immediate Release

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## **Becoming Independent and Santa Rosa Junior College partner to bring Olympics to Santa Rosa**

Educational leaders share mission of inclusion

**Santa Rosa, CA** – July 23, 2018 – Becoming Independent (BI), one of our region’s strongest nonprofits serving people with developmental disabilities, will host the BI Olympics at Santa Rosa Junior College’s (SRJC’s) Sypher Baseball Field on Friday, August 10. One hundred athletes from across the North Bay will compete in seven events that will include both individual and team sports. Opening ceremonies will begin at 11:00 a.m., with an award ceremony commencing at 12:30 p.m.. This year’s Olympics are sponsored by The Flat Tire Club. Volunteers from BlackRock investment firm will be on hand to assist with timing and recording of the races, and McLea’s Automotive is providing hydration for all the athletes.

BI and SRJC have a long-standing partnership as two of the region’s top educators. Thanks to a strong relationship that spans decades, each year over 350 adults receive specialized instruction in courses designed to provide learning opportunities in vocational and independent living skills.

“This marks the third year in a row that we’ve hosted the BI Olympics at the Santa Rosa Junior College,” says Luana Vaetoe, CEO of Becoming Independent. “The venue is perfect and the SRJC is one of BI’s strongest partners, so we’re absolutely delighted to be back! We’re also excited this year to have invited community partners across the region to participate, and look forward to having many new athletes from throughout Marin and Sonoma counties in attendance. Let the games begin!”

“I am proud to be hosting the Becoming Independent Olympics at SRJC again as part of this partnership,” said Dr. Frank Chong, SRJC Superintendent and President. “The event is always inspiring and I’m glad that the college can support the athletes as they strive to achieve their dreams.”

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