Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

The momentum grew in November as schools prepared for winter festivities which included arts performances. Ever since the founding of the first school in 1999, Community Charter Middle School, the arts have been included as an integral part of the instructional and after school programs at every PUC school. As the co-founders of PUC, Dr. Ref Rodriguez and I embraced this commitment to instruction in the arts for a number of reasons. We know that engagement in the arts enhance students' cognitive thinking skills and also provide students with a positive avenue for creativity. We also realize that instruction in a variety of art forms provides our students with an opportunity to discover passions and talent that may lead to future college majors and careers. We believe that providing our students with education in the arts provides them with an aesthetic gift that will last a lifetime.

We are fortunate to have a beautiful theatre in the PUC Sylmar Education Complex that is increasingly being used by several PUC schools. Pictured below is the PUC Lakeview Charter High school dress rehearsal for their winter performance, and also the PUC Inspire Charter Academy winter performance.
Healthy Holidays!

Every year, during this festive time from November to January, the TRUTH comes out. We are forced to face the never ending supply of cookies, cakes, candies, chocolate, pies and eggnog and must decide HOW WE ARE GOING TO DEAL! Even the toughest are challenged by delights only seen at this time of year. When health is still the goal during the feasting of the season, how do we still enjoy but not overdo it with our eating selections?

#1- REALIZE that you CAN say NO- You do not have to drink the eggnog or eat the slice of pie JUST because it’s offered or sitting there in front of you. Exercise your self control and just say no thank you. I know it's seems like it’s easier said than done, but I challenge you to try! The feeling of knowing you did your best and stayed with your plan is much better than the guilt you might feel later because you “couldn’t” say no to the cookie, and then the brownie, and then the slice of cake. Think about what is BEST for you, and let your food decisions come from that place.

#2- Eat to be SATISFIED, not STUFFED- The holiday feast is sitting in front of you and you can't wait to try everything on the spread. You fill your plate, only to realize you don't have enough room to fit Granny’s mashed potatoes or Pap’s biscuits. So you go get another plate...RIGHT??? WRONG!!! While it’s ok to loosen up a bit on the holidays to enjoy the meal, DON'T take this as an opportunity to go crazy. Try a little of everything but DON'T stuff your plate. Eat slowly, drink sips of water between bites and savor the flavors while you enjoy the company and the conversation. Learn to appreciate the experience (food, friends, laughs) as a whole and take the focus off of how much food there is. Eat so you are satisfied but still feel like you can move when you are done. Encourage everyone to take a walk after dinner to stimulate digestion! And, make sure to get your workout in the next day :)

#3- Choose your leftovers WISELY! While leftovers are awesome, some of them can sabotage your progress if you eat them for weeks after the holiday. Mac and cheese, potatoes, bread, and anything that you would not eat regularly needs to stay. Turkey, lean steak, chicken can be GREAT leftovers so feel free to take those and add them to your eggs, sandwiches and salads for quick and easy meals. Leave pies, cookies, cakes and any other treats. Remember, there are more holidays right around the corner so you will have another opportunity for treats! Don't feel like you have to eat them all now.

#4- STICK TO YOUR WORKOUT PLAN!! Many times, when we get busy, our workouts are the first thing to go!! Although you may not be as consistent because of traveling or extra parties, you do need to plan out your workout or gym time and KEEP those appointments. Staying on task with your workouts will ensure minimal weight gain as you enjoy the wonderful foods of the season :)

I know you can be successful this holiday season!!! Let's do this together and stay healthy and happy during the holidays!

In health,
Jada Kelly
On Friday, November 4th, PUC TCHS held its first ever Fall Dance Showcase. Students from all dance classes performed a variety of dances throughout the night. They showcased ballet and modern dance, which are both new experiences for them. In addition, students from the Technical Theater class ran the lights and sound. With students introducing each of the 12 numbers in both English and Spanish, running the show backstage, and performing, it was truly a student-led night! One other highlight of the night were the costumes, particularly our new ballet tutus. Students looked and felt like professional dancers!

This event took place in support of the TCHS dance students attending The Nutcracker at the Dolby Theater on December 10. It was a packed house! Almost 400 tickets were sold, and $1,850 was raised, which will go directly to pay for the upcoming field trip. Special thanks to Emily Palacios and Rachel Lipson for their support and guidance leading up to and throughout the Fall Showcase. We are looking forward to similar success at our December Arts Night, which will feature jazz and contemporary performances.
PUC Community of Practice

On November, 21st all PUC teachers and leaders came together to learn with and from one another at the PUC Community of Practice. At the start of the day, everyone came together in the beautiful auditorium at the Sylmar Education Complex to listen and watch as PUC teachers explained what rigor and cultural relevance means to them and their students. The learning and collaboration began with morning sessions designed by the Instruction Team or school leaders around backwards planning for rigor. After lunch, teachers attended two teacher-led sessions chosen from among 26 session options. At the end of the day, teachers reflected on their learning amongst content team peers.

As in previous years, the Community of Practice event was highly rated by teachers. 86% say they learned something they are ready to implement in their classrooms right away and another 12% say with a little more support they will be able to implement their learning. Because this event is considered by teachers to be the most beneficial professional development event, a second Community of Practice will be held in February, 2017.

Teacher leader-led afternoon sessions are always the highlight of the day:

- Formative Assessment with Google Classroom
- Differentiated learning focused on self-care: reading group
- Differentiated learning focused on self-care: independent reading and peer conferencing
- Experiencing realia to support descriptive writing
PUC TCHS Girls Volleyball Team Wins Championship

TCHS Jaguars Girls Varsity Volleyball Team
North Valley League Champions
2016-2017

Coach: Rick Zuniga

9th grade: Jessica Boateng, Brianie Gonzalez, Rosa Lopez, Kiara Patron,
10th: Ayleen Frausto, 11th: Marilyn Chavez, Samantha Cobian, Melanie Gonzalez,
Christan Marin, Giselle Olea, Ankaret Perez, Susan Rodriguez, Cynthia Salazar, 12th: Derrian Annan, Esmeralda Anzaldo,
Luisa Lopez, Jessica Reynoso, Gabriela Sanchez

A record setting season for the ages. A day in early June the first volleyball meeting at TCHS was held and to our surprise 26 ladies signed up for the summer workouts. This gave the program a great burst of confidence even after coming off a 3-12 record from the year before. After a tremendous 4 weeks of extremely hard work, to our surprise we still had 26 ladies on the roster. Unfortunately 8 ladies had to drop because of grades or other circumstances. Nevertheless we had a feeling that the upcoming season would be a special one. Our first game was against power house division 2 Poly, A well-established program that ended up winning the 2016 LA City Division 2 Championship. We lost in 3 straight sets and the first 2 sets was even close yet before the 3rd set. I told the girls to relax and just have fun. To remember that Poly was a team that we wanted to model after and hope to become one day and that even been able to play with them was a great learning experience. Even though they lost the 3rd set, it was apparent that they played with more confidence. Little did they know that 3rd set would be the last set they would lose for a long while not to mention the last game they would lose till the LA City Division 5 Championship game. After the Poly game they won the next 16 games in a row (school record), won 39 of 42 combine sets (school record), had a 17 set winning streak (school record, LA Division 5 record), won the North Valley League Title with a 12-0 record (school record and first), won their 1st, 2nd and 3rd playoff games (school record) and Runner up in the LA city division 5 championship (school record). A dream season for sure and all thanks to the hard work that started back in June. Every single player is responsible for all accomplishments but the 3 captains helped pave the way with their play and leadership on and off the court. Senior Captain and player of the year Derrian Annan, Junior Captains Samantha Cobian and Melanie Gonzalez.

Coach Ricardo Zuniga
PUC NECA Students Participate in Mock Election

With the help of our 8th grade U.S History teacher Nueva Esperanza was able to co-plan an election unit that allowed students to research, discern, and elect the most qualified candidate for the U.S. presidency. The history department met briefly each week, for four weeks before the election. We shared resources, such as the scholastic election day handbook, NewsELA articles, BrainPOP videos and the website ballot.fyi. We discussed how to differentiate for our grade level and the strategies we used for teaching the first debate and the propositions. Together we were able to draft 4-5 lessons each that helped the students better understand the election process and the necessary research required to select a qualified candidate. Students were able to write their opinions on the candidates and the propositions and used evidence from their research to support their opinions.

On November 8th, students in all grade levels participated in a mock election. Using the information they had read, discussed and analyzed over the last month, students voted on which presidential candidate they felt would be most effective as their next leader, as well as voted on a number of California propositions. Each grade level set up voting booths and created ballots for students to fill out. Once students voted, they received an "I voted" sticker. At the end of the school day, results were announced for each grade level.
The 8th grade class at PUC Inspire recently had the opportunity to attend a delightful field trip to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Students were taken on a museum tour that explored Reagan’s presidency and lasting contributions to American politics. The tour was highly engaging - with students getting the chance to touch a piece of the Berlin Wall, step foot on a retired Air Force One plane, and practice giving speeches on a teleprompter (this is much harder than it looks!). The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the interactive learning experience found within the Air Force One Discovery Center. Students got the chance to simulate the roles, responsibilities, and challenges faced by Oval office, military, and press during the 1983 crisis in Grenada. This was simultaneously a serious and fun learning activity. The Reagan Presidential Library is a must see!
Employee Referral Program

Every year PUC receives some of its best teacher candidates from current employees and this year we would like to see teacher referrals meet an all-time high! After all, who better than our own teachers to know what kind of candidate would be a great fit for PUC?

Our teacher referral program offers some great benefits to you as a current employee. This year we are offering a **monetary bonus**!

**How do I get it?**

In order to receive the hiring bonus, the applicant must list your full name in the "How did you hear about us" box on our application.

**Are there any exclusions?**

If you are considered a PUC Hiring Manager (All Managers, Directors, Coordinators, Instructional Team Member and School Leaders), you do not qualify for the referral program.

**Tips for Team Members!**

We recommend that you email any potential friends or family with a link to our Career Opportunities page, and let them know they must list your name in order for you to receive the referral bonus. Posting the link on your Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter account with those brief directions may also prove fruitful!

Best of luck.

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**Employee Referral Program Questions?**

For more information, please visit [http://www.pucschools.org/careers/ refer](http://www.pucschools.org/careers/refer) or contact a member of the recruitment team at careers@pucschools.org!
Glassdoor and Indeed

PUC Connections: Dedicated to keeping our circle of schools connected.

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_IE465918.11,22.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 @pucschools_recruitment @PUC_Recruitment
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 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 Isamar Muñoz, HR Assistant.

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.

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

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