Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

With so many years of experience since the founding of the first PUC school, Community Charter Middle School in 1999, it's not surprising that the launch into the 2016–17 school year was so smooth and successful. All of the schools hit the ground running and the PUC National staff supported the schools extremely well in a multitude of areas.

The annual PUC Kick-off at the Alex Theatre on September 6 was a huge success and we all watched in awe as our remarkably talented students and staff members performed for us. The arts are a foundational and critically important element in our schools and what better way to start the year than with music, dance, theatre, and visual arts? Everybody left the theatre invigorated, inspired, and energized.

It was incredibly inspiring to join with so many of our PUC leaders, staff, parents, and students at The Rally in the Valley on September 17 to celebrate the history, growth, and success of charter schools in the NE San Fernando Valley. Our very own PUC teacher and PUC graduate, Gaby Reynoso, gave a rousing speech that filled us all with pride. Of course, PUC has contributed greatly to this charter school growth and success and I was filled with joy to see the large PUC turnout at this gathering of approximately 3,000 charter school stakeholders and advocates.

Finally, on September 21, I was thrilled to join 440 ninth grade students from our high schools in the Valley at Mission College where they learned about our early college model. This has also been a foundational element of the PUC model and many hundreds of our students have graduated from our high schools with anywhere from 3 to 60 college credits already completed. The partnership with Mission College began in 2004, the year Community Charter Early College High School opened, and it is thrilling to see this partnership continue to blossom. I wish you all a productive, joyful, and highly successful school year!
WHOLE. Health to Every Part of You

It’s a new school year. Fresh perspective. Clean slate. Start over…and not just for your students! In this season of “new” take a few minutes to focus on YOU (yes, I know that’s tough because you are wired to focus on THEM…meaning anyone other than you…but go ahead, DO IT. Focus on you.

Now, think about how you want to feel throughout the year. Energetic. Joyful. Excited. Purposed. What else is on your list? I bet all these feelings happen more often when you are treating yourself BETTER in regards to your health and fitness. Take the opportunity to make 2 changes that will help to keep you refreshed and rejuvenated all year long.

1. MOVE (purposefully) for 10-15 minutes a day

This means setting aside a minimum of 10 minutes a day for YOU time. Go on a 10 minute run. Close your bedroom door, blast your music and shake it with everything you have for 5 songs. Find a set of stairs and go up and down until your 10 minute timer goes off. It’s amazing how a little bit of movement and sweat can make you feel like a million bucks. You will also LOVE the energy boost, the extra glow to your face and the momentum you gain from being consistent! Getting in the routine might be challenging, so treat it like a work appointment. No excuses.

2. Think before you EAT

Before things begin to get REALLY busy, get in the habit of thinking about then making GOOD, BENEFICIAL choices about your food. I’m not saying that you must now only think of chicken, broccoli and egg whites as appropriate food sources! I AM saying to be aware of making better choices instead of doing what may be immediate and convenient. For example, you wake up late, skip breakfast, tell yourself you are going to grab lunch somewhere and run out the door to work. By the time lunch comes around, you are starving and have students in your room. The only food available is a left over donut in the teacher’s lounge and you scarf it down because at this point, you just want to silence your stomach!! What if you thought ahead and put something together the night before? Or had a couple pieces of fruit that could hold you over until you could buy something else? What about storing granola bars or pita chips in your desk so that you have a back up plan? Little changes can make all the difference.

It’s not about a complete overhaul. It is about setting yourself up for success. So go ahead and do what you preach to all the important people in your life. Take CARE of you. Give yourself a little MOVE “me time” and think before you eat. You will thank yourself for it later.

Jada Kelly
PUC Excel’s Parent Leaders Kick Off this Year’s Parent Engagement Work With their Annual Retreat

PUC Parent leaders from Excel, Milagro, eCALS, and Santa Rosa met at the beautiful Audubon Center at Debs Park to celebrate, reflect and inspire each other. The day started with a traditional Tongva Morning Ceremony and Community Circle. Parents celebrated the successes they accomplished during the 2015-16 school year and shared how they believe their work could have been more impactful during a review of last year’s accomplishments. Mr. Kuauhtzin then led the group of parents through a historical analysis of the book Los Cuatro Acuerdos by Dr. Miguel Ruiz kicking off the Fall semester parent book study. Parents were able to share with each other lessons from their cultural heritage that make them who they are today. Children had a great time with Daniela Encarnacion who engaged our children through hands on experiences at the center alongside the Audubon Staff. During lunch parents were able to rejoin their children as they experienced the fountains, ponds, ancient trees, peaceful nooks and beautiful trails throughout this hidden jewel nestled in the hills of Northeast Los Angeles. Dr. Gasca delivered an inspiring experience where parents were able to create an artifact that would remind them of the passions that propel them to do the amazing work parents do in our partnership. Mrs. Grunder connected the day’s experience with the experiences teachers and leaders go through in their personal development to become better educators for our children. The day concluded with over 30 parents receiving certificates for the amazing leadership they performed in our schools, their homes and our community. A special congratulations to Eva Villegas, parent coordinator, for her constant dedication and support in making these types of experiences happen for our families.
During September, PUC Schools and Revolution Foods teamed up and held a few food tastings at 5 of our PUC campuses (PUC CALS Middle and CALS Early College High School, PUC Santa Rosa Charter Academy, PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter High School, PUC Inspire Charter Academy, and the PUC Sylmar Education Complex which houses Triumph Charter Academy, Triumph High School and Lakeview Charter High School). The food tastings were held to sample the NEW breakfast menu items that will be released throughout the year, and to get student feedback for future menu implementations!

One of PUC's main focuses this year will be to implement better, tastier HOT BREAKFAST items into the Revolution Food's menu, which all of our students can enjoy for FREE each morning. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and we want our students to look forward to eating a delicious and healthy meal when they arrive to school each day, to kick-start their day full of energy and healthy nutrients! All breakfast items that Revolution Foods provides are paired up with fresh fruit and milk - for a healthy, balanced meal!

Students were loving the new breakfast samples, and even came back for seconds and thirds! A few of the exciting new breakfast items that will make their way onto the menu this year are:

- **Bean & Cheese Burrito**
- **Chorizo & Cheese Bagel Sandwich**
- **Chicken Sausage Bagel Sandwich**

New HOT breakfast items will be available on the menu starting as early as this **November**!

Another improvement that PUC Schools and Revolution Foods are focusing on this year is to create other menu items that students will enjoy for **Lunch and Supper**! Two of the food tastings held in September focused on Lunch/Supper items. These smaller focus groups consisted of about 8-12 students who got to sample a variety of items including:

- **Jalapeño Jack Cheeseburger**
- **Italian Trio Sandwich**
- **Buffalo Chicken Drumstick & Thigh**
Menu planning is the most important and fundamental part of the entire process. We wanted to give our PUC students a chance to voice their opinions, give their feedback, and share with Rev Foods what they like, don’t like, and wish to see more of! Each student was given a survey to complete for item they tasted. The feedback was great! The overall crowd favorite was the buffalo chicken drumstick and thigh!

PUC and Revolution Foods have already started off the school year with great progress. Special thanks to the new Senior Director of Product Development at Revolution Foods, Ted Stoner, for working so vigorously with PUC and the rest of the Rev Foods team to implement changes to the menu, creating items that our students will love! The students are enjoying their meals so much more now that HOT menu items have been introduced at almost every site! These upcoming changes are sure to be a great hit with all of our students, and PUC will continue collecting student feedback, so that we can provide the best meals possible!
As we prepare to have a remarkable and successful school year academically, PUC is also working closely with our PUC-wide food vendor, Revolution Foods, to have an even more nutritious and healthy school year for all of our students!

Rev Foods has been working vigorously to create more Breakfast, Lunch and Supper meal options that are both nutritious and healthy, but also appeal to our students and focus on the interests of our community demographically. These are just a few of the delicious new menu items that every school will be able to order this coming year!

Satisfying our students is one of PUC and Revolution Foods’ main goals this year as a team. Last year we surveyed our students on what they like, dislike, and what they wish to see more of. This year, Rev Foods is making an effort to incorporate all of that feedback into their menu planning, and giving our students what they want to see, as well as maintaining a healthy, balanced menu!!

This is just a start, and there will be much more progression to come! Keep an eye out for all the NEW menu items, and please reach out to us with any thoughts or ideas for new meals at PUC Schools!
Building a Better Tomorrow Together

By Michael Greenberg

Faculty, Staff, and Admin oh my! On Friday September 30th Santa Rosa Charter Academy gathered together for a day of self-reflection and team building. At the Natural History Museum Santa Rosa team were able to bond as they explored the Natural History Museum learning more about each other while discovering new ways to engage students in their content.

Renee Hebri saw an opportunity to make studying early man more engaging by take pictures on her trip of the skeletal remains of early man. She used fellow History Teacher Michael Greenberg as a point of reference so it was more relatable to students. Lucin Devletyan and Elizabeth Patel took similar pictures so their students can see how large dinosaurs are in relation to current day Humans. History, Science, and English came together at the Natural History museum to bring a more relatable point of reference to students.

It was not only Faculty working together, but at the butterfly pavilion the Santa Rosa team was able to take part in the butterfly experience. In a moment of contemplation and reflection staff thought about their own experiences in the classroom and how our students transformation in Middle School is similar to the metamorphosis butterflies go through.

Principal Melody Morris and AP Nicole Garza facilitated the reflection process at the end of the day. Looking at students as butterflies the Santa Rosa Team created goals and a plan to help facilitate students’ own transformation. Overall the day was a success as the team grew closer and our goals become more solidified.
PUC Santa Rosa School President Election

By Elizabeth Patel, 7th grade English teacher

The sun is already reaching 80 degrees on a hot and sunny Saturday morning, but this doesn’t bother Adam Lopez and his family. Adam Lopez, an 8th grade student at Santa Rosa Charter Academy, is running for school president against three other candidates. Led by Mr. Greenberg, the 8th grade History teacher, each cohort held a presidential primary of sorts where groups of students created posters, slogans, and gave speeches. Then, the whole class voted on one candidate to represent their cohort. In the end, Natalie Barranco, Amanda Barrera, Nathan Cabada, and Adam Lopez stood tall as the four candidates. Adam wasted no time in implementing his ideas to make Santa Rosa a better school. How does he want to prove that he is the right choice as president? Have a yard sale fundraiser to benefit the school that he wants to help lead.

As many know, Santa Rosa is not the biggest or fanciest of all the PUC schools, but Adam sees something in the school that many of the other candidates see as well. They see a school that is dedicated in ensuring that all students succeed, but with minimal resources to accomplish such a task. He sees the lack of proper P.E. equipment, books, etc., and his yard sale hopes to change this. Selling things such as clothes, books, jewelry, stuffed animals, and the usual trinkets you see at a yard sale, Adam, his sister Emily, and other family members set up as early as 8:00am and began their campaign for change. Thanks to the gracious donations from the teachers and staff of Santa Rosa, the yard sale also included cupcakes, cookies, coffee, juice boxes, and other delicious sweet snacks. People from the community were immediately drawn to the yard sale and almost half of what was being sold was gone by noon. When asked how well their yard sale was going, Adam happily replied “It’s going really great. A lot of people showed up already.” Adam’s grandmother jumps in and says “Oh yes, it’s been going great and Ms. Durham donated so many great things. We are really grateful.”

The yard sale fundraiser was a great success, selling more than his goal of $100, and Adam’s promise to “Change Santa Rosa for the Better” was already proving to be true. However, Adam is soon going to have some stiff competition with his opponents preparing to unveil their own ideas next week, along with their very own slogans, bumper stickers, and posters presenting their own positions. Regardless of what student takes the top spot, it is refreshing to see a political race that is focused on the issues, with candidates who truly have hearts of gold and are the embodiment of what it means to be a PUC scholar.
PUC Excel Back to School Night

PUC Excel had a successful Back to School Night! One of our focus areas as a school is placing student and family engagement at the center of our work, and that focus came to life during our Back to School Night!

Because student and family engagement are at the center of our work, in no classes did parents listen to a presentation about a syllabus or watch a PowerPoint presentation. Instead, students led their family members to each of their classes and showcased something that they had already learned this school year.

Students shared with their parents what they learned about the history of PUC Excel and made connections to their family’s history.

Students and families learned about the Workshop Model in their ELA classes, learned more about their ELA teacher, and shared about their families.

Eighth grade families saw examples of Community Service projects and discussed with their children why they believe that PUC’s commitment of uplifting our communities now and forever is important to their families.

Students & families made connections to PUC Excel’s ESLRs and Habits of a Scholar and discussed how they reinforce the values that families teach their children at home.

Thank you to the PUC Excel community for a successful Back to School Night rooted in student and family engagement!
Rally in the Valley

On Saturday, September 17, approximately 3,000 charter school families, staff members, and teachers attended a Rally in the Valley to celebrate charter school reform in that geographic area. Almost 1,000 of those attending the event were from PUC.

The Rally included a march through Pacoima that ended at Vaughn Next Century Learning Center. The Northeast San Fernando Valley was one of the first communities in California to embrace charter legislation, beginning with the conversion of Vaughn Elementary School, then Fenton Elementary School, and then Montague Elementary School, which was followed by the founding of the first of our own PUC schools beginning in 1999, Community Charter Middle School.

Gaby Reynoso, a PUC Alumni and a teacher at PUC Community Charter Middle School, inspired the crowd speaking about her journey in PUC charter schools that was amazing despite the facilities challenges.

Congressman Tony Cardenas, Raul Bocanegra, Board Member Monica Ratliff and other elected officials also spoke at the Rally. LAUSD Board member Monica Garcia was also present at the event.
Annual PUC Kick-off Event a Huge Success

On September 6, approximately 800 PUC Schools and PUC National staff members gathered at the beautiful Alex Theatre in Glendale for the Annual PUC Kick-off event.

PUC Co-founders Dr. Jacqueline Elliot and Dr. Ref Rodriguez opened the event with a welcome, reflections on the past year, celebrations, challenges, and a vision for the coming year.

This was followed by an afternoon of outstanding student performances that thrilled the attendees. Several talented staff members who are outstanding musicians also performed.

Staff at PUC Achieve Charter School in Rochester, New York participated via webcast, and employees who have been with PUC for 10 and 15 years, received awards. Everybody left the Alex Theatre inspired, energized, and highly motivated for the 2016-17 school year.
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!

**Referral Program Payouts**
- Chemistry & Physics - $350
- All Other Science - $300
- All SPED - $250
- All Math - $250
- All Other Core Teachers - $200
- All Elective & PE Teachers - $100
- All Classified Positions—$75

All referral bonuses are paid out via payroll after the Employee has been hired and working for three months.

*Referral bonus is eligible for full-time new hires for the 2016-2017 SY*

**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.

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 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

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.

PUC employees will no longer be able to purchase discounted Disneyland Resort tickets from the website link
previously featured on the PUC Intranet. However, Working Advantage offers a variety of Disneyland Resort tickets
at a discounted price as well. For more information, visit: Working Advantage Disneyland Tickets

Human Resources has AMC tickets available for sale. As of August 1, 2015, AMC will no longer sell Silver or Gold
Tickets; they have decided to move to one ticket going forward which will be the Green Ticket. The Gold tickets that
remain in distribution will be honored as stated in the terms and conditions listed on the tickets. PLEASE NOTE:
Green Tickets will NOT be eligible for any movie distributed by The Walt Disney Company, including but not limited
to Pixar, Marvel, and Lucas Films. AMC tickets have no expiration date. The price for a green ticket is $9/
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 Green 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 web-
site. 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
PUC Connections: Dedicated to keeping our circle of schools connected.

**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 Jonathan Liu from the Human Resources Department in order to place an order. You can reach him at j.liu@pucschools.org or 818-478-2093.

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

PUC Laptop Bag: $40