Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

Did somebody say that summer is not a busy time in the field of education? For all of the PUC schools and for the PUC National staff this has been an extremely busy but very productive couple of months.

A number of facilities expansion projects were underway this summer that included new modular classrooms for PUC Community Charter Elementary School, preparing a new site on Van Nuys Blvd. in Pacoima for PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter High School, preparing Celis Street for incoming 6th grade students from PUC Inspire, finishing a new building in Rochester for the students at PUC Achieve Charter School, and more. Staff and school leaders involved in operations did a magnificent job with these and other projects that took place at all campuses this summer.

Completing hiring on time for the new school year and holding orientations for the new employees kept the Human Resources team and school leaders extremely busy while school leaders, Superintendents, Instructional Team members, and Directors simultaneously planned and implemented outstanding summer professional development experiences for PUC teachers and staff. Bravo!

A new group of aspiring educators began their training as part of the Alumni Teach Project. Those entering their second year as part of this amazing initiative prepared to teach in their own classrooms this year while former graduates from the project prepared for the upcoming year with tremendous confidence, now entering their second or third years as successful classroom teachers. With a teaching shortage presenting hiring challenges to all schools in the state of California and beyond, this highly effective PUC initiative is extremely timely.

As Co-founder of PUC, it was my distinct pleasure to facilitate Community Circles this summer at all of the Valley schools, reflecting on the vision and mission of our organization and the critical role each individual plays in achieving PUC’s goals. It is my intention to do the same for each of the NE Los Angeles schools in the coming months. I am always greatly inspired by the tremendous PUC teachers and staff.

Last but not least, greeting the incoming 6th grade students from the Valley at CSUN and spending a few days in Rochester, New York at PUC Achieve could not have been more inspiring and exhilarating. As I looked into the faces of our young students, saw the excitement in their eyes, and heard about their hopes and aspirations I could not have been more proud to work alongside the tremendous professionals at PUC who will ensure that all of our students are provided with the opportunities to achieve their potential and make their dreams come true.

After several intense weeks of preparation, all PUC schools have opened and have launched very successfully! Congratulations to the PUC National and PUC Schools staff who worked together very effectively to begin the school year smoothly. Have a wonderful year!
Finding your “jam” in the classroom was the essential theme for the new teachers to PUC this summer. Almost 80 new teachers to PUC arrived at the Lakeview Terrace Complex at the end of July for five days to participate in our “New Teachers on the Block” 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 four lab classrooms in the afternoon. Current PUC teachers Fabviola Rosales, Alexi Swonger, Jessica Duarte, David Govea, and Gabby Calderon 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 updated intranet site, revamped this summer to ensure easy and quick access to what teachers need and want. Videos of the teachers from learning lab classrooms will also available for viewing on PUC@. 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 ROCKIN’ new year!
PUC Excel Summer Bridge

PUC Excel Charter Academy’s annual Summer Bridge was a huge success. Incoming and returning students integrated well into their new classroom and with their teachers. It was 4 complete days full of laughter, working together, and relationship building. Amongst all the positive energy there was some sense of uneasiness, especially from the new 6th graders. Coming into a new school can create a sense of uncertainty which is why we took a grade level approach to building community. We welcomed back all grade levels on the fourth day of Summer Bridge for a greater union. Our summer bridge focused on knowing our impact on our community, learning about ourselves and each other and creating our narratives.

Sixth grade scholars visited the Wildlife Learning Center in Sylmar. They were able to observe rare animals like sloths and the bald eagle. The students understood how their own impact in their community correlates with human impact on wildlife. Sixth graders showed a high level of empathy for the animals that were mistreated and nurtured back to health by the center. They took home the importance of taking care of animals.

The 7th grade scholars traveled to Lincoln Park for team building activities. We believe it is important that in this precise age they learn how to grow in unity and become self-aware. They engaged in three legged races, which required team coordination and communication. Flag football was another game the 7th grade scholars participated in. Berkeley 7th grade cohort showed the most strategy using while playing flag football.

The student leaders of our school stayed at Excel and partnered with the PLUS Me project to work on their personal narratives. In the two hour long workshop students worked with each other on defining themselves and how to continue to work on a story that will make them feel proud of themselves. They brainstormed to identify important elements in their current story and how they will move forward with their narrative. Listening to other personal stories and sharing with one another supported students on their story building.

It was four successful days of relationship and community building. PUC Excel came together to build community through various activities that required teamwork and interaction. The last day of Summer Bridge the school hosted the PUC Excel Olympics. Our teachers interacted with our wolf athletes, and our CSLB 8th grade cohort was able to pull in for the gold. This year’s summer bridge approach set the Excel family for an excellent 2016-2017 school year!
Just like the 6th grade students at their sister PUC schools in the Northeast San Fernando Valley in California, the PUC Achieve Charter School incoming 5th grade students begin their school year on the campus of a University.

For the third year in a row, on August 18 and 19 this year the new PUC Achieve students boarded buses at their school site and traveled to the campus of SUNY Brockport where they spent two glorious days becoming immersed in the beautiful campus and bonding with their new teachers and fellow students.

Eating meals in the dining hall each day, engaged in lessons with their teachers in university classrooms, meeting university students, and touring the campus, the young PUC Achieve students envisioned themselves one day becoming actual university students at SUNY Brockport and living in the dorms. Staff overheard students repeatedly talking excitedly with one another about achieving this goal. This of course is exactly the outcome that is intended as a result of this PUC tradition that began in California and is now taking place in our PUC School in Rochester, New York.
Six Hundred PUC 6th Grade Students Go to CSUN

On Monday, August 15 approximately 600 incoming 6th grade students from the PUC middle Schools in the Northeast San Fernando Valley arrived on the campus of California State University Northridge for a week of immersion in the university culture.

This is the 17th year in a row that our incoming 6th grade students in the Valley have spent a week on the campus of CSUN becoming acquainted with university life in order to inspire them to set the goal of attending a university after high school graduation.

This tradition supports our efforts to achieve PUC’s Commitment #1 which is to increase the college graduation rate by five times in the communities we serve.

The very successful partnership with CSUN began when PUC Co-founder, Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, convinced the University to provide the 100 founding students of the first PUC school, Community Charter Middle School, with a temporary home in 1999 when the school’s facility was not ready on time to start the school year.

The impact on the young students was so positive that Dr. Elliot decided that every year the incoming 6th grade students should experience the University campus in order to instill the vision of college graduation in their minds and hearts.

As the number of PUC schools grew, the number of students going to CSUN each year also grew. This year, there were a record number of 600 PUC sixth grade students on the CSUN campus for one week.

While at CSUN, the students engage in a number of activities that include but are not limited to swimming in the university pool, touring the campus, eating in the food court, engaging in discussions with university students, taking lessons with university professors, and bonding with their new teachers and fellow students in university classrooms. This year, one of the highlights of their visit was a soccer clinic with the CSUN Women’s Soccer Team. Pictures of that very exciting event are included with this article.

PUC students never forget their week at CSUN. PUC alumni speak about it even after they graduate from high school as having been a primary, unforgettable motivator that inspired them to set their sights on university after high school graduation and never give up on that goal.
CSUN Days
PUC NECA Teacher Participates in Summer Study Tour

Do you enjoy traveling the world and learning about new cultures? Would you like to enhance your curriculum and make it more lively? Then take advantage of the numerous teacher study tours that are available each summer! This past summer Nueva Esperanza teacher Jennifer Lopez participated in the study tour “Voices of Peace and Reconciliation: Messages from Japan to the United States.” This program was sponsored by the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia (NCTA) and the Japan-American Foundation, and was led by Dr. Anne Prescott and veteran social studies teacher John Frank. As part of the study tour, Ms. Lopez was able to visit historic sites and museums in Nagasaki, Kyoto, and Hiroshima to examine peace and peace education, as well as meet with students, teachers, and administrators from Honakawa Elementary, Mihara Junior High School, and Nagasaki University to discuss the meaning of peace and how it can be promoted to create effective reconciliation efforts. In addition, teacher fellows had the opportunity to interact with very impactful speakers, such as atomic bomb survivor Yoshiro Yamawaki and Sadako Sasaki’s brother, whose sister was best known for folding over a 1,000 cranes when she was diagnosed with leukemia after the Hiroshima bombing. If interested in participating in this tour next summer, please go to the following website for more information on requirements and deadlines: https://www.fivecolleges.edu/fcceas/2016-japan-study-tour.
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.

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 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!
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.

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 Advantage Program

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
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