Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

One of the greatest highlights of my month occurred because of two special co-presenters that I had when addressing a parent meeting at PUC Community Charter Early College High School during this past month. At that meeting, I shared the history of PUC, our vision, achievements, and hopes for our students, etc. The two helpers that I had that evening were alumni Alejandra Ochoa and Vanessa Hinojosa, both of whom attended PUC Community Charter Middle School and PUC Community Charter Early College High School. In fact, they were both part of the founding class of PUC Community Charter Early College High School. Alejandra, more commonly known as Alex, is a science teacher at PUC Inspire Charter Academy and Vanessa is the Office Manager at PUC Community Charter Elementary School. Both of these tremendous young women spoke about their own journeys through our schools, what it meant to them and how it shaped them as they grew. They were articulate, inspirational, and extremely passionate about the value of the education they received in PUC schools. I could not have been more proud as I listened to them and marveled at their poise, confidence, and professionalism. For Dr. Ref Rodriguez and I, watching and listening to our alumni presenting to our current families is one of our greatest joys and we know that one day our alumni will be serving as school principals and in other organizational roles. We eagerly anticipate what the future holds in this regard with so many amazing young people coming through our schools.

Also pictured below is Mr. Scott Farr who is the music teacher at PUC Lakeview Charter High School. Mr. Farr began the year with almost no equipment but through Donors’ Choose and other resources quickly acquired a decent number of instruments and has also brought out incredible talent in students who began playing instruments for the very first time in his class. Mr. Farr is also somewhat of a historic figure in PUC in that he began substitute teaching for Community Charter Elementary School in 2000 and subbed fairly regularly in almost every subject and every grade level imaginable until, after several offers through the years, he finally accepted a regular teaching position with us at PUC Lakeview Charter High School as their music teacher. Mr. Farr is a remarkably talented professional, highly proficient in a number of content areas, including music. Mr. Farr is not only an outstanding music teacher but also a tremendous professional musician. We are most fortunate to have a large number of extremely talented teachers in the arts in our schools that are both arts professionals as well as outstanding teachers.

Every day I am filled with sincere gratitude for the exemplary professionals who together ensure that our students are provided with the opportunity to achieve their potential and graduate from our high schools college ready. What a privilege it is to work with you. Thank you!
Valley PUC Health Fair

The PUC Health and Wellness team is organizing the 3rd annual Valley PUC Health Fair, being held on April 16th, 2016 from 11am-3pm at the Sylmar Education Complex, 13361 Glenoaks Blvd, Sylmar CA 91342. **This event is Free Admission and open to the public!!** Come out and take advantage of all the great health opportunities being offered such as FREE eye exams and glasses (for children 17 and younger), fun fitness activities for all ages, cooking demos, dental screenings, raffles, Covered California information and so much more!!
PUC NECA Girls Varsity Softball Team Wins Championship

Congratulations to the PUC Nueva Esperanza girls’ varsity softball team for becoming the first ever Valley and City league champions. Resulting in the first ever softball championship in PUC history with a record 11 wins and 2 losses. The beginning of the season held some rough spots for the team but coaches Taylor Ramirez and Kevin Andrade, both from YPI, worked with the players improving fundamentals. Having never coached softball before, the coaches relied on each other to strategize and come up with a clear plan when it came to practice.

Although NECA had a great season they tied with Triumph Charter Academy for first place, and came into the softball championship ranked second. Nueva Esperanza undeterred by their final ranking, came into each game determined to try their hardest and win. Having beat the number one school from the LA teams, the final matchup between Triumph seemed inevitable. Previous games against Triumph throughout the season had been hard fought. The last game they played Nueva Esperanza came back from a deficit to win and secure their tied first place position.

In the final game Nueva Esperanza had a very strong first inning and held the lead after the first. Triumph, in the third showed Nueva Esperanza that they were not going to go out without a fight. Nueva Esperanza however, had some great plays and held strong against tough competition. The final score was 20 to 8.

Coach Taylor wants to give a special thank you to all the parents who supported the team. A special thank you to assistant Coach Kevin Andrade, for all the help and support and congratulations for winning a second championship this year! A special thank you to all the after school staff for their help and support. A very big thank you to the athletic director Tony Chang for a great first softball season. With all the help, support, and dedication from the staff, parents and the team Nueva Esperanza triumphed.


Coach Taylor Ramirez
PUC ALLSTARS dance team was created by dance teacher Kristi Magpantay in 2011. It consists of dancers from both Community Charter Middle School and Lakeview Charter Academy that have a strong passion for dance. The dancers are in 6th-8th grade. All of the dancers on the team have started their passion for dance in Mrs. Magpantay's elective dance class. They wanted to take their training to the next level so Mrs. Magpantay decided to start an Allstars team. The first couple of years the Allstars just performed for school or community events but last year Mrs. Magpantay decided they were ready to start competing. They went to two competitions last year where they won first place and judges' favorite. This year the team has gotten so big Mrs. Magpantay decided to make 4 teams. Now the PUC ALLSTARS consists of a Junior Varsity Co-Ed, ALL FEMALE team, ALL MALE team, and Varsity Co-Ed. All four Allstars team will compete at four major competitions this year in 2016 such as Six Flags Magic Mountain, sharp competitions in West Covina and Anaheim and YPI competition in downtown LA. They will also be performing at school events and other showcases throughout the community. We have made many efforts to fundraise and enhance the training of the PUC ALLSTARS team this year. We brought in 4 professional choreographers, Tabatha Arocho (lyrical), Walter Moran (jazz funk), Toney Wilson (African Jazz), and Justin Deanda (hip hop) to teach master classes. We have also made efforts to fundraise for our dance program by hosting a lot of afterschool fundraisers, online fundraisers and a carnival dance. We have almost hit our goal! We are excited to start competition season in a couple weeks and have been working very hard afterschool 4 days a week to prepare for these big events and to shine on that stage. We are not just a group of dancers that dance, we are a group of dancers that love and care for dance and for each other. We are family! Our mission is to inspire others through dance and send a message that anything is possible if you believe in yourself you are given the opportunity and always give your best effort in everything you do and you will shine like a diamond! We dedicate this season to our parents, our teachers, our administration, and our amazing schools that help us uplift our communities now and forever through dance!

Video 1

Video 2
An Incredible Run…. The 2015-16 PUC CCECHS Girls Varsity Basketball Team

The PUC Community Charter Early College High Girls Varsity Basketball team just completed the best season in the sport in the history of the school. The Titans began their season with a 1-6 record before going on a 14-game winning streak, including a 10-0 record in league play, which concluded in the CIF LA City Section Division 5 Championship Game against Academia Avance. Despite many barriers both on and off the court, this team embodied a spirit of positivity, teamwork, and commitment to each other to surpass all expectations to be successful.

Among many achievements, this basketball team set several school records with the most games played (22 games), most total wins (15 games), longest winning streak (14 games), most total points (724 points), and was the very first PUC Schools high school basketball team (Boys or Girls) to ever participate in a CIF LA City Section Championship Game.

Freshman guard Krystina Bell was named CIF LA City Section Division 5 Girls Basketball Player of the Year. She averaged 18.0 points per game and set a school record of scoring 36 points in her very first game on January 7th at home against North Valley Military Institute. Bell also earned 2016 North Valley League Player of the Year as well as 1st team North Valley League honors.

Junior forward Michelle Figueroa was named to the All-City CIF LA City Section Division 5 Girls Basketball. Figueroa, known by her teammates as “Shay”, also earned earned 1st team North Valley League honors. Her best game was in the Vaughn Tournament on December 8th in which she scored 18 points and grabbed 16 rebounds in a loss to Northridge Academy.

The Titans Girls Basketball team also had three additional team members earning North Valley League honors for the 2015-16 season. Junior forward Denise Saucedo earned 1st team North Valley League honors, Freshman guard Krystal Bell and Senior forward Priscilla Rodriguez earned 2nd team North Valley League honors. Their names were also mentioned on the LA Daily News and CalHi Sports media websites. Coach Johnny Wiley and Regina Vazquez are very proud of their team accomplishments and look forward to a bright and promising future for the Girls Basketball program.
PUC CCECHS Presentations of Learning

On March 31, CCECHS teachers, students and parents engaged in a family night designed to bring our community together through active learning. Our vision for this year is “Growing as Leaders and Scholars,” and this event was a way to show the growth of our students and to further all of our growth by engaging in learning together. Families attended workshops of their choice, including:

- Pop-Up Discussion on 9th grade thematic question
- Weight-lifting demonstrations with PE Coach
- Sheep Brain Dissection through 10th grade Anatomy Physiology course
- Spanish Poetry
- Quest for Liberty Flag Project—printmaking
- Quest for Liberty Visual Thinking Strategy Discussion
- Socratic Seminar—Dead Man Walking
- Environmental Science Podcasts and Games

It was beautiful to see parents engaging with students in scholarly discussions, communal art pieces, and presentations, and more. Go Titans!
California Youth in Theatre Day

The month of March is Theatre In Our Schools month. And Los Angeles middle school Theatre Arts Instructor Mr. Eldon Cline traveled to Sacramento to the California Youth in Theatre Day. CYIT Day was founded by Gail Jones to promote educational theatre to our state government and to honor CA theatre students and their theatre educators.

Mr. Cline is currently a board member of CETA, the California Educational Theatre Association which is an non-profit advocacy group. Since 1945, the California Educational Theatre Association (CETA) has been a strong force in shaping quality theatre education. CETA's visionary approach to meeting challenges has made it a nationally recognized organization. CETA supports and represents theatre educators throughout the state with its innovative programs and activities for theatre teachers, artists, and students.

During the month of March all students in Mr. Cline's classes wrote formal letters to their state representatives asking for their support in keeping theatre in California schools.
PUC students are fast becoming 21st century learners with the help of Google Apps for Education. All PUC students have access to unlimited storage on Google Drive and use of the Google Apps. Many PUC teachers are utilizing these apps with the help of Google Classroom to provide real time feedback to students as they work on essays, projects, or even daily assignments. Instead of needing to wait for the student to turn in their assignment before the teacher can provide feedback, the teacher can now access the document as the student works on it and leave comments or suggest revisions/edits.

At Lakeview Charter Academy, Ms. William’s 6th grade ELA students completed their culminating unit assignment for the novel *Flipped* by creating a storyboard followed by analysis. This project taught students how to use text, and cut, paste, and resize images for use in Google Slides, while at the same time allowing them to demonstrate their knowledge of plot elements and character analysis. Check out what one student created [here!](#)
Congratulations Lady Wolves!

PUC Excel Charter Academy’s girls’ softball team won the Metro League Championship! The Lady Wolves and coaching staff want to thank PUC for providing a space for students to develop and strengthen social, physical and intellectual abilities. We really enjoyed getting to know each other in a safe and super fun environment. We also want to thank parents that made it to all the games, supported our players, cheered and encouraged our players in every game. Congratulations to the Lady Wolves. Special thanks to our team captain Jennifer Gonzalez, super pitcher Ashley Lara, clean up batters Destiny and Tabitha Sanchez, our first base Itzel Cano, second base Angie Sanchez, rookie sensations Helen Ramirez, Brenda Rodriguez and Shelsy Aragon, super stars Cristal Pineda and Silvia Lopez.

On behalf of the assistant coach Jeremy Trujillo and Coach Apolo Trujillo, we want to congratulate the 2015-2016 Metro League Champions! Si se pudo!!!!
PUC Community Charter Elementary Students Go On Field Trip

The first grade classes of PUC Community Charter Elementary School went on their first field trip on April 1st to the Moorpark College Zoo. They learned about following their dreams and believing in themselves to achieve their goals. College students run the zoo at Moorpark College and give students the inspiration to go to college and learn about what they love. Students were able to see many types of animals, including a lion, a 99-year-old turtle and a bald eagle. 1st grade team was excited to share this moment with students and help continue implementing the PUC Commitments. PUC Yeah!
College Admissions Essay OPPORTUNITIES!

“I love college/opportunity program’s that require essay questions as a part of the application” said no student ever. Instead of dreading this part of the process, students should embrace the essay portion of the application. This is a chance for students to explain to college admissions readers why they are a good fit for their school. Admissions essay allow applicants to show their personality, goals and experiences. It’s a chance for students to explain obstacles or experiences that may have impacted their academic record. Admissions essays are not read in isolation, but with all the other information provided in their application. Essays should provide new information and not repeat things a student has already put in their application. Admissions essays allow students to show who they are beyond their high school course rigor, grades and SAT/ACT scores.

MOST POPULAR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS COMPLETED BY PUC STUDENTS:

- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC) ADMISSIONS APPLICATION – 9 UNDERGRADUATE CAMPUSES
  NEW – UC’s Personal Insight Questions replace the personal statement starting fall 2017. The Class of 2017 will be the first class required to prepare personal insight questions. UC’s Admissions page shares this new format will provide greater clarity and more flexibility, allowing students to provide context for the rest of their application.
  UC requires students to respond to 4 of the 8 questions
  Each response has a 350 word maximum limit
  Students should select the personal insight questions most relevant to their experiences and allow a student to share who they are beyond the application in their unique voice
  All questions are weighted equal
  There is no right or wrong way to answer the questions

- COMMON APP AFFILIATED SCHOOLS – 600+ PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
  Common App Personal Statement Essay Prompts will remain the same as the 2015-2016 prompts.
  The Common App requires student to respond to 1 of 5 prompts, but many of the 600+ affiliated colleges also require supplemental essays, which are different for each college
  When a college notes the supplemental essay(s) are optional, this translates to AN OPPORTUNITY to share more information, and shouldn’t be passed up

- CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITYS’ EARLY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (EOP) – 23 SCHOOLS - ALL OFFER EOP PROGRAMS
  California State University’s EOP program was developed to improve access and retention to low-income and educationally disadvantaged students. The program provides admission and academic assistance to EOP-eligible undergraduate students. In many cases, students who are admitted into the EOP program also receive financial assistance.
  The EOP application requires students to respond to 5 autobiographical statement questions
  The 2017-2018 EOP application has not announced if the 2015-2016 EOP application’s autobiographic statement section will change
  Students are asked to use these statement questions to provide insight about their motivation and preparation to complete college work.
PUC High Schools provide opportunities and support, allowing students to begin their admissions essay drafts in their junior year. Starting this writing process early is KEY to ensure students’ obtain feedback from staff, peers and family members’ in a timely manner to make edits, ensuring their essays represent their best selves.

PUC HIGH SCHOOLS’ ADMISSIONS ESSAY SUPPORT:
All PUC high schools’ Class of 2017 juniors have started or are getting ready to start developing their UC and/or Common Application college admissions essays.
The EOP 5 Autobiographical Statement Questions are embedded in PUC students’ online Naviance “Brag Survey.” Allowing counselors to review and provide feedback to juniors before the end of their junior year. Juniors/rising seniors have the opportunity to revise their responses before they start their senior year (Independently online in their Naviance “Brag Survey” or at their high school’s Summer Institute (Event dedicated to senior’s individual college matching and application processes)
Tuesday, May 17th, 2016 - PUC Valley high schools’ juniors will attend a special UC Personal Insight Question presentation at the PUC Sylmar Complex. One of UC Santa Barbara’s Admissions Officers will be the guest presenter providing insight to support students’ admissions essay and application development

ADMISSIONS ESSAY RESOURCES:
College Board’s Big Future’s Essay Resources (articles & videos)

UC’s Insight Questions Writing Tip

UCSB’s Office of Admissions - Personal Insight Questions Chat – Tuesday, 6/7/2016 @ 10:00am -11:00am

USA Today – 9 Essay Writing Tips

College Admissions: Mining Identity for College Essays and Personal Statements
Glassdoor and Indeed

Please leave PUC a review

PUC is on the Glassdoor and Indeed job site where you can leave a review about your experience here at PUC!

In case you're not familiar with the job sites they are similar to Yelp!

See our links below:

http://www.glassdoor.com/Overview/Working-at-PUC-Schools-EI_IE465918.11,22.htm

http://www.indeed.com/cmp/Puc-Schools

Leave us a review!
Social Media

We’re here! Follow the Recruitment Team on social media to stay updated on events, new openings, and much more!

PUC Schools Recruitment  @pucschools_recruitment  @PUC_Recruitment
Open Positions

Discounted Software Available For Home Use

Exclusive for your company, get the completely NEW Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016 suite for your home. Or if you use a Mac, get Office Home and Business 2016 for Mac for the same low price, $9.95.

The link below provides the details as well as the new program code necessary to purchase Office.

https://intranet.pucschools.org/IT/Shared%20Documents/IT%20Resources/PUC%20Microsoft%20Home%20Use%20Program%202016.pdf
Human Resources Employee Perks Program

Human Resources is pleased to announce a new employee benefit. All employees now have exclusive access to the Working Advantage discount network which allows you to save up 60% on ticketed events and online shopping. Through Working Advantage you can save on: Movie Tickets, Theme Parks, Ski Tickets, Broadway Shows, Sporting Events, Hotels and Travel, Health and Fitness, Museums and City Passes, Merchant Gift Certificates, Online Shopping…and much more! To subscribe, you may access the Working Advantage website by clicking here: www.workingadvantage.com. When opening an individual account you will need the PUC Schools ID #413401740.

Working Advantage offers 24-hour online shopping and customer support Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM Eastern time. If you have specific questions regarding the site, please contact Working Advantage at 800-565-3712.

PUC employees will no longer be able to purchase discounted Disneyland Resort tickets from the website link previously featured on the PUC Intranet. However, Working Advantage offers a variety of Disneyland Resort tickets at a discounted price as well. For more information, visit: Working Advantage Disneyland Tickets

Human Resources has AMC tickets available for sale. As of August 1, 2015, AMC will no longer sell Silver or Gold Tickets; they have decided to move to one ticket going forward which will be the Green Ticket. The Gold tickets that remain in distribution will be honored as stated in the terms and conditions listed on the tickets. PLEASE NOTE: Green Tickets will NOT be eligible for any movie distributed by The Walt Disney Company, including but not limited to Pixar, Marvel, and Lucas Films. AMC tickets have no expiration date. The price for a green ticket is $9/ticket. PAYMENT METHOD: ONLY CASHIER'S CHECK, PERSONAL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER. NO CASH! Please make check or money order to: PUC Schools.

If you are interested in purchasing AMC Green tickets, please contact Isamar Muñoz, HR Assistant.

T-Mobile Advantage Program

T-Mobile offers exclusive discounts for PUC Schools Employees. Click on the T-Mobile logo above to visit T-Mobile’s promo website. To enroll by phone, contact Advantage Direct at 866-464-8662 and use promotional code 20356TMOFAV.

Any questions regarding our employee perks program, please contact Isamar Muñoz, HR Assistant, i.munoz@pucschools.org or (818) 559-7699.
PUC Polo Shirts and Laptop Bags for Sale

You can now purchase PUC Polo Shirts and PUC Laptop bags! Items can be purchased throughout the year. Please contact Jonathan Liu from the Human Resources Department in order to place an order. You can reach him at j.liu@pucschools.org or 818-478-2093.

PUC Polo: $20 for either the male or female cut.

PUC Laptop Bag: $40