Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

As the end of the school year approaches, we joyfully celebrate our students walking across the stage at graduation, and we reflect on our achievements from the past year. It has been a very good year. Our achievements have been many and range from Gold Ribbon Awards (eCALS, CALS Early College High School, Triumph Charter Academy and Triumph Charter High School) to increased state test scores across the network, to WASC accreditations, and more. One of our most exciting achievements has been our outstanding Alumni Teach Project. As a result of Dr. Leslie Chang’s and Ms. Ingrid Twyman’s leadership and the mentorship from some of our most outstanding PUC teachers, 20 of our alumni will be teaching in their own PUC classrooms in the fall, fulfilling PUC’s Commitment #3, *Our students will commit to uplift our communities now and forever.*

On the political front, the California Charter School Association has represented us extraordinarily well this past year in Sacramento fighting legislation that would have been harmful to charter schools but we still have much work to do with our parents to increase understanding of how powerful their voices are in the legislature. Having one of our former PUC teachers from PUC Lakeview Charter Academy elected to the LAUSD School Board was definitely a highlight this year along with the election to the Board of Nick Melvoin, a former TFA teacher and pro-charter school reformer. We look forward to having fair representation for Los Angeles charter schools with this newly configured Board. There has never been a more important time for us to cultivate the characteristics of mutual respect, compassion, and a commitment to the well-being of those around us within our students. The incredible culture we have created within our schools has provided a platform to successfully instill these humanistic characteristics in the vast majority our students, which I believe has been our greatest achievement of all. Yes, we have much to celebrate as we end the school year and I wish you all a very enjoyable summer!
Reflect and GROW!

June has become a month of reflection for me. At first, it was by force, due to my teaching career. As the year came to an end, our principals challenged our team to think over the past months; what went well or what we could do differently. To be honest, I didn’t really enjoy this process of reflection in the beginning. I felt like “reflection” was a fancy way of telling me I needed to think about, make a list of, and analyze every detail of the things I did wrong. I focused so much on the embarrassment and discomfort I felt when faced with the honesty of my mistakes.

Being vulnerable on purpose was scary! As I have matured as an educator and as a person, I have grown to love and appreciate the process of reflection. True reflection is not about mistakes, it is only about growth. Parts of the process are uncomfortable, but when growth remains the focus (instead of our shortcomings) we can resolve to continue the process knowing we will be better for it!

What do you need to reflect on? Maybe there are things about your personal fitness and health that need to change. I challenge you to reflect and then choose one thing to work on during this month. I know that in regard to personal health, most do not want to be faced with the reality of their decisions and can be overwhelmed with the amount of things they feel they should change. Even as a health professional, I still have moments of overwhelm regarding things I can do better. But, this month, let’s practice true reflection. Free yourself of guilt and shame associated with previous decisions and put your focus on growing into a better you.

Decide on one action step and diligently carry it out this month. Maybe you can commit to drinking more water, taking a 20 minute walk each day or cutting out fast-food from your diet. Once that action step gets easy, reflect again and focus on a new step. You can do this. And, don’t forget, I’m right there with you! This June, let’s grow J
PUC L. A.’s 16th Annual Family Fest

All PUC L.A. Schools came together to hold the 16th Annual Family Fest. This long-standing tradition going back to 2002 celebrates the arts and honors the beauty of the community PUC Schools continuously creates as we join arms educating our children. We also honor Adela Crittenden, one of the founding parents of this beautiful tradition.

Parents play a huge role in making this great event happen. We say thank you to our long standing Parent Organizers the Montoyas for leading this tradition. We want to thank Laura Rayo, Maria Trujillo and Luz Paez for taking charge in this year’s PUC Family Fest. We also say thank you to all our support staff and leaders for everything they do in upholding this tradition.

We had a very special guest this year. Dr. Elliot was able to join us. Thank you! Dr. Elliot shared how happy she was to have attended our festivity. She greatly appreciated seeing our students take the stage and was very moved by the parent graduations. She promised to join us next year. It is a great honor to be part of an organization that takes the time from its busy schedule to celebrate the arts and fundraise for them.

Our students took charge on and off stage. Starting with CALS MC, Daniel Andalon led our Fest with his charisma and enthusiasm. The student performances were very cool! It was beautiful having artists from all our schools on stage. Excel and Santa Rosa’s Bands rocked! eCALS singers and musicians inspired all our young musicians with their talent and years of hard artistic cultivation. Our drama artists captivated us with their monologues. Off the stage, we got the opportunity to wear David Garcia’s, 4th grade Milagro student, artistic interpretation of what PUC means to him on our PUC Family Fest t-shirt. Our silent auction was vivid, full of color and truly celebrated the work our students do in each of our visual arts classes. Milagro kept our little PUC stakeholders, and adults too, happy with all their fun games. Our student athletes challenged each other on the field and on the court each representing their schools’ athletic spirit. Student volunteers from all schools helped keep our festivity clean throughout the whole event making sure we didn’t have such a heavy lift at the end. Go CALS Green Team!!!
Parents were our true champions. From the planning till the end they lead the way. A strong thank you to Laura Rayo and Maria Aguilar, Santa Rosa and eCALS Parent Leaders for taking a leadership role in this year’s Family Fest. Parent volunteers supported all our booths guaranteeing they were well attended and supported. It was very nice seeing whole families come to support the festivities enjoying the arts, games, delicious food, each other’s company and winning some prizes on the way. Our Parent College graduates were truly honored before the whole community for their yearlong work. They exhibited their collective work as parent leaders in our schools and community demonstrating the importance of parent empowerment and inspiring each other to continue growing.

Our dear Dr. Orlando was greatly surprised, as he got honored for 17 years of dedication to our schools. His selfless and wholehearted investment to all the success of all our schools has earned him a place in all our hearts. We see his love for our children, for our parents, and for all of us who work for PUC in all his acts of love for PUC Schools. Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Elliot’s words of appreciation for Nik’s commitment to the success of our schools and communities were a testament to Nik’s legacy. Thank you Dr. Orlando! Council member Gil Cedillo presented Dr. Ref Rodriguez with a beautiful City Certificate for his continual contribution to the North East L.A. communities through this 16 year long tradition.

Working with all of our families in this year’s PUC Family fest leaves us inspired to continue uplifting our community through the arts and family building. Special thanks to Jada Kelly and Counseling Team for coordinating the broader community resources that our families enjoyed at the Fest. Go PUC !!!
PUC LA mothers joined the efforts to get Kelly Fitzgerald-Gonez elected. Mothers held house parties to Get the Vote Out for Board District 6. These amazing Parent Leaders have empowered themselves through all their work in Parent College Level 2 and their weekly leadership circles. Their understanding of the political tensions on the LAUSD Board inspired them to get involved. A Santa Rosa and eCALS mother opened her house by saying, “We understand that not all our parents can take the time to join the fight, so we do it for them and for all the children.”

Parents reached out to the Parent Teacher Alliance to organize themselves and be able to call voters asking for votes in favor of Kelly. Parents from all LA schools joined this effort. Parent Teacher Alliance Organizer Giovany Hernandez said, “PUC LA parents truly understand that this is a collective movement and that we all have to get involved to make a difference for all children in the state.”

Mr. Kuauhtzin shared that many of the PUC parent leaders organizing these house parties have come to develop a consciousness of advocacy and empowerment starting from Parent Leadership Circles at our schools to having parents speak to Senators in Sacramento. We are very proud of our PUC Parent Leaders who are leading the way through civic engagement.
PUC Excel Boys Soccer Team Win Championship

PUC Excel’s boys soccer team ended their playoff run with a 5-2 victory over Triumph making them Champions of the 2017 Metro League. For many of the 8th graders on the team it was a perfect ending, not only for the season, but their middle school career. Most of the team has worked together under Coach Moreno for the last 3 years, making it to the finals but never winning the championship game until this year. “It feels great. It was a once in a lifetime experience,” said team captain, Yahir Gomez.

Juan Zamora-Luna scored the first goal of the game giving the Wolves an early lead. Nestor Rosas, Bryan Ramirez and Tony Rangel added a goal apiece. Yahir Gomez also scored with a perfectly aimed penalty kick, making the score 5-0.

Defensively, Excel was equally strong, thanks to goalie Yoseth Valiente-Ixchop and defenders Andrew Francisco, Riccardo Guillen, Yahir Gomez and Israel Arreola. Triumph was held scoreless until the last 10 minutes of play.

Oswaldo Michel and Hector Iraheta-Mejia’s work at midfield was also crucial to Excel’s success, recovering the ball and effectively making passes to their teammates so they could score. Paul Ayala, Gustavo Gutierrez and Ivan Maldonado, Excel’s utility players, also contributed to the win, doing whatever was necessary to keep Excel in the lead.

“We want to thank our parents for taking us to our games and supporting us. Also Mr. Moreno for taking the time to coach us for the last three years,” said Gomez. The team also expressed appreciation for their teachers and friends who came to games and cheered them on. Excel hopes to keep the championship title again next season.
Sylmar Women’s Club Scholarship Recipients

Gabriela Sanchez and Dominique Villagomez, now PUC Triumph Charter High School graduates, were recognized on Wednesday, June 14th as recipients of the Sylmar Women’s Club Scholarship. They were honored at a special luncheon at The Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills. At the request of the club members, their mothers accompanied them to the podium to receive their certificates. It added an extra special touch as it recognized each mother’s role in the success of her daughter.

The Sylmar Women’s Club is a local organization that is dedicating to promoting education among Sylmar youth. While the club previously partnered with only Sylmar High School and LA Mission College, it recognized the increased educational opportunities in the community with the addition of charter and magnet schools. In 2015 it sought to bring more schools into the fold. The club reached out to TCHS as soon as the school relocated to the community. This was the second year that a TCHS student has received this scholarship. Vanessa Montalvo (Class of 2016) received it last year and is now studying at Pierce College.

Gabriela will start at Biola University in the fall and will study nursing. Dominique will attend UC Davis to study Art Studio with an emphasis in Animation. Both young ladies graduated from TCHS with highest honors and are incredibly warm, gracious, talented and determined. They are perfect representatives of the heart of TCHS. We expect great things for these incredibly deserving young women and wish them the best of luck in their future.
These pictures are of the mural project that the Inner City Wolves (a young men’s leadership circle) from PUC Excel Charter Academy and artists from the South Central Arts collective put together on Memorial Day weekend. This project is part of a larger shift that is taking place at PUC Excel and was inspired by a few questions. How do we engage the youth in non-traditional leadership projects? How do we use the assets the youth already possess and bring to the table to positively impact the community? How can we, as educators, provide safe space for our youth to express themselves freely without being negatively labeled? These questions are what triggered a few of us at PUC Excel to create a young men Leadership Circle to provide a specific group of youth at our school with resources that could guide their journey in their preadolescence through adulthood and higher education.

The Mural Project itself was intended to show a group of our youth at Excel that there is something positive that can be put together with street art if the intentions are grounded in uplifting the public that will view it. In order to make this project happen an 8th grade student from Excel, Jordan Erami, created a Go Fund Me account in order to generate funding for the supplies. Mrs. Citlalicue, the 8th grade ELA teacher, created a survey that provided a space for our community, students, teachers, staff and leaders, to share what they would like to see on the mural. Lastly, Mr. Lopez, the leader of the Inner City Wolves and an inclusion assistant at PUC Excel Charter Academy, connected our school to local graffiti artists Crism and Sen to take lead in organizing a group of our youth and bring our vision to life. We chose the words RESPECT and EMPATHY because we want to challenge our youth at Excel to embody these two traits which are also a part of our Habits of Scholar and key pieces to ESLRs of PUC Excel. Another key feature that serves two purposes is the cocoon piece. This represents the idea of metamorphosis and our neighbors at PUC Milagro. Sending the message to our community that we are in transformation. We all go through different transformations in our life, and it is very important for us to be aware of this and purposeful in our actions. This also represents that we are not here alone, we share our campus physically and our lives with a younger generation that will always be looking and listening to each and every step we take.

This experience from the brainstorming to the scraping off of paint from our hands was very inspiring. The collaboration was interwoven amongst generations, professions, perspectives and walks of life. We’d like to express sincere appreciation for all who supported with well wishes, monetarily and advice. It truly takes a village and this village at PUC Excel is grounded and committed to see young men of color break barriers and stereotypes.
Glassdoor and Indeed

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

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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