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

2023 represents a new beginning and I wish all of you a wonderful year in every way possible. All of us are still adjusting from the effects of the pandemic but the new year brings us optimism, rejuvenation, and the joy of being together in person again. We must support one another with kindness and understanding as each of us continues to dust off the cobwebs acquired during isolation, while simultaneously performing our roles within PUC. It’s clear that we’ve all been challenged psychologically and for many also physically. If we are to maximize the potential 2023 offers us, we must take care of ourselves on all levels; mentally, physically, and spiritually. We talk about the importance of having a holistic approach with our students. We must do the same for ourselves. Take the time to focus on, select, and consistently engage in specific strategies to care for your physical, mental, and spiritual health. Let’s also remember to put into practice PUC’s Commitment #3, uplifting our community, by helping and supporting those around us, those we serve, our families, our friends, and beyond. In so doing we will have balance in our lives and make 2023 a magnificent, productive, triumphant, and joyful year for ourselves and those around us. I wish each of you good health, love, and much joy in 2023!
PUC Excel Charter Academy:
PUC Excel Boxing Club Highlights

Submitted by Daysi Garcia, Head Coach/Founder of Boxing Club & Lead Tutor, PUC Excel Charter Academy

LA84 Foundation, CFP Foundation, LASEC, “Champions Educate Here” Legacy Grant Recipients

This year, the PUC Excel Boxing Club was awarded $20,000 to continue nurturing the academic, mental health, and social-emotional needs of Excel students through sport, play, and movement. The award will allow the boxing club to purchase boxing equipment, social-emotional learning resources, boxing uniforms, field trips, coaching education, employment opportunities, club projects, and a student scholarship!

Additionally, the club was publicly recognized on Saturday, September 17, 2022, as part of an in-game recognition during USC’s football game against Fresno State at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Disciplined, Determined and Prepared

All currently enrolled PUC Excel students are allowed to join the PUC Excel Boxing Club. The club waives the usual “grade” requirements for student athletes. This is intentional and supported on campus so that students always have a safe inclusive space to train despite academic outcomes. Students are also offered support if they want to integrate the boxing club into their behavior contracts.

Student athletes at the Excel location are committed to further developing the vision for a future PUC Athletics Boxing Program for all future PUC students.

PUC Excel Boxing Scholarship

The boxing community at PUC Excel recognizes the importance of supporting students interested in pursuing higher education and becoming a “Future Collegiate Boxer.”

This school year the club will offer PUC Excel Boxing Club alumni an opportunity to apply for the first PUC Excel Boxing Club Scholarship.

Boxing Club Alumni - First Job Training Program

The Club is also dedicated to creating a sustainable boxing program for the Lincoln Heights and PUC community. Therefore the club will provide alumni an opportunity to apply for the “First Job” training program with the PUC Excel Boxing Club.
On Monday, December 12th PUC TCHS hosted 12 alumni during our Advisory period. After putting the word out to our Instagram followers, we were able to get volunteers from the Class of 2014 to the Class of 2021. The alumni took time away from school and work to talk to the Class of 2023 seniors and answer questions about life after high school. It was the seniors' opportunity to get insight directly from those who are living it. The alumni answered questions and shared their experiences regarding all areas of life, including academics, navigating career, changing family relationships and friendships, and coping with transition (“letting go”). Their shared experience of having once been a Jaguar gave them a perspective valuable to our current seniors about navigating college, the world of work, and life as an adult. It was wonderful to see how much the people who once walked our halls have grown and are making an impact in the world in both big and small ways. The seniors were fully engaged in the conversation and asked tons of questions. The event was a success, and we plan to make this an annual tradition.

We would like to thank the following alumni for participating: Nahelly Alfaro (Class of 2017), Esmeralda Anzaldo (Class of 2017), Javier Garcia (Class of 2021), Freddy Gomez (Class of 2017), Jasmine Herrera (Class of 2014), Sophia Herrera (Class of 2016), Jesse Leos (Class of 2014), Adriana Lopez (Class of 2016), Edgar Luna (Class of 2017), Jesus Ruiz (Class of 2018), Sylvia Ulloa (Class of 2017), and Dominique Villagomez (Class of 2017). We hope to see you again next year!
School Alumni Join the PUC National Team!

Submitted by Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, Chief Executive Officer, PUC National

Elizabeth Ramirez (PUC Lakeview Charter Academy, Class of 2012/ PUC Community Charter Early College High School, Class of 2016)

Elizabeth Ramirez was born and raised in Lakeview Terrace and joined PUC National in December as a Contract Specialist and Administrative Assistant. However, Elizabeth has been part of the PUC family for many years. She attended PUC Lakeview Charter Academy and then PUC Community Charter Early College High School, graduating in 2016. She then attended UCLA, graduating in 2020 with a double major in Sociology and Chicana/o Studies.

Elizabeth is very passionate about children and education and her first job out of college was as a Behavior Therapist for children with Autism, working in many environments that included school and home settings, and creating great relationships with families and school staff. Elizabeth said that this role definitely influenced her to become even more interested in helping her community and supporting children and their families in every way possible. She said she is excited to be back with PUC so that she can help her community through facilitation of contracts that will support the schools and provide endless opportunities for students to have successful futures.

Elizabeth reflected that she is grateful to have attended PUC Schools because she believes they played a huge role in helping her apply to and graduate from UCLA and become a first generation college student. In the time that Elizabeth has been working for PUC, she says she sees the love and passion that flows from all levels of the organization. As a parent herself, she said that although her daughter is only a year and a half, she hopes she will attend a PUC School.

Elizabeth is thankful for the warm welcome she has experienced coming back to the PUC family and looks forward to facilitating contract needs!

Lexi Goodin (PUC Santa Rosa Charter Academy, Class of 2013)

Lexi Goodin grew up in the Northeast Los Angeles (NELA) Community. Growing up in NELA, success did not seem accessible and was not often publicized for the youth. The schools in her community were not known for providing a quality education and due to those circumstances, Lexi’s mother was very hesitant to send her to school within the NELA community. Her mother had always instilled the importance of education and in 2012, she was thrilled to come across PUC Santa Rosa Charter Academy, which was located right in the center of her community. Lexi’s mother was confident in PUC’s mission/vision for the youth and decided that she finally felt confident sending her to a school in the community. During the 2 years that she spent at Santa Rosa, Lexi was taught not only core values, but was also provided with the confidence that success was accessible. After graduating from PUC Santa Rosa, she attended high school at the Sotomayor Learning Academies and continued her education at California State University, Fullerton, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology in 2021. Lexi is currently an online graduate student at Arizona State University, studying within the Organizational Leadership program.

Lexi has always had a passion for helping people and has joyfully dedicated much of her time towards volunteering at mental health wellness centers to provide mentorship to the youth. Her passion for helping people led her to realize that she would like to dedicate my life and career towards uplifting individuals.

Lexi is honored and excited to once again be part of the PUC family as an HR assistant at PUC National. She believes that Human Resources provides the foundation for an organization’s innovation. One of the core components of an organization is the employees, and therefore, her overall goal is to be able to contribute her knowledge of psychology and organizational leadership towards the development of employees as well as guidance and assistance to all. Lexi is grateful for PUC’s investment in her as a middle school student and looks forward to investing just as much back into PUC.
PUC Schools: Think or Thwim Podcast

Submitted by Pete Frias, Director of Media Communications, PUC National

Jenna Kamp, an Academic Coach for PUC Schools, hosts a podcast called Think or Thwim. On each episode of Think or Thwim, she talks with one educator to discuss one lesson that harnesses and elevates critical and creative thinking in the classroom. You can listen to the podcast to discover how amazing educators and their students learn to think, or thwim, their way to success!

Two PUC Schools teachers were recently featured on podcast episodes!

Episode 9 features Ms. Nina Phillips, 12th Grade English Teacher at PUC eCALS.

Episode 12 features Ms. Jennifer Lopez, 5th Grade Math Teacher at PUC Community Charter Elementary School.

You can listen to the podcasts on Spotify by clicking here!

PUC National: Facilities Team Project - Awning at PUC Community Charter Elementary School

Submitted by Sergio Soto, Director of Facilities, PUC National

This year, the Facilities Department installed a new awning for the kindergarteners at PUC Community Charter Elementary School. Now, they have a nice shade area that protects them from the weather when they are outside during lunch, recess, and when they are getting picked up.
PUC National: School & College Counseling Support Team Highlights

Submitted by Nicole Murphy, Director of School & College Counseling Support, PUC National

Fall 2022 School & College Counseling YouTube Series

This fall series offered six-weeks of presentation to support students' higher education, career, and mental health success. Presentations premiered to PUC Schools' YouTube channel and serve as an ongoing resource: www.youtube.com/PUCSchools.

![Image of Fall 2022 School & College Counseling YouTube Series](https://example.com)

LGBTQ+ Competency

Training in support of gender equity, diversity and inclusivity, PUC sought out community experts from the Los Angeles LGBT Center to provide LGBTQ+ Competency virtual training to PUC's school leaders, directors, school & college counselors, student & parent engagement team, office managers, campus ops mangers, clinical counselors, coordinators and members of our special education team. In addition to this training. In addition to the trainings, LGBTQ+ Resources were provided to support staff, students and families.

PUC Career Convos YouTube Series 2023

Our PUC Career Convos YouTube series is returning! Watch conversations with career experts across a variety of fields, posted to PUC Schools' YouTube channel on Tuesdays @ 6:00pm, starting February 7th through March 28th. The presentation topics for the spring 2023 series were driven by survey responses from over 1,000 students. We have eight-weeks of presentations, carefully curated with the goal of expanding students' career knowledge and empowering students to make informed career decisions.

Don't miss out! Follow PUC Schools YouTube channel to stay in the know: youtube.com/PUCSchools
Using Naviance To Support Students’ With IEPs Transition Success

On Monday, October 20th, in collaboration with Ms. Sarah Ballard-Wiley, PUC Learning Engagement Coach, professional development was provided to PUC high school Inclusion Specialists (IS), which focused on helping students develop skills to successfully transition to their chosen post-high school plan.

Inclusion Specialists’ learning objectives covered:
1) Becoming more familiar with Naviance high school grade level programs,
2) Learning how to use Naviance as an IS and from the perspective of a student, as well as
3) Discussions regarding ways to incorporate Naviance data into student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Individual Transition Plans (ITP).

Naviance’s online platform provide tools and resources that align with Hobsons’ Career, College, and Life Readiness Framework (CCLR). This framework provides a blueprint to prepare middle and high school students for success in school and after graduation.

Naviance is a collaboration tool that allows school staff to work collaboratively with students and families to help students build essential skills (mindset and skillsets) for post-high school student success.

Students in grades 9th-12th are assigned developmentally appropriate grade level tasks related to 1) Social Emotional Learning, 2) Interpersonal Skills, 3) Academic Skills, 4) Career Knowledge, 5) College Knowledge and 6) Transition Skills. Naviance tasks are completed in the classroom as well as students work independently to complete these tasks staring in 9th grade through high school graduation.

Fall Application Update

Per Naviance data, as of Friday, January 27, 2023, PUC Schools’ Class of 2023 submitted 1,821 college/university applications across our five high schools.

Here are top ten applied to 4-year institutions across PUC Schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Universities</th>
<th># of Applications Submitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California State University-Northridge</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State University-Long Beach</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State University-Los Angeles</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-Los Angeles</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California-Irvine</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-Santa Barbara</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego State University</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-San Diego</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State Polytechnic University-Pomona</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State University-Fullerton</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More good news! Our seniors pursuing pathways in the military, apprenticeships, trades and direct to employment are continuing to take required steps to prepare them to achieve their goals.

Stay tuned as we celebrate and support our Class of 2023’s post-high school commitments and support all PUC seniors with their transition to “life after high school.”
PUC National: PUC Alumni Network Highlights

Submitted by Brando Uscategui Conza, Alumni Program Coordinator, PUC National

PUC Senior Send-Off Series 2022-23

October marked the first of seven presentations in the PUC Senior Send-Off Series, each of which addresses issues students struggle with when they transition from high school to college, career & “adulting.”

Our three fall presentations were a success with topics focused on: Senior Year Transition Success (October, presenter: PUC Alumni Program Coordinator), Healthy Relationships (November, presenter: Dignity Health Northridge Hospital Medical Center), Suicide Awareness and Prevention (December, presenter: PUC Clinical Counseling).

Senior Send-Off Feedback Survey Senior Quotes:
- “I like the fact that presentation is spreading awareness as this is a topic that needs to become aware more than ever now.” (Regarding Dec. Presentation)
- “To me the presentation was successful. It was informative, it was easy to follow along, and I appreciate the email we receive afterward with links to the resources that were presented.” (Regarding Oct. Presentation)
- “One thing I like most about the Senior Send-Off presentation is that it gives us resources that everyone can go to if they need help with something about their mental health.” (Regarding Dec. Presentation)

PUC College Liaison Team

PUC College Liaisons help freshmen avoid “Summer Melt”, successfully transition from high school to college, and provide tips on how to navigate through their first year of college/university.

The PUC College Liaison team is comprised of PUC Alumni in years 2-6 of college. With support starting in July 2022, College Liaisons continued to provide outreach and support to the 346 college-going PUC Class of 2022 alumni, via text, emails, and phone calls, at a minimum of twice per month. Liaisons focused on monthly themes that align with college students' experiences such as: Getting involved on campus, financial aid, academic habits, campus supports, and mental health resources.
PUC Fall 2022 Alumni Survey

The PUC Alumni Network developed PUC Fall Alumni Surveys to identify PUC’s Class of 2021 and 2022 alumni’s successes, challenges and experiences in college and other pathways. Survey data is used to drive our work and allocation of resources. Alumni who completed the survey were entered into a raffle for one of two Amazon Echos. Congratulations to our two Fall 2022 PUC Alumni Survey Raffle Winners: Kimberly Donez, PUC CCECHS and Brianna Rodriguez, PUC TCHS.

Fall 2022 Survey Response Highlights:
Question (Class of 2022): What challenges have you faced (if any) during your first semester of college?

• “I am most proud of how fast I adapted to my trade school and how much I have learned about my trade.”
• “I manage to make it out of the first semester, compared to where I was a couple of months ago. I did not think I would manage to get this far which is really exciting.”
• “I am most proud of my dedication to continue learning even with all the hardships that came along my journey.”

Question: With your first year/semester of college/trade school behind you, what are you most proud of?
• “I am most proud of how fast I adapted to my trade school and how much I have learned about my trade.”
• “I manage to make it out of the first semester, compared to where I was a couple of months ago. I did not think I would manage to get this far which is really exciting.”
• “I am most proud of my dedication to continue learning even with all the hardships that came along my journey.”

Question: What is one tip you have for PUC’s Class of 2023 that would help them manage their transition out of high school?
• “Transitioning is going to be difficult and there will be people that seem to be doing fine. They’re also having a hard time so don’t compare yourself to others. It’s also okay if you don’t do very well your first semester - it’s going to seem scary but it’s a trial run for what’s to come the next few years and it helps you figure out what you do and do not like.”
• “It’s okay to feel stressed and pressured with this new transition but it’ll be worth it and just stay on top of your school work as well as making sure your well mentally and physically.”
• “Don’t be worried! Do what’s best for you! Always take care of Your mental health. Work towards your goals, this transition is only a step closer to them!”

The PUC Alumni Network program will continue to provide Class of 2022 alumni with supports through the end of their first year of college (June 2023).

Facebook: @PUCSchoolsAlumni | Instagram: @pucschoolsalumni | Website: pucschools.org/alumni
PUC SCHOOLS Alumni Network

https://pucschools.org/alumni

Check out our website for support!

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Employee Perks Program

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.

Working Advantage offers 24-hour online shopping and customer support Monday through Friday from 5:30 AM to 3:30 PM Pacific Standard time. If you have specific questions regarding the site, please contact Working Advantage at 800-565-3712.

T-Mobile offers exclusive discounts for PUC Schools employees. Click here 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 here to visit Sprint’s promo website.
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.