Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

With a sense of urgency, I begin my greeting by sharing that a large number of our students, families and staff members have expressed concern over the recent actions of ICE agents. My communication with you this month is dedicated to providing you with a list of resources that was recently published by the University of California and can be shared with any individuals who you believe will find this valuable. In addition, as was the case with the Board of Los Angeles Unified School District, the Partnerships to Uplift Communities Board of Trustees will be reviewing a Safe Haven Resolution for approval. In the spirit of caring for and supporting all members of our PUC community as we always do, please be sure to disseminate the information below to all staff, students, and family members as you see fit.

Non-profit organizations that will not charge for their services:

Public Counsel  610 South Ardmore Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90005  Phone: (213) 385-2977

Immigrant Center for Women and Children  634 South Spring Street, Suite 727  Los Angeles, CA 90014  Phone: (213) 614-1165

Fax: (213) 624-1163

You can also find attorneys in your area at http://www.ailalawyer.org/. Additionally, below is a list of trusted private attorneys that will charge for their services:

Los Angeles Area

Vera A. Weisz  Weisz Immigration Law Group  510 West 6th Street, Suite 200  Los Angeles, CA 90014  Phone: (213) 347-0025  Fax: (213) 623-2899  Email: vera@wilawgroup.com

Law Offices of Stacy Tolchin  634 S. Spring Street, Suite 500A  Los Angeles, CA 90014  Phone: (213) 622-7450  Fax: (213) 622-7233

Nikhil Shah  355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 2450  Los Angeles, CA 90071  Phone: (213) 943-1322  Fax: (213) 943-1324

Braden Cancilla  1564 N. Fair Oaks Avenue Pasadena, CA 91103  Phone: (626) 765-6888  Fax: (626) 298-6988  Email: BradenCancilla@aol.com

Inland Empire Area

Law Offices of Andrea J. Garcia  4480 Main Street, Suite B  Riverside, CA 92501  Phone: (844) 846-5221  Email: andrea@ajgarcialaw.com

Law Office of Russell Jauregui  1400 E. Cooley Drive, Suite 210  Colton, CA 92324  Phone: (909) 533-4977  Email: RMJlawgroup@gmail.com
Do you need to switch your focus?

So many people I know get very overwhelmed with the things that they believe they CAN'T do. For example, "I can't find time", "I am too tired to move", "I don't like working out", "There is no program that fits my needs", etc. I have actually been one of those people at times! Focusing on our excuses or even legitimate reasons why we are struggling with proper eating or consistency on an exercise routine, can cause us to feel bogged down, upset or even disappointed in ourselves.

My advice is to SWITCH YOUR FOCUS!

Instead of focusing in on and magnifying our "cannot's" choose to focus in on and magnify your "can's." It's amazing how this small change can take you from possibly beating yourself up to celebrating your successes! I challenging day at work that I had last year comes to mind. I won't go into detail, but I will tell you by the end of that day, I was more than ready to go. From there I drove an hour to go pick up my kids from the sitter and then after that drove another hour to get home. I could have very easily focused on a number of "cannot's" like "I can't workout, I'm exhausted", "My job has drained me today, so I don't want a salad, I want ice cream", "I have spent over 3 hours in the car today so I can't possibly drive again to get to the gym"...but I chose instead to focus on my "can's." I focused my thoughts on how I am going to get 30 minutes in at the gym and have that time for me. I thought about how blessed I am to be able to move and exercise because not everyone has that ability. I told myself that even though ice cream sounded good, I know that I'm going to feel great eating the healthy options that I prepared earlier for myself. Magnifying the positive things changed my night. I didn't get to the gym until about 9:15pm, but when I left at 10pm, I felt amazing. I shared a genuine (although tired) smile with everyone that passed by. I felt like a winner.

Now it's your turn. Choose at least one "can" to focus on and magnify today. Watch your day and your health routine change for the better.

Stay encouraged.
PUC Wide Title 1 Parent Conference

Parent representatives from all PUC Schools both from the Valley and Los Angeles came together to review and give critical feedback for PUC Schools Title 1 SOP on Parent Involvement. The final document went before the PUC Board this month. Parents engaged with each other analyzing a draft of the SOP providing their perspective and collaboratively formalizing their feedback. They proceeded to articulate the actions they saw needed to be in place in order to ensure parent involvement at each school site. Parents engaged in review and analysis as diverse groups discussing the six key expectations of the policy breaking them down and consolidating feedback. Their feedback centered mainly on accountability and in asking for resources for the schools to accomplish the expectations. Parents formulated a comprehensive response that aided in finalizing PUC Schools Title I Parent Involvement Policy. We are very grateful for their dedication and volunteering.

Parents received a certificate of appreciation for the extremely important work they did for all PUC Schools.

Parents worked collaboratively narrowing down their feedback to concrete points.
Asset Mapping in Pacoima: LCA's 8th Grade Mural Mile and Tia Chucha's Field Trip

By Julia Brown-Bernstein

For the third year in a row, the eighth grade students at PUC Lakeview Charter Academy participated in a field trip right to the main thoroughfare of Pacoima: Van Nuys Boulevard. A departure from other traditional field trips which whisk our students outside of their community boundaries, the Mural Mile/Tia Chucha's Field trip was designed to showcase the many valuable public and institutional assets that are present within both Pacoima and Sylmar, the two prevailing communities surrounding our school and home to the majority of our students.

Students spend the morning portion of the trip engaged in a walking tour of Van Nuys Boulevard, interacting with, studying, and reflecting on the myriad public murals that adorn the building walls of the boulevard. Guided through the experience by a combination of their 8th grade teachers, after school tutoring staff, our Principal Ms. Serio, and a few parents, students have the opportunity to slow down their pace, contribute to local establishments, and share anecdotes of their lives growing up in Pacoima.
In the afternoon, students head in school busses over to Tia Chucha’s Centro Cultural, a local community center and publishing house, occupying the first floor of a quaint building in Sylmar Plaza off Hubbard Street. At Tia Chucha’s, students have the unique opportunity to meet with the renowned author, poet, and activist Luis Rodriguez. Over the course of the month of January, 8th grade students have been reading Rodriguez’ award winning memoir, *Always Running* in their history class. During their visit to Tia Chucha’s, Luis Rodriguez and the immensely hospitable staff of the organization hosted us through an hour long Q & A panel in which students are welcome to ask Luis all their burning questions. Always one to nurture the voice and agency of our youth, Luis Rodriguez fielded all their questions and provided thoughtful and candid responses. After our Q & A, students made a line (almost 117 people long) to have their books signed. It was not only a joy to see but left an indelible mark on all who participated! For more information on Tia Chucha’s Centro Cultural, please see their website at [http://www.tiachucha.org/](http://www.tiachucha.org/) or contact 818.939.3433.
PUC Schools Parent College: Second Year Parents Start Action Research Projects

PUC Schools Parent College just had its fourth session of the year. First year parents had two power packed classes covering financial aid and scholarships. Nicole Murphy and Anna Garcia from our Counseling Department visited every classroom giving each parent one on one attention.

Children were taken care of by Daniela Encarnacion one of PUC Milagro’s second grade teachers. She gave our children the opportunity to build towers of healthy foods. They then had the pleasure of turning their colorful towers into delicious smoothies. Children learned about healthy eating while having a blast. We believe in making every experience at Parent College the best for all our stakeholders.

Second year parents started the most exciting portion of their classes. They are embarking on a series of Action Research Projects. This month they identified problems that are impacting our schools and community. They assigned roles and responsibilities and formed a calendar of activities that encompass executing research, documenting their steps, proposing solutions and providing support to see agreed upon solutions become a reality. Some of the areas they focused on were School Parent Groups, Improving After School Programs, School and Community Safety, School Spirit, and Organizing Civic Activities for parents in the area.

Parents will be presenting the outcomes of their Action Research Projects at their graduation which will take place this year at our LA PUC Schools Family Fest. All parents are welcome to attend our monthly Parent College Sessions. Our next one is February 25th.

PUC Schools’ Department of Parent Engagement and Empowerment

Children lining up to have their healthy creations turned into smoothies

Parents presenting to each other their action research ideas
As the expectations of college-readiness are constantly changing, the ability to understand and use technology has become increasingly important. The amount of information created and transferred worldwide continues to grow every day and our students need to be able to access and respond to that information.

Our 4th graders had the opportunity to use a variety of digital resources to collect, synthesize and present their findings as a research team on an extreme weather event. They utilized Google Classroom to digitally meet with their team and share rich resources from across the web. They were able to collect informational texts, news articles and videos on their topic. They gathered their resources through a shared Google Doc and created a presentation for the class using Google Slides.

We were able to discuss a range of technologically-related issues from what makes an online source verifiable to creating a shared document. The students were engaged each day to learn something new that was applicable to their upcoming presentation.

The day of their presentation the students were so excited to present their findings of “What Causes an Earthquake” or “How to Predict a Hurricane”. They were super proud of their work and learned a variety of skills that they will be sure to use in their future!
PUC Sylmar Complex Students Attend STARS Conference

On Tuesday, January 31st students from Lakeview Charter High School, Triumph Charter High School, and Triumph Charter Middle School attended the annual STARS conference at Cal Poly Pomona. The STARS conference is geared for “at-risk” students who are ready to make the effort to turn their lives around but need a little push in the right direction. Students had the opportunity to attend several workshops and listen to powerful keynote speakers about ways to reach their goals.

The highlight of the conference came when students had the opportunity to hear from Kevin Laue, the first player missing a limb to play NCAA Division I basketball. Kevin Lau talked about overcoming his disability, the early death of his father, a challenging home environment, to become one of the top high school basketball player in California while earning a scholarship to join the Manhattan College Jaspers. Students were able to connect with Kevin afterwards and even asked him to sign one of their pairs of shoes!
The Inclusion team at PUC Excel Charter Academy started the school year with a unique vision. Borrowing from PUC’s three commitment model, the Inclusion team created the Inclusion Vision, which includes four core goals. These four goals are targeted to support students to access the content curriculum, use resources, develop personally, and build relationships with families. Thus far, the team has managed to meet and exceed their goals, especially the goal centered around building relationships with families.

To establish relationships with the families of students with special needs, the Inclusion team has been holding monthly parent workshops. Initially, the team decided they would decide the topic of the workshops. However, after the first workshop, several parents advocated for themselves and their children and suggested possible future topics. So far, workshops have been held around the individual education program process, culture, data, and bullying. Every month, the parents of students with special needs have the opportunity to deepen their relationship with the Inclusion team.

The Inclusion team at Excel Charter Academy is grateful that they can empower parents so that they can help their children navigate their way through school and eventually college.
In Mr. Hoey’s theater class, we saw the end to another successful 7th grade theatre performance cycle at CCMS. Students performed 30 minute versions of Shakespeare’s Macbeth as well as Much Ado About Nothing. Fake fights and fake kisses were staged in order to bring the death in tragedy and the love in comedy to life. When all was done, the students took their first curtain call and walked away with an experience that few other can boast about: performing Shakespeare at twelve.

The project of a play became part of the theatre program two years ago where upturned tables were used to separate the actors backstage from the audience. Since then the production values have grown in leaps and bounds. The upturned tables were replaced with custom made drapes on a collapsible frame. The florescent lights gave way to LED lights with a light board. And sound run through computer speakers morphed into a dedicated sound system run by a digital playback program used by professional theatre companies.

Each time these and other plays are done we are able to add and fine tune sets, props, and costumes. For now, we are only limited by our drive and imagination.
PUC Achieve Preps for State Testing

PUC Achieve rolled out a State Test Prep Joy Theme that we are excited about. Superheroes have taken over Achieve. Our Superhero Trainers are hard at work teaching our scholars their SUPER Testing Strategies that will help them fly to proficient on their state exams. Our Superheroes in Training are diligently using these strategies to earn Super-Cash, which will earn them incentives, such as a Superhero Movie Party and Superhero Flying Lessons at our local trampoline park. Over the next few weeks, we will be having door decorating competitions and providing superhero themed t-shirts in preparation of our upcoming state tests in March and May. There is a superhero in each of our scholars, and we are giving them the courage to put on their capes.
NECA Scholar Wins Free Trip To Washington D.C. To Speak Out About the Power of Education

By Cyndi Reyes (7th Grade History Teacher at PUC NECA)

Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy’s 7th-grade history teacher, Cyndi Reyes, has been working with Educators 4 Excellence to revise the organization's declaration. After six years of teacher-led advocacy and with over 20,000 members across the nation, E4E felt the need for a change to their organization's vision. The process involved six months of gathering over 40 volunteer members via conference calls and culminated with an event at the Historical Society in Brooklyn, New York. The Declaration Advisory Group gathered data, polled educators, and held focus groups in order to ensure the voice of all E4E members were heard. The final draft of the declaration has been approved by participating teachers and will be launched at an event at the Newseum in Washington D.C. on February 10th.

Policy makers, educators, and media will gather in Washington D.C. to hear panelists speak. Former Secretary of Education Dr. John B. King Jr. will be facilitating a panel that will host both Ms. Reyes and Nueva Esperanza's 7th-grader Samantha Miranda! E4E offered to host three students from members' schools at the Declaration Launch Event. Samantha submitted a written entry to try and win a spot on the panel in D.C. E4E was thrilled to have a committed student who would be willing to share her story join the panel! Samantha will have the opportunity to share with stakeholders the power of her education, what equity means to her, and why her education matters. We are so proud of our student Samantha Miranda for securing her place at this historic event in Educators 4 Excellence’s history.
PUC Inspire Sixth Graders Visit California Science Center

Last week, on January 27, 2017 our PUC Inspire Sixth Grade Scholars visited the California Science Center. It was a wonderful experience!! It was nice to take the learning experience outside the classroom to review and learn the many scientific presented at the Science Center. It was evident from the smiles on our students faces as they made every connection possible to the many exhibits. The level of academic discourse was phenomenal as they truly spoke to the many concepts previous learned in science class. Our parent chaperons were amazing leaders, as they took their groups through the exhibits making this experience a successful event. I'd say this is one for the books!

PUC CCECHS Hiking Club Hikes at La Tuna Canyon

CCECHS hiking club in partnership with Sierra Club had its 2nd hike of the year on Jan. 28th at the beautiful La Tuna Canyon. Many staff members along with 35 students attended the hike and enjoyed the camaraderie as well as the gorgeous nature.

Hiking club advisers at CCECHS: Mrs. Simonian and Ms. Neary
Employee Referral Program

Every year PUC receives some of its best teacher candidates from current employees and this year we would like to see teacher referrals meet an all-time high! After all, who better than our own teachers to know what kind of candidate would be a great fit for PUC?

Our teacher referral program offers some great benefits to you as a current employee. This year we are offering a monetary bonus!

How do I get it?
In order to receive the hiring bonus, the applicant must list your full name in the "How did you hear about us" box on our application.

Are there any exclusions?
If you are considered a PUC Hiring Manager (All Managers, Directors, Coordinators, Instructional Team Member and School Leaders), you do not qualify for the referral program.

Tips for Team Members!
We recommend that you email any potential friends or family with a link to our Career Opportunities page, and let them know they must list your name in order for you to receive the referral bonus. Posting the link on your Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter account with those brief directions may also prove fruitful!

Best of luck.

Employee Referral Program Questions?
For more information, please visit http://www.pucschools.org/careers/refer or contact a member of the recruitment team at careers@pucschools.org!
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-El_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
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.

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 to 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.

Human Resources has AMC tickets available for sale. As of August 1, 2016, AMC will no longer sell Silver, Gold or Green Tickets; they have decided to move to one ticket going forward which will be the Black Ticket. PLEASE NOTE: May be subject to surcharge. All restrictions are listed in back of ticket.

AMC tickets have no expiration date. The price for a black ticket is $10.25 per 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 Black tickets, please contact Isamar Muñoz, HR Assistant.

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

Sprint is pleased to offer monthly service discounts to eligible employees, students and organization members. Click on the Sprint logo above to visit Sprint's promo website or visit the PUC Intranet, Employee Perks under the Team Member Tools tab.
You can now purchase PUC Polo Shirts and PUC Laptop bags! Items can be purchased throughout the year. Please contact Isamar Muñoz from the Human Resources Department in order to place an order. You can reach her at i.munoz@pucschools.org or 818-478-2130.

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

**PUC Laptop Bag: $40**