Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

We are living in very challenging times and now more than ever we must strive to build a sense of community and caring among all those around us. This includes our neighbors, friends, family members and of course those with whom we work and the students, families, and communities we serve.

Ever since the opening of Community Charter Middle School in 1999, the Community Circle has been practiced in the PUC schools and now within PUC National. It is used by teachers with students in classrooms, principals with staff, during PUC National staff meetings, with parents, and more. By the time PUC students are seniors, they actually request and facilitate community circles on their own because they have learned the value of this simple but immensely powerful strategy for building camaraderie and compassion.

The Community Circle is only one activity that comes from a book called Tribes A New Way of Learning and Being Together by Jeanne Gibbs. This book contains many outstanding strategies and activities that, like the Community Circle, build tremendous capacity that result in many positive outcomes among the participants. The strategies and activities in this book support teaching and learning extremely well in the classroom but can also be used with any group of adults or children in any setting. This book can be purchased very inexpensively from Amazon and is worth every penny.

Celebrating success and accomplishments is also critical in order to build a sense of pride and togetherness. We have so much to celebrate – employees in PUC National and in PUC Schools working together to achieve positive outcomes on multiple levels - individual student accomplishments, staff member accomplishments, alumni teaching in classrooms where they previously sat as students, other alumni serving in a variety of roles in both PUC National and in PUC Schools, growth in student academic proficiency both as groups and individually, outstanding student entry rates into 4 year universities, seniors who graduate determined to succeed in college and uplift their communities forever, charter renewals, and so much more.

Please consider buying the Tribes book by Jeanne Gibbs to use with employees, parents, and/or students, and please remember to treat everybody with kindness, understanding and consideration, to recognize and congratulate others on their accomplishments, and to celebrate all of your own accomplishments and of course, those of others. What we do today contributes to the reality of our tomorrow.
**Just a Minute!!!**

As a parent of 2 young, very energetic boys, I frequently find myself saying, “I just need 1 minute!” Usually, this is a desperate cry for 1 minute of silence, or maybe not silence but a feeling of peace within the craziness that is our day to day life. Whether or not you have kids, I’m sure you can relate because we all have stuff to do, things to manage, calendars that are full and responsibilities we must attend to. And, we all need a little peace and quiet, even more so, just a time to check in with ourselves.

When was the last time you asked yourself how you are doing? You may laugh at the thought of this happening, as if you had to talk to yourself out loud or something. But, I am serious. When was the last time you actually checked in with you and took an inventory of how you feel emotionally and physically? Most of the time, we are running from one commitment to the next and days pass without checking in. Then, ALL of a sudden (which is really not all of a sudden because the signs were there) we feel pain in our body or our emotions are out of control because we did not pay attention to the little signs that were building up.

How do we stop this cycle? The first step is realizing that you DO just need a minute. We can’t make changes if we do not first see that there is need to change. Set an alarm daily and take 60 seconds to sit and be aware of how your body feels. Stretch areas that seem like they need some extra love. Take 60 additional seconds to be aware of your emotional state. If it’s off, bring yourself some joy by thinking about things in life you are thankful for. This is just a starting point, and may not seem like much but getting into this habit is priceless.

You are invaluable. There is only one of you. Be ok with needing to take a minute. My hope for you is that your minute becomes 10 minutes and then 15 minutes, and more if needed. You have one body so be good to it. We will always have endless stuff to do, things to manage and responsibilities to attend to, but if your ONE body isn't taken care of, you never be able to do all those “things” well.

In Health,
Jada
ADRIANA LOPEZ
PUC TCHS, Class of 2016
University of CA at Santa Barbara, Class of 2019/2020
Bachelor of Arts: Film and Media Studies
Double Minor: French and Comparative Literature

The Culminating Actions
Adriana Lopez made an impression on the Alumni Network since her initial interview to be a College Liaison. She knew her stuff! She discussed how she learned about Cal Fresh, financial aid, EOP, and Associated Students. She was down to earth and shared that her motivation to do well in school stemmed from her family specifically for her sisters. She has since made great strides to connect with her caseload and share her knowledge and resources with our alumni to help them find success on their college adventures.

At PUC TCHS Adriana was the Associated Student Body President. She planned student events, worked on school policies, budgeted activities, and worked with administration to be the voice for the student body.

At UCSB Adriana built on that momentum and continued to push herself. She became the Assistant Editor in the Digital Edital Lab in Kerr Hall at UCSB. This is where she really got to work with the film equipment and learned how to fix mechanical and technical issues. She is a member of DKA, the professional film society on campus. With DKA Adriana learns about the film industry, works on creative projects like short films, and is exposed to networking opportunities.

Bonjour Université Lumière Lyon 2
Adriana was very involved on her campus and it paid off. A panel personally selected her to be a part of an immersion program at the University of Lyon in France to study Film, French, and Literature. Cannes will be just around the corner, perfect for a student studying film. Adriana is set to leave for Lyon on December 31 and will be away for 5 full months! This is an amazing opportunity and to be personally selected just pays tribute to how amazing she is.

This kind of journey would be hard on any parent, but Adriana shared that she was able to sway her parents to fully support this adventure with two key things. Firstly, this is a once in lifetime opportunity to go explore the world and change perspectives. Secondly, Adriana was strategic and managed to find just the right program, so her tuition at the Université Lumière Lyon 2 will be cheaper than that of UCSB’s. She has also worked her class schedule so she may be positioned to graduate in 2019; that is less than four years to graduate!

Shout Outs
Adriana wanted to thank Ms. Diano at PUC TCHS who challenged her to be her best and is still helping her achieve her goals. Adriana also wanted to thank Mr. Vaca who was always confident in her abilities.

Note from the Alumni Network
If you have anyone one who has a story you want shared, please contact Amy Villaseñor at alumni@pucschools.org or call her at 818-916-8380. We want to celebrate success as it is viewed by the student, so please send all your stories!
Trunk or Treat

On Friday evening, October 26, PUC Community Charter Elementary School held its second annual Trunk or Treat Fall Event!

Trunk or Treat is an event that involves using cars as stopping places for kids to pick up a treat. Cars or trucks are parked in the yard, their trunks (and the rest of the car) are decorated in a specific theme, and kids go car-to-car trick-or-treating! Each car also has an interactive or game component, adding the fun and carnival-like feel. It is a fun, safe way to trick-or-treat, creates community for our school, and involves all stakeholders in the creating of this event, as a large part of this event is based on parent involvement and participation.

We had a car represent each of our classrooms, each decorated in a different theme, with several classrooms really going all out this year! Displays were huge, and event built on premises. Our themes ranged from Fortnite and Minecraft, Minions, Witches, Jurassic Park, and a Pirate Ship. To say the least, there was something for everyone.

In addition to the fabulously decorated cars and games, there were several other features and vendors on site to add to the fun ambiance of the event. This included a haunted house, face painting, an interactive bubble area, a DJ, car contest, and tacos for sale! It was a successful event that was loved by students, families, and staff alike, with a wonderful turn out of guests - we are looking forward to planning for next year!
Embedding Career & Life Skills Into Core Subjects

What does this formula mean to you?

\[ m = \frac{x \times 0.0075 \times (1+0.0075)^{60}}{(1+0.0075)^{60}-1} \]

Well to the classes of Mr. Lee, they know that this is the starting formula for calculating a 5-year, fixed car loan.

Photo: Mr. Samuel Lee, Mathematics Teacher, at PUC Community Charter Early College High School

Mr. Samuel Lee, Integrated Math 3 and Integrated Math 3 Enhanced Mathematics Teacher at PUC Community Charter Early College High School (PUC CCECHS), for years now has developed a Life Budgeting Project to help students use their Integrated 3 math skills into meaningful individualized post-secondary planning.

What is your educational background?

Mr. Lee earned a Bachelor’s of Arts from UCLA in Philosophy and a minor in Mathematics. He continued his education earning a Master's in Cross-Cultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary.

What led you to become a teacher?

Mr. Lee completed aid work abroad in disaster areas and third world countries in a variety of roles. He gravitated to educational and medical aid work since they were more long-term, changing peoples’ lives after they left (facilities and program remained after support left). Mr. Lee is passionate about raising the poverty level and making a difference in next generation.

His next educational experience was teaching conversational English abroad. He got to see the difference he was making in students’ lives. Learning conversational English catapulted his students into positions where they could make a lucrative earning to support and help their families.

His inspiration to look at immigrant and minority cultures was his parents. He shared that immigrants come into the workforce at an entry level positions. He said he believes the fastest ways to get them employed and promoted is through math. He choose teaching mathematics over language skills because of the skillsets we get from learning math. Reasoning, critically thinking, pattern finding and problem solving, are all career transferable skills that math teaches and reinforces. “To bump students from an entry level positions to a management level positions, individuals must know and be able to display these mathematic skills in all industries.” Mr. Lee shared that, “Businesses use math to estimate and calculate costs and human resource departments use math in predicting behaviors.”

How did you find PUC Schools and how long have you been teaching with PUC?

After returning to the United States and Mr. Lee wanted to teach somewhere where he could make a difference in the community. PUC Schools’ name stood out, aligning with his personal values of wanting to uplift communities. Mr. Lee has been teaching with PUC for 3 years. Mr. Lee is thankful that PUC Schools’ teachers have flexibility to develop lessons that align with standards and produce effective learning results.


To align with PUC Commitment three and challenge his students, Mr. Lee has implemented a Life Budgeting Project through his math classes. Through this project he requires students to conduct research and formulate calculations regarding their individual career aspirations, education options and lifestyle goals. Another positive outcome for both Mr. Lee and his students is that they get the chance to build their relationship, linking math to their future dreams, and calculating their dreams into potential reality.

He developed this project to make math accessible and get students invested in their future. Mr. Lee said having students see how they can apply the skills sets they acquired in math to make these personal choices resonates with students. Mr. Lee shared that this project promotes all higher education pathways, having students realize
their cost of attendance and earning potential options (i.e. – trade schools, technical schools, 2 and 4-year colleges, through advanced degrees: Ph.D., MD, MBA, JD, etc.)

This project accumulates all of the learned math functions and with the end result students use deductive reasoning to create a budget including items they can afford. Students use math skills such as linear to quadratic, to exponential to logarithmic functions, and apply these functions towards lifestyle budgeting. Mr. Lee shared “Budgeting and numeracy skills are needed across the career spectrum and for general life planning.”

Students are required to research the following and narrow their choices down to one balanced budget: Education Loan, Salary, Income Tax & Health Insurance, Rent & Residence, Car Cost, Food & Luxuries and savings for a Home – How much money they need to put away for a 20% down payment?

As noted, the end result is that students' use data and deductive reasoning is to create a final budget that includes the items that they choose to afford. Many students' initial responses is “Life is so difficult. I cannot believe how much things cost.” Many students tend to be shocked with how challenges can be. This project also helps students realize the lifestyle they will be able to afford based on their post-secondary education and career choices.

With the goal of student empowerment and helping students avoid working themselves into a debt corner by not budgeting, Mr. Lee’s students’ leave his class demonstrating that they know how to use reasoning skills and find patterns by examining the fiscal side of their future. Some seniors return to Mr. Lee their senior year and ask for the Life Budgeting Project worksheets to help them narrow their post-high school plans!

Thank you Mr. Lee for taking the time to share your story, and lesson. On behalf of PUC Schools' we greatly appreciate your commitment to teaching students budgeting and numeracy skills that are applicable across the career spectrum and for general life planning. These types of projects help students build relevance between what they learn in the classroom and life after high school.

A special thanks to Ms. Celia Ramos, Math Teacher at PUC Lakeview Charter Academy High School who introduced me to Mr. Lee, and also is doing exemplary work empowering students using the Life Budgeting Project with her students.

🌟 CELEBRATING EACH OTHER – If you know of any PUC Staff who infuse employability and/or life skills into the core curriculum, nominate yourself or a fellow colleague. We want to highlight your/their hard work and share best practices. I will connect with all noted PUC Staffers to write an article to be published in a future PUC Connections News article. Please send the PUC staffer’s name, position, PUC school and a brief project/assignment overview to n.murphy@PUCNational.org.
Dia de los Muertos Festival

It’s a tradition unlike any other. In the final week of October, the Early College Academy for Leaders and Scholars (eCALS) held its annual Dia de Los Muertos festival. It was a celebration of art, music, culture, food, and fun enjoyed by the entire community. Student artwork and performances were on display the whole night as the school celebrated Mexican culture and the tradition of honoring those who have passed away. Student made tombstones and portraits were on display in the multiple art galleries that were set up while the spirit band, cheer team, choir, and other musical groups entertained audience members on the main stage.

For those who wanted a more scientific lens through which to view the day, students from the science department created projects and experiments aligned with a more natural approach to the celebration. These creative laboratory style demonstrations pertained to elements of fire, water, wind, and Earth. Lastly, authentic Mexican food and beverages, including tamales, churros and champurrado, were served up by members of ASB and the eCALS community.

Numerous members of the eCALS student body, staff and families all chipped in to lend a helping hand in making the three hour extravaganza run smoothly. With the overarching guidance of eCALS team members Cecilia Cueva and Andrew Jorgensen, student artists were able to display their amazing array of talent and creativity throughout the entire night. It was a night to behold for all of those in the eCALS community and next year is guaranteed to be an even better version that you won’t want to miss.
Día de Los Muertos Healthy San Fernando 5K Relay Race

On Saturday, October 27th, a group of fifth grade PUC Community Charter Elementary School students and their teachers participated in the Día de Los Muertos Healthy San Fernando 5K Relay Race. The students and teachers trained throughout the month to prepare for the race. As a team, they set up a makeshift course around the school and practiced running for the relay.

On race day, students were both excited and nervous to participate! For many of our students, this was their first time participating in an official race. Luckily, they had an amazing support team, comprised of their parents, family, and friends, ready to cheer them on. At the end of the race, the students received a medal and a new appreciation for the sport of running. We hope to continue this tradition for years to come at CCES!
Glassdoor and Indeed

Please leave PUC a review

PUC is on the Glassdoor and Indeed job sites 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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Open Positions

Discounted Software Available For Home Use

Exclusive for your company, get the completely NEW Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2019 suite for your home. Or if you use a Mac, get Office Home and Business 2019 for Mac for the same low price, $14.99.

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. 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 hr@pucschools.org.

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 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