Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

A very powerful tradition in the PUC network is the community circle. We hold circles with our students, our staff, in schools, and in PUC National. In fact, the community circle was the very first thing our teachers taught our students when we opened Community Charter Middle School in 1999 on the campus of CSUN. Despite the fact that we were surrounded by newspaper reporters and television cameras, our teachers and students began their journey together engaged in an activity that helped them discover what they had in common and bonded them together as a community. Educators know firsthand about the power of positive relationships with each other and with their students. The community circle builds these positive relationships that serve as a solid foundation for the hard work in which we must all engage together, hand in hand, heart to heart, in order to achieve PUC’s 3 Commitments.

At the end of August, I had the pleasure of facilitating a community circle with all but 2 of the schools in the PUC network, from Rochester to California. During the circles, the staff members shared values that are important to them and guide them in their lives. The values that were expressed were very moving and the bond between staff members deepened as they were reminded of the integrity and dedication that is at the heart of each staff member in their school community. There were tears of appreciation and joy in more than one circle. We all agreed that there has never been a more important time to discuss and share the importance of living a life characterized by strong values with each other, our students, and our families.

Please remember to utilize the community circle this year regardless of your role in PUC. The more we understand and are bonded with one another, the more successful we will be at achieving our vision. The pictures below are from the Community Circle at PUC Excel Charter Academy. Thank you to all of the schools for our amazing circles and have a wonderful year!
Summer is a time when families break their routines, including routines around exercise and eating well. Sometimes it feels good to ditch the schedule and go with the flow!! If you think your lack of routine lasted a little too long, take the opportunity that comes with the Fall season and put a simple schedule back in your life.

Try my “5 in 5” to get you and your and family back in your health focused rhythm. Each day of the week has a 5 minute health focus or activity that you can do with your family. You may think that 5 minutes isn’t enough, but it is a wonderful starting point and a time period that everyone can do successfully!

**Monday** - 5 min dance party

Everyone loves a great song! Even the most serious people can’t resist moving to a beat they love. Take 5 minutes today to dance with everyone in your family.

**Tuesday** - 5 minute EMOM (every minute on the minute)

Set your timers for 5 minutes and go!! Complete the following exercises in order: 15 squats, 15 crunches, 10 pushups. Try to complete each round within 60 seconds and rest for the remainder of the minute. At the new minute, start again. Do this for 5 minutes.

**Wednesday** - 5 minute super smoothie!!

Make this quick and easy smoothie that tastes as great as it looks. You’ll need 2 bananas (frozen works best), 2 cups of milk of choice, 1 cup of spinach leaves, and ice. Put all the ingredients in a blender, pour and enjoy. This is loaded with vitamin B6, vitamin C, potassium, calcium and dietary fiber. Makes approximately 4 servings. If you want it a little sweeter, add more banana or frozen mango.

**Thursday** - 5 minute JUMP around

Your little ones will LOVE this workout! Do these 5 exercises in a row for 1 minute each: jumping jacks, jump squats, jump rope (pretend you have a rope), high knee run, side to side skaters. See who can continue for the entire 5 minutes without taking a break!

**Friday** - 5 minute CORE

This challenge requires a partner! Get into a full plank, facing your partner. Both partners reach out opposite hands and give each other a “high five” from plank position. Alternate hands, giving 10 “high fives.” Then, each partner completes 5 pushups. When pushups are done, both partners roll onto their back and complete 30 bicycle crunches. Continue going through these 3 exercises until your 5 minutes is up!

Once you get used to 5 minutes per day, add more little by little! This can and will be your family’s healthiest year yet.

In Health,

Jada
PUC Excel 8th Grade Trip to NY & DC

For 5 days, 16 PUC Excel 8th graders (and 2 courageous teachers) walked through historical landmarks, posed thoughtful and timeless questions, and planted a seed for travel. We started off with a red-eye flight to Washington DC and several first time travelers. There were screams of excitement and nervousness as the plane took off! Soon after, many of them were asleep and when they opened their eyes, we had landed. We hit the ground running and started off the trip with a walk to the MLK memorial--and it was whirlwind after that! We saw 5 Smithsonian museums, 3 war & veterans’ memorials, 2 presidents’ memorials, and had lunch and dinner. It was a lot of walking! In DC, we also saw the White House, the Capitol Building and the Library of Congress. We then drove 4-5 hours to NY and saw Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, a Broadway show and ate New York pizza! The students really enjoyed visiting Times Square, the 9-11 Memorial, and the Empire State Building. All in all, I think this trip gave the students a taste of what traveling is like and we hope they do it again!
PUC Achieve Professional Development and New Mascot

We have been busy here at PUC Achieve! Over the summer we whole-heartedly engaged in school beautification of the entire campus. We have a new school mascot. We are now the PUC Panthers! We added inspiring quotes from well-known authors and activists and even included them in Spanish to reach out to the demographic of our entire student population. The gym has sister flags of all the schools in California to keep our students aware of their connection to all the PUC campuses. Other awesome projects incorporated included: the 5th grade hall having a map of our country with pennants pointing to colleges throughout the country to have our students thinking of college early on. Every homeroom is not only assigned to be a college but has pennants, posters and even items donated from local colleges to get students excited about their homerooms and give teachers a talking point about their school to share throughout the year. Our art teacher also created an inspiring mural before the 7th grade entryway and we were donated beautiful plants placed in every classroom, the entry way and throughout the halls. These are just a few of the new changes we worked on this summer and we can't wait to do more!

This summer's 2017 PD has brought us a wonderful time for all old and new staff to come together and discuss engaging topics to get us off to a great start for the 2017-18 school year. We had a great start with our group chant led by Tondra, "I believe in PUC Achieve!" confirming our faith to move the school forward. Following this we gathered our reflection in the MY WHY activity, sharing our stories behind entering education and being part of the PUC Achieve family. Later, staff was introduced to Community Circle where they learned to build relationships based on trust in their classrooms and create a strong and positive classroom community. Going into day two of Summer PD, we were joined by Meredith from California who gave us detailed information about all things Inclusion including Internal Influence, Disability Information, Help for Billy and the Whole Student activity. Also going into day two of Summer PD staff really dived in to dissect the School Success Plan (SSP). We talked about what it is, immediate reactions, goals and drivers that resonated with staff, questions on it and feedback. Day three, we had our guests from the R.O.O.T.S. program talk to us and led an activity on setting a mission for teachers and later we discussed the PUC Panther identity-poised, sneaky, mysterious and concealed and linked these identities to being highly effective teachers.
Teacher Joins Research Team with Earthwatch Institute

Last year, PUC Community Charter Elementary School scholars engaged in many great scientific projects using the Engineering Design Process. Scholars identified problems, designed and tested their own experiments, and refined and analyzed their results. For instance, in order to come up with sustainable solutions around renewable energy, they specifically learned about radiation and how to harness the sun’s energy to cook food by creating solar ovens using recycled, natural, or minimal use of materials.

This upcoming school year, scholars will continue to explore scientific research in fifth grade. To continue this work, fifth grade teacher Jennifer Lopez will take what she learned this summer and apply it to the current curriculum. Jennifer was part of Earthwatch’s Teach Earth USA Fellowship Program where she joined an Earthwatch research team for a seven day expedition in Arizona. On the expedition, Jennifer and eight other educators from across the United States learned more from scientists about climate change and how it impacts caterpillars and species diversity. The research was led by Dr. Lee Dyer of the University of Nevada, Reno. Each day, Jennifer and other volunteers would go to the field, search for caterpillars, and then take them back to the lab to study them. Volunteers would also receive lectures on the latest scientific research regarding climate change, and discussed the need to bring awareness of this issue back to their students and communities. Thus, this school year, CCES fifth grade scholars will be tackling issues of global warming and climate change in their classes.

Earthwatch is an international environmental nonprofit whose mission is to engage people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment. If you are interested in joining an expedition next summer, visit Earthwatch’s website at http://earthwatch.org/Education/Teacher-Fellowships. You may also contact Ms. Lopez at J.Lopez2@pucschools.org for more information.
Starting a new school is a lot of work and this summer a number of new staff members at the
school in addition to staff members from PUC National pitched in to make sure the school
would open on time and everything would be looking great. PUC International Preparatory
Academy (PUC iPrep) will be the first dual language immersion school in the PUC network.
Families will have the choice of enrolling their child in a Mandarin track or a Spanish track.
The school is located at 1800 Colorado Blvd in Eagle Rock. The school will open with students in
grades K, 1, 6, and 7 and will grow to become a K–8 school. Pictured below are David Jackson
and Vartan Shohmelian assembling furniture and Eddie Torres, Dr. Leslie Chang, and Dr. Nik Or-
lando taking a moment to smile and take a breather! In PUC, we are a family and we all pitch in-
together to get the job done!

For the 18th year in a row, incoming 6th grade students from the PUC middle schools in the NE San Fernando Val-
ley began their middle school experience on the campus of California State University Northridge (CSUN).

In 1999, when the facility for Community Charter Middle School was not ready on time, Dr. Jacqueline Elliot con-
vincing her alma mater, CSUN, to provide 4 classrooms for her 100 sixth grade students for just a couple of weeks
until their permanent home was ready. Two weeks turned into six but the experience on the campus was so posi-
tive for the young 6th grade students that they left the campus deeply committed to graduate from high school and
then go to CSUN or another university. This was exactly the outcome Dr. Elliot was seeking for her middle school
students and so every year thereafter she began taking the incoming 6th grade PUC middle school students in the
NE San Fernando Valley to CSUN for one week.

Dr. Elliot knew that immersing the students in the university culture would inspire them to commit to future high
school graduation and entry into a college or university. As the number of schools in the NE San Fernando Valley
grew, so did the number of sixth grade students going to CSUN. This year, approximately 600 students from 5
PUC middle schools in the NE San Fernando Valley spent one week at CSUN during the week of August 14th and
they were just as inspired this year as they were in 1999. Below some of the students are pictured enjoying the Col-
lege Making It Happen session and also swimming in the beautiful pool at the Student Union.
PUC Connections: Dedicated to keeping our circle of schools connected.

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-El_IE465918.11,22.htm
http://www.indeed.com/cmp/Puc-Schools

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

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](http://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.**

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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.

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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 20356TMOMFAV.

**Any questions regarding our employee perks program, please contact Isamar Muñoz, HR Assistant, i.munoz@pucschools.org or (818) 559-7699.**

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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