

# STUDENT NEWS

FEBRUARY 2008 ISSUE 13



## News From the Principal, Maria E. Romero

Students who have attended Fresno Adult School at the Chavez campus for any significant amount of time know that “character,” and specifically The Six Pillars of Character are very important. Almost every classroom displays these pillars. **RESPECT** is the pillar of the month for February and March. Do you know anyone that demonstrates this pillar regularly? Who do you know that listens well and smiles often and who never uses profanities? Do you know anyone who doesn't gossip, who is tolerant and not judgmental, but instead accepting of people? Do you have a friend or co-worker who is always considerate and friendly to

everyone, and who goes out of his/her way to make people feel comfortable and accepted? This person would never intentionally hurt anyone but instead makes every effort to be helpful. A person who displays these character traits is someone who epitomizes the pillar of **RESPECT**, and how wonderful it is when you are fortunate enough to have a person like this in your family, at work or school, or as a friend.

I want you all to know that we are so fortunate at Fresno Adult School to have someone working here who I feel has all of the characteristics I have mentioned above. Her name is PENNY ARNOLD and if you walk into the Main Office you will see

her working at the high school desk with a big smile and eager to help anyone who comes up to her area. PLEASE come in the office and say hi to her and meet her because unfortunately, she is more rare than common. We have many good people who work at Fresno Adult School, but it is hard to always show enthusiasm and be cheerful and eager. Nevertheless, at the end of the day when she leaves to go home, it is still with the big smile she came to work with; and with the most positive attitude I have ever seen.

We need to make **RESPECT** more rampant throughout our school. Let's all work to demonstrate this character trait.

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Penny Arnold is located at the High School desk in the main office. She epitomizes the Character Counts trait of **Respect**.

## FAS Joins Art Hop

Fresno Adult School (FAS) is proud to join in a Fresno tradition of celebrating the art work of local residents. The Fresno Arts Council's mission is to “enrich Peoples lives through the Arts”. Our first event will be held on Thursday, February 7th from 5:00–8:00 pm. Art will be on display in the foyer and hallways of the first floor at the Chavez campus, for our first Art Hop event FAS

will showcase the photography of our staff and their families.

FAS is also proud to showcase the Black History Month Posters that our own Fresno Adult School students have created. The theme of the poster contest was to depict an influential person or persons in Black History. Over twenty student posters are on display. The winner of the poster contest will be announced on

Thursday, February 7th.

Our photographers include staff members: Jack Elena, Don Rose, Rosa Gamez, Sherri Watkins, Amy Emrany, and Jim Nelson. We also have staff with talented family members who will display their photography. These include: Keil Schmidt, Jordan Cielo, Meng Vue. (Exhibitors may change) Visit the Fresno Arts Council website: [www.fresnoartscouncil.org](http://www.fresnoartscouncil.org).

Fresno Adult School

Joins

ART HOP!!

Thursday February 7th

5:00-8:00 pm in the foyer.

## Student of the Month



GED instructor, Huoy Trang and February Student of the Month, Tina Ebukam.

Tina Ebukam was nominated for Student of the Month by GED instructor, Huoy Trang.

Tina is an immigrant from Nigeria and speaks English as a second language. She works the graveyard shift three times a week but still manages to attend school daily and perform at the highest level expected in a class. Her performance in class talks about her character: she is a self starter and a self motivated student, asks questions without prompting, and when the assigned work is done, she quickly engages in her own educational activities for her personal enrichment.

Tina upholds the highest standards for her performance, not only at school, but at home as well. As the mother of eight children, a wife, and a homemaker, Tina has to balance the demands of her per-

sonal and professional life. According to her own instructor's words, "Despite the language barrier she has to contend with, the responsibilities she has to her children and husband, and the demands of her work, Tina still finds success in a class many American natives struggle in. I am proud and honored to have Tina as a GED student". Students like Tina are an example of what American dreams are made of: hard work, good character, dedication, and success. Join us in congratulating her on her dedication to the accomplishment of that dream as we honor her as the February student of the month.

## Moving Forward with Geoff Smith

**"The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."**  
—Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks is often considered the "Mother" of the civil rights movement because she refused to give up her seat in a public bus to white passengers. Her determination to stay in her seat and be ar-

rested for it helped to spur the Montgomery Bus Boycott which eventually led to the desegregation of busses in Montgomery.

Many times when the story of Rosa Parks is told, it is said that the reason she didn't give up her seat was that she was tired from a long day at work. Rosa Parks herself denied this version of events and said, "The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

I have always looked up to Rosa Parks and her courage in doing the right thing in a difficult situation. I was fortunate to see Ms. Parks speak at a Martin Luther King, Jr., event while I was in college. There is something very powerful about knowing that someone who most people would have considered insignificant did something that made such a tremendous difference.

As a counselor, I've seen many people make changes in his or her life that help to make the world a better place. For most of us, we're not going to be as famous as Rosa

Parks, but there are still many things that we can do to make things better for ourselves, our family and our community.

One of the things that I love about César Chávez Adult School is that everywhere you look there are students who are doing things to make their life better. Coming back to school as an adult isn't always the easiest thing to do, but some things that we do really make a difference. If there's ever times when we get discouraged or feel like we can't go on, then thinking of Rosa Parks and the examples she

set for all of us can help us to have the courage to keep going.

*Geoff Smith is a counselor at Cesar Chavez who provides free and confidential counseling for any Fresno Adult School student. He can be reached at [gsmith@fas.edu](mailto:gsmith@fas.edu) or by stopping by the main office. He contributes to the Student News with his monthly column.*

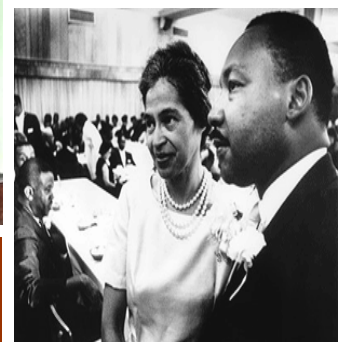


In 1996, U.S. President Bill Clinton awarded Rosa Parks the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



Rosa Parks was arrested for Civil Disobedience on December 1, 1955.

Rosa Parks meets King for the first time at the NAACP meeting in 1955.



## Black History Month Events

Fresno Adult School (FAS) has a long standing tradition of honoring and celebrating the diversity that makes up our school. During the month of February, FAS will hold its First Annual Black History Month Celebration to honor the contributions of African Americans in our community, our country and our history.

This celebration will consist of three extended lunch periods that will include a variety of guest speakers and performers. Some of the guest speakers will include California State University, Fresno's Africana Studies Professor, Julius Bailey; Fresno City College Psychology Professor, Jean Kennedy; and Fresno City Council-



Fresno City Councilmember Cynthia Sterling.

member, Cynthia Sterling. The performances will include songs by Debbie Downing and Hilda Bush and poems read by students Pauline White, Nyeicia Harris and FAS instructor Agnes Phillips. FAS student, Bobby Roddy will perform an original rap. Fresno's own Exalt!, Edison Computech, and CSUFresno fraternity Omega Psi Phi will dance and perform step dancing.

While it will be pleasurable listening to the guest speakers and watching the performers, it is important to remember the purpose and theme of the celebration, *Honoring Notable Black Persons' Contributions to History*. Please join the FAS staff by participating in the scheduled events.

If you would like to perform or have any questions regarding the event, you may contact Earrock Moore, ABE/GED Teacher in Room 105 or call 457-6000. We look forward to seeing you all on each day of this celebration.

## Black History Month Events

- \* **Thursday February 7th**  
Poster contest winners announced  
Dr. Julius Bailey, CSU Fresno  
Student & Staff performances by Debbie Downing, Bobby Roddy, & Agnes Phillips.
- \* **Wednesday February 20th**  
Dr. Jean Kennedy, FCC  
Charles Harris  
Edison Computech Golden Steppers  
Performance by Pauline Bush
- \* **Thursday February 28th**  
Councilmember Cynthia Sterling  
Exalt Dance Troup  
CSUF Omega Psi Phi Step Dancers  
Student performance by Hilda Bush & Nyeicia Harris.
- \* **All events run from 10:45 am until 11:45 am in the main foyer.**
- \* Schedule is tentative and may change.

## We Connect You

### Get connected to:

- \*Fresno County Employment & Temporary Assistance
- \*City of Fresno
- \*Catholic Charities
- \*Centro La Familia
- \*Fresno Center for New Americans
- \*Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development
- \*One by One Leadership
- \*Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM)
- \*Mendota Westside Youth Center
- \*Proteus, Inc.
- \*Lao Family Community of Fresno
- \*United Way of Fresno County
- \*IRS
- \*Workforce Investment Board

For the third consecutive year, Fresno Adult School is proud to sponsor the Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative on Tuesday, February 12th, from 11:30 until 4:30 pm at the Chávez Campus

California's First Lady Maria Shriver's Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative connects Californians with the nation's largest resource for working poor families to help break the cycle of poverty. For those who claim the credit, it can bring up to \$4,400 for those who need it most—working parents with children.

At the February 12th event, the community resources listed at the left will be available for support of our students and our com-



"WE believe in you. WE care about you. Let us connect you to money, opportunity and dreams."

—*Maria Shriver, First Lady*

munity. Trained tax preparers will be available to assist the public in completing their taxes for free. To participate, you must bring your tax documents, photo ID, and Social Security number.

Last year, 91 participants completed their federal tax returns for a total refund of \$122,384 of which \$61,157 was Earned Income Tax Credit. Take advantage of this opportunity to complete your taxes for free.

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**We're on the web**

**[www.fresnoadultschool.com](http://www.fresnoadultschool.com)**

**Fresno Adult School is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities for adults and their families to improve their skills, pursue knowledge, seek advancement, and enhance their self-worth. We believe the quality of tomorrow's Fresno and the surrounding Central Valley communities is the result of today's investment in our diverse community.**



## February Calendar Of Events

2/1	Deadline to register for Cahsee test
2/5	CAHSEE Language Arts Test
2/6	CAHSEE Math Test
2/7	* Black History Month Kick-off Event * Poster Contest Winners Announced * Art Hop 5pm-8pm
2/11	Lincoln Holiday, School Closed
2/12	Registration, Spring Quarter HS
2/13	Pre-paid Legal Services in Foyer 9am-12 noon
2/18	President's Day, School Closed
2/20	Black History Month Event
2/21	CCEOC Financial Aid Workshop, 2:30pm-5:30 pm
2/27	Fresno City College in Foyer 9am-12 noon
2/28	End of Winter Quarter HS Classes
2/28	Black History Month Event

**Coming in April: Fresno Adult School will be hosting its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-1:00pm.**

This important event will give students the chance to learn about employment opportunities in our community, meet face-to-face with potential employers, fill-out applications, and possibly, interview on the spot. Before the date arrives, prepare a portfolio for yourself so you will have all the necessary documents ready for copy and distribution. A portfolio should include a collection of neatly prepared documents such as: resumes, cover letters, letters of recommendations, references, certificates, DMV reports, and any other important documents an employer will ask for.

Keep in mind, first impressions do matter. As the saying goes, **"You only get one chance to make a first impression."**

Don't wait, start now! Watch for more workshops and information to help you prepare; drop by the Student Assistance Center, Room 108 for more information.