Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

It has been a very interesting and exciting LAUSD school board election this year with a former PUC teacher, Kelly Gonez, running for the board seat soon to be vacated by Monica Ratliff. Kelly is a former PUC Lakeview Charter Academy teacher and was also my student at Loyola Marymount University. She grew up in the NE San Fernando Valley and attended Alemany High School and then UC Berkeley. Nick Melvoin, another candidate who ran for the board seat currently occupied by school board President Steve Zimmer, was also my student at the University. Both of these outstanding young professionals began their careers with Teach for America. The course I teach at Loyola Marymount focuses on advocacy in public education through the law. I recall how much zeal and passion these two individuals demonstrated while in my class. It was evident that both of them are extremely intelligent. In addition, they both clearly embraced a deep belief that all students can succeed and that it is our duty as public educators to make sure that every student is provided with the opportunity to achieve his/her potential. All teachers want their students to excel and as their former professor it has been incredibly inspiring for me to watch Kelly and Nick take on the huge responsibility of running for public office; truly a demonstration of advocacy in public education! Following a grueling, hard fought election both Kelly and Nick won their seats. They will be strong advocates for good charter schools but moreover they will work hard to unite those who work for LAUSD with those of us who work in the charter school movement in a combined effort to provide all children in Los Angeles with an exemplary public education. There will now be two individuals who emerged from PUC serving on the LAUSD school board, Dr. Ref Rodriguez who is of course the co-founder of PUC schools and PUC National, and Kelly Gonez, a former PUC teacher. I see this as an outgrowth of the pioneering, ground breaking spirit that has always characterized our 18-year old organization and also a reflection of our commitment to not only our own PUC students but also to the greater educational community. Congratulations to Kelly and Nick, both of whom are destined to represent the children in Los Angeles very well!
On April 1st 2017, The PUC Health and Wellness team put together the 4th annual PUC Family Health Day at the Lakeview Terrace PUC Education Complex, and it was another great success!! We had exhibitors come out and share with our families everything from fun fitness workouts, to creating easy ways to cook healthy, ways to keep our plant and environment clean, and also sharing important medical information from hospital representatives and insurance information.

There were many fun physical activities going on the whole day from dance offs, to family tug-o-war, soccer and sports games offered by some of the great exhibitors including CUERPASO, 3 WINS FITNESS and the ALL STAR DANCE TEAM. Students from various PUC schools also put together several AMAZING dance performances showcasing their dance moves for all the visitors, and even invited families to join in on the fun! This was a great way to interact with all the families, enjoy a few laughs and most importantly, stay active! These kids are so talented, and it was such a great experience for them to dance and let loose!

There were also students and exhibitors sharing all sorts of fun and HEALTHY ways to cook delicious meals for the whole family. PUC Schools food vendor Revolution Foods came out and held a cooking workshop for families, gave everyone food samples and expressed the importance of cooking and living a healthy lifestyle.

The PUC Health and Wellness team would like to thank each and every volunteer, student, parent, staff member and friend who came out to help support such fun-filled event. We hope that this event gave everyone an understanding of what it means to be healthy all around, physically, mentally and environmentally.

We also want to thank all our exhibitors and donors, who took time out of THEIR busy schedules to help PUC Schools put on another great Family Health Day. All their contributions and donated gifts were extremely appreciated.

We encourage all of our PUC staff, PUC families and community members to come out and enjoy this
PUC CCES Has Arts & Crafts Spring Family Night

On Thursday, April 27, PUC Community Charter Elementary School held its second annual Arts & Crafts Spring Family Night! In addition to taking on the feeling of an open house, on this evening students and their families gathered in their classrooms where they collaboratively created a craft together to take home with them. By providing a fun activity that children can do alongside their parents, this evening creates strong school culture where the home, family and school are bridged together. Each classroom had a different craft project, and the process of parent and child creating together was priceless! Parents and students also toured the variety of art projects and classwork in their classrooms, as well as creating another project in another grade level. This also allowed families to see other grade level classrooms to experience what projects they can expect to complete in future years at PCCES. They may have even met their next teacher! To add to the relaxed, yet familial feel, music and tacos were a great addition to an evening filled with creativity.
From April 10th-April 12th, nearly 70 students from CCECHS’ Junior Class participated in a college tour through Northern California. With their teacher chaperones, Ms. Lindsay, Mr. Narvaez, Ms. Neary, Mr. Stockly, Ms. Thomasy, and Ms. Valenzuela, students visited a variety of campuses ranging from small private schools, UCs, and CSUs, including CSU Stanislaus, UC Berkeley, UC Merced, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, Holy Names University, San Jose State, and CSU East Bay.

Touring campuses while classes were in session, students even met with CCECHS alumni, Cinthya Alvarez (Class of 2017), Ben Briones (Class of 2017), David Aparicio (Class of 2017), Laura Amignon (Class of 2017), Dolores Amaya (Class of 2015), and David Barrios (Class of 2012).

Students also took advantage of the opportunity to do a bit of sightseeing, walking the length of the Golden Gate Bridge and enjoying San Francisco Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park.

A number of students commented that now the possibility of going to college seems real and that this trip will serve as a source of motivation over the course of the next year and a half as they approach their graduation. Melanie Friz, Class of 2018, discussed the value of the experience. “This trip helped me open my eyes and mind beyond the valley. I’m so excited for college. I couldn’t have asked for a better experience with my classmates”, she said. From her time spent touring these campuses, Junior Karina Vargas remarked, “Honestly, how you feel at a school is so much more important than its name.” Tyrone Vasquez, added: “This was a wonderful experience that expanded my mind, opening several new doors to my future. I will never forget this once in a lifetime experience.”
YallWest

Submitted By Sophia Gomez; PUC Community Charter Middle School, 8th Grade

Yallwest, a place where fan girls and fan boys can mingle together peacefully without a care in the world. This magical event which muggles call Yallwest is a place of splendor and happiness for some. Dear reader, you definitely want to know about this place.

Yallwest, located at Santa Monica High School is an event that occurs once a year around spring. However, this place is very special. It is about books and general nerdiness. This event has many great attractions and eye-catching things. According to yallwest.com, there were over 100 authors and presenters including New York Times Bestsellers along with local and acclaimed young adult and middle grade writers, plus notable TV, film, video game, and comic creators. Some authors that will be there are: Nicola Yoon (author of Everything, Everything), Victoria Aveyard (author of The Red Queen), Ransom Riggs (author of Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children), and so many more. There was also UCLA Quidditch.

The school participated in this event on Saturday, April 29. There were a certain number of students that went from each grade and they had to read a book from one of the authors that was on the list and filled out a form. The teachers then chose from the forms. I questioned Mrs. Brown on the purpose of this event. She told me that this was the third year that the school attended this event. She said that three years ago, a teacher from the high school told her about Yallwest and she decided to check it out. Mrs. Brown stated that the purpose for going to Yallwest is to encourage students to read more. If students went with the school to Yallwest, they received a voucher for a free book. Along with books, there were also a variety of tasty food trucks.

I personally have gone to Yallwest and I will definitely say that it was a fun and marvelous experience. I give it a 10 out of 10, would recommend.

Teacher Note:

Scholars from Community Charter Middle School had the fabulous opportunity to experience YallWest again this year. From sitting and reading their selections to enjoying ice cream from the many food trucks, our scholars definitely enjoyed their time.
SPOTLIGHT ON PUC CCECHS

CONGRATULATIONS PUC Community Charter Early College High School’s Class of 2017 for earning the most scholarship money out of the five PUC high schools serving seniors! PUC CCECHS’ scholarship total is $1,369,648, which accounts for 52% of PUC Schools’ overall Class of 2017 scholarship awards to date (PUC-Wide scholarship award total: $2,603,726, as of 5/22/2017, per Naviance scholarship report).

The schools’ College Counseling Team, Mr. Reynoso and Ms. Flores shared this senior class has had great scholarship success due to their exceptional drive, overall strong academic performance and work ethic. The eighteen PUC CCECHS scholarship recipients dedicated hours of hard work, which is required to receive such generous scholarship awards.

The counseling team noted the students’ scholarship success takes the entire school staff working together. They shared their administrators and teachers were instrumental in letting students out of class for one-on-one counseling time, and the teachers worked collaboratively with the college counselors to ensure scholarship applicants received accurate and consistent application and essay feedback.

PUC CCECHS’ College Counseling team’s expertise, dedication and commitment to their seniors’ scholarship success was achieved through their teams’ noted scholarship success systems:

**ONGOING PROMOTION & COMMUNICATION** – The PUC Schools’ monthly newsletter is emailed to all PUC CCECHS families via Naviance, and additional email encouragement is sent to students. Both students and families receive constant reminders to note each scholarship’s eligibility requirements, deadlines and to apply, apply, apply!

**EXPERTISE IN SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** – PUC CCECHS’ College Counselors invest time into researching and learning what the “big” financial award scholarships and local scholarships committees want (local scholarships tend to be less competitive). They build dedicated scholarship planning and support into their schedules, and invest time into connecting with prior awardees to get tips on how to best prepare their applicants.

**TARGET COMPETITIVE STUDENTS & REQUIRE THEM TO APPLY** - Students identified as competitive applicants for the “big” monitory generous scholarships (Posse, QuestBridge, Seattle Sullivan Leadership Scholarship, etc.), are REQUIRED to apply (required by the College Counseling Team). The counselors also target these students’ families, informing them of the specific scholarship opportunities, deadlines, as well as the hard work and time requirements a student must commit to. Families are made aware of the financial asks that many scholarship applications require, to ensure families gather this information by the scholarship deadline (Ex: Income tax information, etc.).

**COACHING** – Scholarship applicants receive continuous coaching to ensure their applications, essays, and interview behaviors are refined. They provide interview coaching, which helps applicants be mindful of their body language, responses, and interview attire. They also make sure students have a plan as to how to get to the interview, which may take place in person or online.

**ENCOURAGEMENT & CALMING NERVES** – PUC CCECHS College Counselors link alumni scholarship recipients with current applicants to provide tips and support, hence lessening senior applicants’ anxiety, as well as adding another layer of encouragement.

**CELEBRATIONS** - PUC CCECHS celebrates scholarship recipients school-wide via their morning announcements. The College Counseling team also enjoys peppering scholarship recipients with confetti when they bring in their award letters. This makes the College Counseling office floor a colorful conversation starter, with all who enter their office.

Again CONGRATS to PUC CCECHS’ Class of 2017 scholarship recipients, and staff supporting their success!

*Picture below from left to right, PUC CCECHS’ College Counseling Team: Ms. Mariela Flores and Mr. Josué Reynoso (Mr. Reynoso is also a PUC CCECHS Class of 2008 Alum)*
**Little Shop of Horrors Production**

Earlier this month, VAPA teachers and students from PUC Triumph Charter Academy, PUC Triumph Charter High School, and PUC Lakeview Charter High School collaborated on the musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, performed in the Dr. Jacqueline Elliot Performing Arts Center. The production was directed by Keith Martin (LCHS), technical theater direction by Rachel Lipson (LCHS), music direction by Scott Farr (LCHS), and choreography by Emily Palacios (TCHS).

For anyone unfamiliar with this ambitious production, *Little Shop of Horrors* is a dark, sometimes comic, and even heartbreaking musical tale of fame and fortune and the lengths to which someone might go to achieve such success. The story centers on Seymour, an awkward and insecure floral shop assistant, the carnivorous plant he feeds, and Audrey, his sweet co-worker lacking in self-esteem, who feels she deserves her abusive boyfriend. The musical also features memorable characters like Orin, the sadistic dentist who takes great pleasure in hurting people, and Mushnik, the shop owner who is desperate for success and leaps at the chance to take advantage of Seymour and his mysterious and rapidly-growing plant.

Over the past four months, the student cast from all three schools rehearsed tirelessly after school and even on Saturdays with Mr. Martin and Mr. Farr in preparation for the performances. The weekly rehearsal schedule called for time specifically dedicated to acting, stage direction and blocking, vocal performance, pit musical ensemble rehearsal, and choreography. Music students from PUC LCHS prepared a demanding set of songs that included jazz, rock, blues, klezmer, and theatrical effects. Technical theater students at PUC Lakeview and PUC Triumph Charter High School played a big role behind the scenes. Students did everything from sewing costumes and painting the set to running sound and lights for the production. In addition, the voice of Audrey II, the man-eating plant, was played by Mr. Alexi Swonger. Mr Swonger teaches Math at PUC Lakeview Charter HS. Students developed many of the technical skills needed to pursue a career in the visual and performing arts during the course of this production. It was truly a collaborative effort that highlighted and showcased the artistic talents of students at the PUC Sylmar Education Complex. Congratulations to all the staff, students, and administration who supported this wonderful production.
PUC Parents Taking a Shot at Commitment #1

PUC LA has entered into a partnership with Los Angeles City College (LACC) and YPI to provide free college classes to our parents. This month they concluded their first class and have been registered at LACC. Tonantzin Oble, YPI Parent Manager, approached Mr. Kuauhtzin with this possibility of having PUC Parents attend college at no cost through a partnership with LACC. Dr. Gloria Gasca welcomed the opportunity and PUC Excel has been housing and supporting the YPI Parent Coordinator and LACC Professors for the past semester of classes. Parents from several PUC LA and other neighborhood schools have concluded their first semester. Micaela Aguilar, parent at PUC Milagro and PUC Excel said, “My colleagues and I are very grateful for the opportunities we as parents are receiving through PUC Schools. As parents, we suspend our dreams many times for those of our children. This LACC partnership is allowing us to pick up our dreams and make them a reality.” Another parent shared that this opportunity is allowing her to see what her children will be experiencing once they go to college. She added that this partnership was another way of putting to practice what she had learned in PUC Schools’ Parent College classes.

Two Excel and Milagro mothers showing off their IDs

Parents went to LACC to pick up their College Identification Cards and attend an orientation session for their Summer Classes. College counselors met with them and began planning a route for parents. Parents were excited after their sessions and shared how they saw a clear route to a professional career. They did share concerns when thinking of supports they might need through this next stage in their educational journey.

Our parents will be taking classes throughout the Summer Semester. PUC will be planning how to continue this partnership and make it more available to parents throughout our network and communities. Wow! What an interesting way of meeting commitment number one. Go PUC Schools!!!
PUC is Helping Create Safer Schools For All Children

PUC’s efforts as a founding member of the California Schools Are Sanctuaries coalition and in partnership with Dr. Rodriguez and Monica Garcia’s offices encouraged LAUSD to pass a second resolution for their Safe Zones that guarantees that we stand by undocumented families. This second resolution will enable the over 900 schools in the district to take up policies and implement systems that will make them sanctuary schools.

Board Member Monica Garcia speaking before the media with PUC Parents standing behind her.

Our own Sascha Robinett, PUC Milagro’s principal spoke before the board helping them understand the fears our families and the school adults are experiencing as we support our most vulnerable families in this uncertain national climate.

Many parent leaders from the five PUC LA Schools went to a morning press conference in front of LAUSD headquarters showing their solidarity with parents in traditional public schools and in some cases with their charter counterparts who have children in both traditional and charter public schools. The Avelica family was also present who shared how traumatic of an experience it was to see their father detained by ICE on their way to school.

PUC Parents taking turns lined up speaking to Spanish-speaking media outlets.

Parents asked that we do everything to make sure no other family goes through this. Many PUC mothers were interviewed by the Spanish media outlets and delivered heart-wrenching responses that aided in persuading LAUSD Board Members to vote unanimously in favor of the enhancement of their Safe Zones Resolution.

Dr. Ref Rodriguez said, “L.A. Unified is basically saying fear stops at [our] door.”

PUC Schools will soon be updating our Safe Haven Resolution to include the ACLU recommended policies to operationalize our resolution passed in February. Go PUC!!!
PUC Parent Leaders Take the Fight to Sacramento

Parent Leaders on two fronts both in Los Angeles and Sacramento fought against SB 808 and won! SB 808 aims to limit charter schools in the entire state of California by taking away the right to appeal to alternative charter school authorizers such as the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the California State Board of Education. SB 808 is another attempt by charter school opponents to limit charter schools.

Kuauhtzin speaking before the LAUSD Board against support of SB 808

In Los Angeles parent leaders emailed, called and attend the LAUSD Board hearing to have their voices heard against SB 808. After a heavily contentious board meeting, LAUSD heavily divided, approved a resolution in support of SB 808. The vote was three against the resolution and four in favor. Dr. Ref Rodriguez, Monica Ratliff, and Monica Garcia voted against the resolution. The Daily News said the following after the April 18th LAUSD Board Meeting, “On Tuesday, the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education voted 4-3 to support three anti-charter school bills. The decision of the school board makes clear that appeasing politically and financially motivated teachers unions is a greater priority than the best interests of students and parents...” Even though this battle was lost in Los Angeles, parents took the struggle to Sacramento.

Parents after a meeting with Senator Kevin de Leon

Parent Leaders scheduled a meeting with Senator Tony Mendoza in Sacramento in partnership with CCSA advocates the same day LAUSD was voting on a resolution to support SB 808. The Sacramento effort was victorious. The bill was pulled by Senator and supporter Tony Mendoza before the Senate had to vote on its passing the following week. It is clear and empowering to parents that their voices are powerful and relevant. The bill has not died completely but parents are waiting at the ready to defend their right to quality public education options in their communities.
Employee Referral Program

@PUC_Recruitment

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!

Tweet to careers@pucschools.org

@careers@pucschools.org

How do I get it?

Employee Referral Program @PUC_Recruitment

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?

Employee Referral Program @PUC_Recruitment

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.

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!

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.
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!

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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.
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 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