Greetings and welcome to our 20th year of serving our communities! It was 20 years ago this month that Community Charter Middle School opened on the campus of CSUN where for six weeks the 100 founding sixth grade students attended classes in the Education Building, met with university staff and students, swam in the Student Union pool, exercised in the gym, played frisbee on the lawn at lunchtime with university students, and more. The experience turned out to be so positive for the students that we decided to take all of our future incoming 6th grade students there for one week during the summer in order to immerse them in the vision of one day attending a university. To this day, our graduating high school seniors and alumni speak about that week as being pivotal in instilling in them the goal of attending and graduating from a university.

It was a very busy summer during which an immense amount of preparation took place within PUC National and at the school sites, in order to ensure a successful launch of the school year.

Professional development took place at every level and buildings were spruced up in preparation for the new year.

If the positive energy and enthusiasm that was evident during the summer is any indication of what type of year we will have, it is going to be stellar! The schools opened very successfully and on September 5, the annual PUC Kickoff event at the Alex Theatre was once again awe inspiring and motivational as PUC students thrilled the PUC family with their performances.

I wish all of you a wonderfully successful year during which our students and all of us will thrive and grow.

I have included some pictures of summer activities and the PUC Kick-off.

Enjoy the new school year!
PUC Alumni Network Hits the Ground Running

The PUC Alumni Network hires full time Alumni Program Coordinator Amy Villaseñor to devote all her time and energy to accomplishing bold 2018-2019 goal.

GOAL: The PUC Alumni Network will account for a minimum of 20% of alumni data network-wide (100% increase), concerning 1st year college persistence, college/alternative higher education enrollment, employment, and degree/certificate completion by September 1st, 2019.

Help Us Grow Our Network!
Please refer all Alumni to this email address for support! Email: alumni@pucschools.org

Make sure our alumni get connected to timely information regarding college, finances, scholarships, and job opportunities, through our social media.

Alumni Job Opportunity: Promote to Alumni to want to inspire success & make $ for college!
Positions Open for PUC College Liaison:
Please share with alumni who you believe are in good academic standing at their college or university and who are motivated to guide others to success. We are hiring 17 PUC High School Alumni who will mentor PUC HS Alumni (first year freshman or first year transfer students) in their transition to a college or university.
https://careers-pucschools.icims.com/jobs/1405/college-liaison/job

PUC Alumni Spotlight Stories: Nominate PUC Alumni to celebrate success!
Shared on our social media pages and in our monthly newsletters. If you have someone who you would like to nominate email: alumni@pucschools.org and we will send you a facts sheet to fill out. No alumni success story is too big or too small, so send them all!

Are You PUC Alumni AND a PUC Staff Member?
Dear PUC High School Graduates, Who And Where Are You? Please take 5 minutes to fill out our short Survey Monkey questionnaire. We want to celebrate your professional accomplishments, keep you in the loop with all things Alumni Network, and find out how many PUC alumni we have on staff: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VF38RKC.

Who is Amy Villaseñor?
Amy V. is our new full-time Alumni Program Coordinator. She is heading all alumni related projects such as the College Liaison Program, GradSnapp, transmitting resources to alumni, connecting alumni to community partners, and providing alumni with one on one situational support. Let’s all welcome Amy V. to our PUC Schools family!
New Cohort of ATP Residents

By: Sarah Seinfeld (ATP Manager)

We are excited to welcome six new teaching residents into the Alumni Teach Project (ATP) program this year. The ATP program was created five years ago as one way to fulfill PUC commitment #3, which states that students will commit to uplift our communities now and forever. ATP is a culturally responsive Urban Teacher Residency Program that is designed to cultivate and foster leadership skills in new PUC alumni and PUC community educators in order to increase equitable access to highly effective teachers and improve outcomes for all current PUC students. Since beginning in 2013, the program has trained 29 teachers to fulfill full-time teaching positions within PUC. This year’s cohort includes four amazing alum and two community members: Olga Angulo, Sandra Cardoza, Jenecis Duran, Jose Gomez, Beatriz Sanchez, and Daniel Zepeda.

Olga attended Community Charter Middle School in 2005 and graduated from Community Charter Early College High School in 2012. She aspires to support and mentor students with learning disabilities and will be working as a resident at Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy Middle School as an Inclusion Specialist with Delilah Jimenez as her mentor.

Sandra attended San Fernando High School, but is familiar with the PUC community since both her youngest siblings attended Community Charter Middle School and/or Community Charter Early College High School. She also worked as an Inclusion Assistant at Lakeview Charter Academy last year. This year, she will be embarking a new journey as a resident at Community Charter Middle School under the guidance of Lindsey Housenick in a 7th grade English classroom.

Jenecis joined the PUC community as the After School Coordinator for iPrep after graduating from UCLA. She will be working as a resident in CALS Middle School with Nancy Montoya in an 8th grade English class.

Jose attended Triumph Charter Academy and Lakeview Charter High School. During his time at UCLA, he was involved with the Gates Millennium Scholars program and Bruins Movin’, developing a passion for serving those in his community. He is excited to start his residency at his alma mater, Lakeview Charter High School as a resident with Chris Fong teaching high school history.

Beatriz attended both Community Charter Middle School, and Community Charter High School, where she realized her passion for teaching. While a full time student at Cal State Northridge, she worked at Community Charter Middle School as an After School Site Coordinator. She will be working as a resident at Community Charter Elementary in a first grade classroom with Chantel Lopez.

Daniel is an alumnus from CALS Middle School and ECHS who attended the University of California, Santa Barbara. After graduating from UCSB, Daniel returned to CALS MS as an Inclusion Assistant. He will begin his year as a resident at CALS Middle School in 6th Grade Humanities class with Joe Garza.

This is a talented group of passionate educators who are dedicated to uplifting their communities. This summer, they learned the foundations of the ATP curriculum and teaching through attending a 3-day Jump Start experience as well as New Teacher Learning Lab. They read and analyzed several foundational texts including Milner’s Opportunity Gap Framework and participated in a Community Circle with Dr. Elliot. After these experiences and meeting their mentors, they are ready and excited to start the school year and their journeys to becoming full-time PUC teachers!
Parent Leaders Share their Expertise with Incoming Teachers

On July 27, 2018, six of PUC Parents (3 from the Valley and 3 from L.A.) attended the New Teacher Learning Lab to take part of the third annual parent panel discussion. Our wonderful parents spoke to the new teachers about their perspective as a PUC parent. Parents gave them expert advice on how to reach out to parents for support at their schools and how they can work collectively with scholars with a strong school home connection. This great event happens every year for our new teachers. One of the suggestions made by parents was to conduct a survey early on in the year where parents inform teachers what their favorite method of communication is. New Teachers traditionally, appreciate hearing directly from parents. From the valley, we had Ana Perez (4 years as a PUC Parent), Alma Avitia (7 years as a PUC Parent), and Paula Alfaro (8 years as a PUC Parent). From Los Angeles, we had Micaela Aguilar (5 years as a PUC Parent), Eva Villegas (5 years as a PUC Parent), and Jazmin Flores (10 years as a PUC Parent). Go PUC Parents!!!
Book Love Foundation Grants $2,000 to English Teacher Lindsey Housenick

Written by Lori Rosales, Instructional Coach and admirer of Lindsey’s

At the end of the 2016-17 school year the Instructional Team lost not only a friend but also a colleague who was known to be consistently listening to educational podcasts, putting research articles in front of us and pushing our thinking to ensure we had the long-term targets in mind. Lindsey Housenick, one of our in-house instructional gurus wanted to put everything she had been learning and reading about in the past few years back into practice and she decided to return to the classroom. We were super excited for the 7th grade students who would get to have her as a teacher, even though we were very sad to be losing her on our team. Talking to Lindsey through-out the year of return to the classroom, she shared about her high points and, like all of us at times, questioned if it was the right move. Working with 7th graders who didn’t always trust in their reading and writing abilities, were more worried about what their best friend told another kid during break then what Mrs. Housenick told them about theme and had a lot of energy but not always a lot of stamina wasn’t always easy, but she persisted. I was lucky enough to observe her class near the end of the year and was overwhelmed with the amount of love for reading and discussing books that was felt the moment I entered the classroom. Students were engaged in book clubs; discussing plot, analyzing characters moves and impact and shh-ing other groups so their voices didn’t interrupt their own book conversations. One would think Lindsey would be happy and feeling like she “had arrived”, but nope – always one to sit in reflection and personal development, Lindsey spent the summer reading books and blogs by educational gurus like Cris Tovani, Penny Kittle and (her favorite) Kelly Gallagher while also writing grants asking for money for more books for her classroom. Again, her persistence paid off and Lindsey was one of 60 chosen to receive $2,000 in book money from Book Love Foundation for the 2018-19 year!!! Research has shown that to get students to read, especially low and non-motivated readers the top things to do is make time for them to read, create an atmosphere where reading is valued and supply them with lots and lots of variation. Petty Kittle, the founder of Book Love Foundation, chooses teachers who have shown passion and promising practices around helping kids develop a love of reading through choice and access. The application was extensive and we are honored to work beside a teacher who has been selected. With this award, Lindsey has been able to purchase over 200 high interest books to add to her classroom library. You can learn more the grant and why Lindsey was chosen here: http://booklovefoundation.org/

With school starting this week, I asked Lindsey how it was going and in response she sent pictures of her students ‘speed dating books’ brought from the Book Love Foundations and creating a reading list of books they want to read this year. Congrats Lindsey on your grant and thank you for doing what you do to inspire the literacy life at PUC.
Summer Professional Development; Welcoming the New Teachers of PUC

By Lori Rosales, Teacher Development Coordinator

Finding your connections to students and your content was the essential theme for the new teachers to PUC this summer. Almost 60 new teachers to PUC arrived at the Lakeview Terrace Complex at the end of July for five days to participate in our “Teach to Reach Each Child” Learning Lab. The day started with identifying the foci for the year: Backwards Planning, Cultural Responsiveness and Rigor. These topics were uncovered throughout the week as teachers attended sessions about essential elements of a unit plan, creating a relational classroom and identifying learning activities by Depth of Knowledge levels.

In addition to professional development in the morning, the new teachers were able to observe two lab classrooms in the afternoon. Current PUC teachers Fabviola Rosales, Alexi Swonger and Bianca Centeno opened their summer classrooms filled with incoming 8th graders to be observed for three days. The ability to learn about procedures and ideas in the morning, followed by watching how it played out in the afternoon lab classrooms was one of the things we heard was most impactful for the new teachers. Each afternoon the new teachers got to debrief with the lab teachers and at the end of the week look at the students’ work to see how in just a short time a teacher can ensure academic growth.

Resources from the week-long training can be found at PUC@, PUC’s intranet site, an online resource library to ensure easy and quick access to what teachers need and want. We thank all the presenters and learners that made this summer’s Learning Lab one of our best yet. Good luck to all the new teachers, we hope you have a connected and data-driven new school year!
The PUC Alumni Spotlight Series showcases and recognizes outstanding PUC high school Alumni for their academic and professional achievements, and their continuation of the PUC Commitments. Through this series we will explore and regularly share the diverse accomplishments of our PUC high school graduates.

CRISTAL HERMOSILLO:
PUC CCMS and PUC CCECHS, Class of 2013
Bucknell University (PA), Class of 2017: Bachelor’s in Computer Science, minor in Spanish
Future Goal: University of Utah; Master’s in Computer Science, focus on Business & Linguistics

Higher Education Success: PUC Commitment 1

Cristal Hermosillo was an exemplary student all throughout high school and college. She dedicated herself to her studies at CCECHS and in turn was awarded the prestigious Posse Full Tuition Merit Scholarship. At Bucknell University, Cristal conducted two independent research projects, was a member of two organizations, started three clubs, and worked her way up to a management position. Cristal is more than a time management wizard; Cristal is a community maker. She creates a home for others where there was none before. These accomplishments stand on their own as remarkable, but their significance cannot be ignored in that Cristal is a first generation college graduate, diagnosed with Dyslexia.

At Bucknell, Cristal was able to combine her instinct for applied Computer Science and her desire to learn more about her self-proclaimed “awesome disability”, with two research projects. Cristal conducted research on how Dyslexia impacts 1st grade reading and fluency, and designed a guide for how news media visualizations could be better formatted for people with Dyslexia.

Giving Back to our Community: PUC Commitment 3

Cristal has certainly committed to uplifting communities around the globe now and forever! Cristal led an engineering workshop for the Lower East Side Girls Club Expedition, to inspire young women to pursue fields in STEM. She volunteered with the Bucknell Brigade to Nicaragua, to help impoverished communities outside of Managua through microenterprise and community development initiatives for the Center for Development in Central America. In addition, Cristal also worked at Bucknell’s Office of Accessibilities to help coordinate disability discussions, and developed a workshop around disability, gender, power, and privilege, for the Bucknell Diversity Summit.

#PUCProudProfessional & Beyond

Cristal’s experiences at Bucknell inform her new work so she can make a positive impact on the lives of students who have disabilities. “I am now determined to make school accessible to those who know they have disabilities and those who have yet to learn they do.” Cristal works at Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah, as an Associate Accessibility Specialist. She evaluates vendors against the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines to ensure University students with disabilities have fair access to the online schooling options.

PUC Shout Outs!

Cristal mentioned two teachers who really made an impact on her life and school experience. PUC CCMS: Ms. Meghan Smith was especially integral in helping to boost Cristal’s reading competency up to eighth grade level. PUC CCECHS: Ms. Thuraya Haddad was instrumental in helping Cristal find ways to work around struggles in reading and writing. Cristal loved that she was passionate about teaching and very kind.

*If you know of awesome Alumni to nominate to be a part of the Alumni Spotlight Series, please email alumni@pucschools.org with the alumni’s name, PUC high school they graduated from, and a little blurb with why you are nominating them!
It was a beautiful Thursday afternoon in mid-August at the Early College Academy of Leaders and Scholars (eCALS). The school’s Associated Student Body (ASB) spent the entire week preparing for the arrival of incoming students at the 2018 Freshmen Bridge and New Student Orientation. The two-day series of engaging workshops included team building activities, question and answer panels, meet and greet sessions with teachers, and a campus tour. The arriving scholars learned about the vision and mission of eCALS, which center around preparing scholars for college and beyond, and also gained insight into the school’s Habits of Mind and Heart, which are six core principles and values, including organization and empathy, amongst others, that make up the foundation upon which eCALS stands.

Each of the incoming students was able to get a sense of what it takes to be successful at eCALS, from the school’s academic expectations to the encouragement of participation in extracurricular activities. Moreover, not only did the incoming scholars learn about their new school, they were able to do so by way of the tutelage of current eCALS students who make up the membership of ASB. This student-led setting showcased the leadership and organizational talents displayed on a daily basis by those at eCALS. As the last session concluded on Friday, the incoming scholars picked up their fresh, blue eCALS polo shirts and began to make their way home with the knowledge and understanding of what makes eCALS a special place to both learn and grow.
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_IE465918.11,12.htm
http://www.indeed.com/cmp/Puc-Schools

Leave us a review!
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 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 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.

Any questions regarding our employee perks program, please contact hr@pucschools.org or (818) 559-7699.
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