Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

As you know, this is the 20th year since the opening of Community Charter Middle School. For this edition, I thought you might like to see some photos reflective of the beginning of the Community Charter Middle School Journey. It was 1999 and we were pioneers. Our site on Celis was not ready and so we convinced CSUN to give us a home for a few weeks. Board member David Tokovsky convinced Laidlaw Transportation to donate buses to transport the students to the university and back each day. Teachers had to set up their classrooms each morning in the Education Building and move their materials back to an office upstairs each day. The stay at CSUN ended up lasting for 6 weeks and the impact on the students was profoundly positive. All of the furniture for our permanent home on Celis Street was donated by Fenton Charter School and the parents, staff, and students cleaned it to prepare it for the students’ arrival. I hope you enjoy these photos reflective of some special moments in the history of Community Charter Middle School.
Simplifying EATING

Welcome back to the hustle and bustle of September and October! Your day to day schedules and routines may pick up pace but don’t let your eating habits get left behind. Simplify your relationship with food! Here are two principles I use to simplify my eating choices and guarantee I will continue moving towards my health goals.

1. **Eat MORE food closest to its original state!**

Take an apple for example. Its original state would be freshly picked off the tree! Slightly processed might be pre-sliced apples sold in a plastic bag. Even more processed would be applesauce with added sugars. The fresh apple would be the best choice! Make the WHOLE food (closest to original state) your go to. That means a little more planning and less eating out on your part, but I think you can do it!

2. **80/20 principle**

80% of the time, choose fruits, veggies, lean proteins, complex carbohydrates and heart healthy fats. 20% of the time, have the "treats" like pizza, sweets or high fat items. There is a time and place for it all, but if choosing MORE of the good stuff is the key to feeling and looking your best.

**LINK I LOVE!**

For recipe ideas, meal plans, clean eating on a budget and more, check out [https://www.cleaneatingmag.com/](https://www.cleaneatingmag.com/)

Try these out! Or, just focus on one for the first half of the month and then bring in the second principle. Let’s do this together.

In Health,

Jada
PUC ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT SERIES: #PUCPROUDALUMNI

ANDREA MARTINEZ
CALS MS and CALS ECHS, Class of 2010
Brown University, Class of 2014: Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Economics
USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, Class of 2016: Master of Health Administration

BIOGRAPHY
Andrea Martinez was the first PUC student to graduate from an Ivy League college, double concentrating in biology and economics at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. She was also the first in her family to attend college and pursue a master’s degree at University of Southern California. She identifies as a first-generation Latina with cultural ties to Mexico and El Salvador. At CALS MS and CALS ECHS, she excelled in her classes and graduated top of her class as Valedictorian.

In her high school days, in addition to her school work and college classes, Andrea co-founded and was Co-Editor-in-Chief for her school newspaper called, The Falcon Gazette. While at Brown University, Andrea worked at the Rhode Island Department of Health, conducting community outreach to increase awareness on HIV/STD prevention. As a pre-med student, she also volunteered as an on-campus emergency medical technician, learning to help patients through a health crisis.

From these experiences, Andrea decided to shift from the medical field to healthcare, rounding out her biology and economics studies with a Master in Health Administration at USC. Currently, Andrea is a Healthcare Information Technology Consultant at Kaiser Permanente and has worked on several projects focused on how to improve department collaboration and innovate healthcare delivery in Southern California.

Outside of work, her passions include volunteering, traveling, eating at new restaurants (she has a food Instagram account called “BasicEatsLA”), watching movies, and practicing hot yoga.

Andrea Martinez is remarkable and embodies PUC Commitment 3; uplifting our communities now and forever, and we could not be more proud of her. Three cheers for Andrea.

INTERVIEW WITH ANDREA

1. How was it starting a newspaper in high school? Why did you do it?
At the time, I was a junior at CALS and was thinking of ways to make me stand out in the college admission process. My friend Jessica Alvarenga and I wanted to start a club of our own. I enjoyed taking pictures, and we were both good writers, so we thought the newspaper would be a great way to collaborate and we hoped it would be a legacy for the school.

2. What was it like being first generation at an Ivy League school?
This was a formative experience and something that made me cling closer to my identity as a Latina. My classmates were predominately white, upper-class, and went to private schools. As I became more homesick and felt different, I drew closer to my Mexican-Salvadorian heritage. I would speak Spanish with my Latino colleagues and would blast Spanish music in my room. It’s funny thinking back, the more I felt out of place, the more I tried to represent my culture.
3. Did you imagine you would be doing what you are now while you were at PUC?

I remember in one career fair, a speaker told us that the job we’d be doing in the future may not even exist then. I think that resonates with me because I didn’t know what a consultant was or that this type of work existed. I only knew of the textbook careers, teachers, doctors, lawyers, etc. The reality is that opportunities are endless, and internships are really a great way to learn what you like and what you don’t like. I wouldn’t know about this career field if it wasn’t for networking, volunteering, and internships I’ve pursued in school.

4. What piece of advice would you give your younger self?

Overall, there were significant highs and lows that any college student experienced throughout my time at Brown, but one of my greatest learnings was how important it is to be confident in yourself, be curious, and never be afraid to ask for help.

5. What advice would you give PUC parents?

Be there for your student, whether it’s providing school supplies, asking questions, or simply telling them you believe in them. My parents did not go to college and couldn’t help me on my applications or homework, but they always supported my dreams and never told me I couldn’t do something. That meant a lot and encouraged me to continue even when my dreams seemed too farfetched to others.

6. What is on the horizon for you?

At this moment, I strive to give back to my community. If any student would like someone to coach them, provide some college insights, or even review their college admissions essay, reach out to me; happy to help!

7. What are your future goals?

I aim to continue growing in my career, taking time to travel when possible, and hopefully starting my own non-profit years down the line to address health disparities in low-income communities or third world countries.

8. What keeps you motivated?

Having a goal keeps me on track. Volunteering in my community keeps me grounded and reminds me why I want to succeed. But really, my background and my family is why I work hard. I have so many people expecting me to succeed, I would hate to let them or myself down.

9. How do you want to be remembered by PUC?

I want to be a pioneer for the PUC community and continue to give back. I’m only successful when I can share and help others, and I hope students know that I’m a resource to them and I hope my experiences can help others along the way.
PUC Parents Attend LAUSD Public Hearings in Support of our Schools

Parents during the LAUSD public hearings September 25th

As always, PUC parents showed up strong to celebrate and demand that our schools, CCMS, ICA, LCA, Milagro and SRCA be renewed at this month’s Charter Specific LAUSD Board Meeting. The Public Hearing is the second to last step charter schools need to take when going up for renewal or petitioning a new charter, amongst a barrage of back and forth writing with the Charter Division of LAUSD. The LAUSD Board Representatives take this time to hear from the public, to why a school should be renewed. Two parents, one from the Valley and one from Los Angeles spoke in front of the board. Their personal story and the connections they made to “Why” our schools should exist were powerful and sent a strong message to the Board Members. Mrs. Laura Calderon from CCMS and Mrs. Sylvia Ramos from SRCA were the two parents who spoke for our parents. Parents, school leaders and support staff showed up at 6:30am to make sure PUC Schools had a good spot during the Public Comment section of the board meeting. We are reminded by our parent’s wholehearted belief and trust in our partnership when they speak and take actions to protect us and share the magic they experience at each one of our schools. We thank everyone behind the scenes for making sure parents arrived and were cared for during this day of advocacy. We thank Eva Villegas and Celia Ramirez for being amongst the first to arrive and save our spot in line. We thank Miguel Saenz for all the operational work he did in setting up canopies, meals, and running for chairs in order to show our parents the minimal care they deserve.

Overall, it was a day of learning and being proud of being PUC. We definitely stood out when it came to our level of organization and parent presence. The charter community and CCSA saw us as a strong and mature organization that can engage in the charter movement at every level.

We hope to see some of you at the October 23rd LAUSD Boarding Meeting where our schools will be voted on. Go PUC Parents!!! Go PUC Schools!!!
Titan Dog Rescue

What could possibly be better than walking to a PUC-wide day of professional development? For a group of CCECHS teachers, they would come to find that rescuing a wayward pup while walking to the Sylmar Education Complex was just about the best start to PUC Wide day. That, and lots of coffee! The Titan teachers happened upon Percy, a handsome but wayward husky, as they were walking on Glenoaks Boulevard towards the complex and a smiling, trotting Percy came right up to them and practically winked his blue eye at his newfound good fortune. Soon, Wade MacDonald put his smart phone to quick use and called the number on the tag while Ronda Alfred, Kim Daegele, Christina Nielsen, Richard Sheppard and Rob Stockly (off-camera/photo credit) received the natural therapeutic effect that only a blue-eyed, white-coated, smiling husky could give. Soon, Percy’s owner showed up and the newest member of the Titan family was on his way to home sweet home.
Cash for College at PUC Triumph Charter High School

On Saturday, October 6th, 76 students and their families attended our 5th annual Cash for College event at PUC Triumph Charter High School.

The day was broken up into two sessions giving families flexibility. Each session started with a special presentation from the Los Angeles Mission College Financial Aid Office during which the presenters reviewed the FAFSA and Dream Act processes. The participants then moved on to one of three computer labs to complete the applications. Nine PUC TCHS teachers and staff members and eight Mission College staff members were on hand to assist the students in this somewhat complex, but critical process.

Students received a checklist of what to bring to the event in advance, so many were able to submit their applications on the spot. The others had a good, solid start. Our students could have done the applications without their parents present, but Cash for College provided a wonderful opportunity to involve their parents in the college application process. As cost and distance are the two factors usually of greatest concern to parents, hopefully their participation in this event helped them look past the price tag to see that, with financial aid, college can in fact be do-able to even families in need.

The PUC TCHS college counselors, Ms. Sanchez and Miss Wolk, would like to recognize the many students who attended the event after spending the entire morning taking their SAT. We have some dedicated and determined college-bound students. There is still a lot of work left to do to make college a reality, but the Class of 2019 is well on its way!
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-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
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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.

## Human Resources Employee Perks Program

**Working Advantage**

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](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.

**AMC**

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 hr@pucschools.org.

**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**.

**Sprint**

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 HR at hr@pucschools.org to place an order. Please be sure to indicate your shirt size. We have men’s and women’s sizes.

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

PUC Laptop Bag: $40