Founder’s Message
By Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO, PUC National

Halloween in October marks the beginning of the holiday season which is always exciting but can also be stressful for many, for a variety of reasons. At the core of our mission is a commitment to the well-being of those we serve and each other. With that in mind, November brings Thanksgiving at which time it is good to donate food to organizations that will support families in having a Thanksgiving meal they could otherwise not afford. Our Thanksgiving meals with family and friends are occurring at a time when our country is divided on a myriad of issues. Our angst and stress levels at this time may well be at a record high! So, let's all try to focus on the good things we have in our lives during our traditional meal and appreciate and be thankful for each other.

On that note, I thank all of you for committing yourselves to the critical work that we do in our organization. Personally, I am extremely thankful to have the privilege to do this work and to have experienced the wonderful results we have seen over course of the past 21 years. I am also deeply grateful to each of you without whom none of these results would be possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your commitment.

Xmas and Hanukkah occur in December and once again donating to toy drives is a wonderful thing to do. Homelessness and poverty are rampant in our city and you can bring much joy into a child’s life by your donation. We will have a toy drive in our PUC office in Burbank and I’m sure there will be many others, for example at school sites, to which you can donate. Last but not least, we have a new year around the corner, 2020. On all fronts, this promises to be an exciting year and I hope a year of positive change and growth on a number of levels. However, this will only be true if we make it so. HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!
PUC eCALS Opens Parent Center

Submitted by Peter Markovics, Principal, PUC eCALS

It’s a brand-new era for families at PUC Early College Academy for Leaders and Scholars (eCALS). This year, the school has opened up a stand-alone parent center on the first floor of the school. The center is a focal point for an array of family related activities, from workshops and classes to meetings with teachers and community members. Since its grand opening in August, the center has been a meeting place for families attending PUC eCALS events, including Back to School Night, Coffee with the Principal and workshops provided by the school’s Parent Action Committee (PAC), which developed in earnest last school year.

The PAC has done a tremendous job organizing and planning events for PUC eCALS families. They are a foundation of support for the school and have volunteered countless hours to help disseminate valuable information to the school community. Their work has helped PUC eCALS families feel even more connected to the learning that takes inside and outside of the school’s classrooms. For example, do you want to learn more about how to use PowerSchool? Stop by the PUC eCALS parent center for more info. Want to attend a goal-setting workshop for families? Visit the PUC eCALS parent center to learn from an expert presenter on the topic. Want to meet up with other families to discuss plans for the PUC eCALS Dia de Los Muertos festival? Simply stop by the parent center when you have a free moment to connect with other community members and talk about the event.

With the addition of the stand-alone parent center and Parent Action Committee, the families of PUC eCALS will be the most involved group around. So, the next time you are in northeast LA, stop by PUC eCALS to meet the members of the PAC and take a tour of the new parent center; they’ll have a welcoming approach and a fresh cup of coffee waiting for you.
PUC Community Charter Early College High School's Environmental Club Uplifts the Community

Submitted by Rigoberto Garcia, Student, PUC Community Charter Early College High School

On October 19th, the environmental club members of PUC Community Charter Early College High School gathered at the Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center in the early hours of the morning, preparing for their first community cleanup. With help from Josie Zarate, professional volunteer who has strong ties to the Environmental Club, the Neighborhood Watch and the Enviro Club were able to unite to perform the community cleanup. Going from a school community garden to the local neighborhood community to do some necessary cleanup is a large step forward for the Environmental Club who attended the event alongside Lakeview Terrace Neighborhood Watch.

The Environmental Club at PUC Community Charter Early High School was established 3 years ago with its mission being to make students more environmentally conscious and aware of their global impact, which has remained in their values to this day. However, it was a step taken confidently and passionately as students shoveled garbage they gathered from the area spanning Foothill Boulevard - from Osborne Street to Orcas Avenue - into bags, piling them into a large industrial sized shipping container, to avoid the environmental harm from hazardous objects and plastic. The group worked with the Neighborhood Watch to shovel out the gutters filled with plastic, dust, and leaves, as well as looked carefully for little bits and pieces of plastic that would normally go unnoticed. The streets shined as not a speck of dirt was left on the sidewalk, nor could one find evidence of any trash that was there before, all thanks to the grand efforts made by the Environmental Club members and their amazing club advisor, Mrs. Arlena Tupaz.

The community expressed their thanks as bikers and joggers who witnessed the cleanup gave their compliments to the members of the Club and the Neighborhood Watch. The clean-up took four hours of extensive cleaning, and although exhausted from the morning task, students kept a smile on their faces as their work was done, mostly because of the improvement they were making to the environment and beautification of the Lakeview Terrace community.
In an effort to be all-inclusive, many schools have moved from the tradition of celebrating Halloween to hosting a fall festival. More than just noting a holiday, these festivals celebrate a season - and take advantage of the educational opportunities it brings. At PUC CCMS, we have decided to put a fun spin to it and make it our own. Every year, the staff gets to vote on a theme and our entire school community gets to interpret the way they like. This year’s theme was “favorite childhood cartoons”. Our students got to vote on the best costume and this year we are happy to share it was our 8th grade team- The Flintstones! On top of having a fun costume contest, our teachers also organize a school-wide fall festival with teachers created booth games and our annual big dodgeball tournament. Due to the fires this year, our fall festival had to be postpone. It is such a huge event on our campus, that even our students decided to email our Superintendent to ensure we still have it. Clearly to say, we all had a lot of fun. Thank you to our PUC CCMS and PUC LCA staff members for making it happen for our scholars!
PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy Celebrates with Fall Festival

Submitted by Cyndi Reyes, Teacher, PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy

PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy held its first school-wide Fall Festival on October 31, 2019. The festival was organized by the principal Mrs. Monica Wagner, who took the lead in contacting local businesses to partner with PUC NECA on this special day. Teachers, parents and the after school program, ASES, all worked together to coordinate games, food, arts and crafts, movies and gaming for students and the school's families.

Students were able to earn tickets through their ClassDojo points and also through excellent performance noted by teachers. Students and families were also able to buy tickets before and during the event.

The spotlight of the event was the dunk tank where students from all grade levels gathered around to see their teachers get dunked. All teachers that participated were soaked! Students also enjoyed face painting, arts and crafts, and the gaming room. Teachers were thrilled to see our dance teacher, Ms. Jones, lead a flash mob to Michael Jackson's "Thriller". And the winner of our group costume came dressed as the 6th-grade teacher team.

Students and families were excited to have a place to partake in some Halloween fun! Thanks to the help of the entire school community, the Fall Festival at PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy was a great success! The school is looking forward to planning their next festival, the Friendship Festival, in February.

Note from the author: this article was written with the help of PUC NECA's first Journalism club!
Peer Mentoring & Peer Tutoring at PUC CALS Early College High School

Submitted by Sarai Rodriguez, School & College Counselor Assistant, PUC CALS Early College High School

What It’s Like to Be a Peer Mentor

As a senior, Pedro Gomez felt he wanted to make an impact on a fellow classmate. He took the initiative to reach out to Mr. Ventura (the School and College Counselor) to see where and with who he could make a difference. He was soon paired with Alex Garcia-Aguilera. Alex is one of our 10th grade students who struggles with communication and building relationships. Through this mentorship, Pedro has been able to help Alex improve his communication skills, as well as making a new friend. Every Tuesday during lunch, Alex is eager to meet up with his new pal Pedro and have their weekly session of Connect 4, chit-chat and eat some snacks. Pedro has also learned a lot from working with Alex.

“It’s a great opportunity to be able to work with a fellow student, it has taught me to learn how to connect with people on another level. It teaches me how to be a better person overall and treat people with respect.”

- Pedro Gomez

We are so proud of our students and all the work they put into their education as well as their drive to be part of our PUC Family. Pedro is giving back to school community now and forever.

PUC CALS ECHS Peer Tutoring

This year the School and College Counseling Team initiated a project in which they have partnered with a couple of senior students to start a peer tutoring program! Once a week, tutors meet with their assigned students to help them with their academics for a variety of subjects. Students were given time to sign up either with their English teachers or via our QR code. As a result of this program, students have been learning how to develop and strengthen their leadership skills as well as build up their resumes. We have also allowed our tutors to receive their ten hours of community service through this program. We are so proud of our dedicated tutors and tutees!

“I like it, it’s fun. Talking to the underclassmen shows me who I used to be and it’s cool to go back to all the stuff that I learned and that I still know certain things and can still help someone else.”

- Karla Gonzalez

“Tutoring has been a great learning experience because I have been able to re-learn things from past years and teach it to others.”

- Francisco Santos

Students from left to right: Andrew Higareda, Emily Cerros, Karla Gonzalez, Francisco Santos, Christyne Guillen, Gian-Carlos Perez
First Ever PUC High School Class Reunion for PUC CALS Early College High School & PUC Community Charter Early College High School

Submitted by Amy Villaseñor, Alumni Program Coordinator, PUC National

On Friday October 4th, the PUC Alumni Network hosted the FIRST EVER PUC High School Reunion for PUC CALS Early College High School and PUC Community Charter Early College High School Classes of 2007-2009. This event was hosted at The Federal North Hollywood where PUC alumni and staff past & present gathered over good food and throwback music.

This event created a space not only of our alumni to reconvene & reminisce, but allowed PUC to celebrate the alumni and thank them for their time. These students were our pioneers and helped to pave the way to what PUC Schools is today.

Our Alumni Network grows with every new graduating class and we are always looking for new ways to celebrate our students accomplishments. Thank you to everyone who attended this event, and thank you to everyone who helped make it possible!

PUC SCHOOLS

Alumni Network 🎓
PUC National’s Annual Halloween-Themed Health Fair

Submitted by Dr. Jacqueline Elliot

For the past several years, PUC National has hosted a Halloween-themed health fair in the Burbank office every October. This year, once again costumes and pumpkin carving were augmented with the offerings of flu shots, blood pressure monitoring, other health screenings, neck and shoulder massages, and more. As you can see from the pictures, staff members were extremely creative with their costumes!
PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Transition Success Event for PUC Families of Student with Disabilities (Students & Parents grades 7-12) Pick one of these dates that works best for you!

**Pick One!**

**Saturday, 9/21/19**
9:30AM - 12:00PM
LOCATION:
PUC Sylmar Education Complex
(LCHS, CHS, TCA)
13361 Sycamore Blvd,
Sylmar, CA 91342

Food & Childcare Provided!

**Saturday, 11/16/19**
9:00AM - 12:00PM
LOCATION:
Sotomayor Learning Academies
(ecALS) PARENT COLLEGE
2050 N. San Fernando Road,
Los Angeles, CA 90065

**PURPOSE:**

The focus of this event is to support and prepare students with IEPs and 504s for life after high school. A panel comprised of experts from a variety of colleges, universities and agencies will provide insight on student expectations, and the transition skills needed for students to successfully transition to college, the workforce and independent living.
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All employees 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: workingadvantage.com. When opening an individual account you will need the PUC Schools ID #413401740.

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FOR SALE

PUC Polo Shirts - $20

PUC Laptop Bag - $40

Items can be purchased throughout the year.

Please contact Human Resources at hr@pucschools.org to place an order.

Please be sure to indicate your shirt size. Polos are available in both men's and women's sizes.