As the class of 2014 prepares to graduate, we highlight just a sampling of the bright, ambitious, involved seniors who are headed off to colleges and universities throughout the country. Many of them faced daunting obstacles growing up, but persevered to achieve academic success at the highest level and develop into leaders on their campuses. All nine of the district’s regular high schools are represented in “We are Fresno Unified” student profiles and photos throughout these pages.

German Cervantes Ledesma
Fresno High School

GPA: 4.0
College: UC Merced/civil engineering

Highlights: Varsity soccer, Folkloric Dance Club, Latino Interact Club, UC Educational Talent Search, lifetime California Scholarship Federation

Overcoming obstacles: “I came from Mexico during my sophomore year, without knowing English. I always paid attention in class, asked for help if I did not understand, participated in activities, and practiced my English. I learned to speak English in a very short period of time. I had to retake many classes in order to meet college requirements. I also challenged myself by taking rigorous classes and have managed to earn straight A’s. My hard work has definitely paid off. I will be a class valedictorian.”

I am Fresno Unified: “I am part of a school that provides students with equal opportunities regardless of their background. I attend a culturally diverse school where we (as students) are all treated like a family. Having to leave my family in Mexico was not easy. Thankfully, at Fresno High I am and will always be part of the Warrior family.”

Jessica Morales
Design Science Early College High School

GPA: 4.10
College: UC Berkeley or UCLA/psychology

Highlights: Get Schooled College Challenge student ambassador, yearbook editor, student government, volunteer college promotion campaign at Heaton Elementary, volunteer Track and Field Special Olympics, volunteer Animal Rescue of Fresno, honor roll, Fresno City College Highest Honors, Student Body Achieve Award, Cesar Chavez Essay Contest winner

Overcoming obstacles: “I am the first woman in my family to have the opportunity to earn an education beyond middle school. I remember being woken up before the sun had even risen, thinking it was still night time and being dropped off at a woman’s home as my parents kissed my brother and me goodbye only to pick us up much later with sweat on their faces. I didn’t know that a mattress thrown on the floor wasn’t a bed. I didn’t know that there were special sections in the aisles at the grocery store for people like us. Back then I also didn’t know about the amazing opportunities that the future held for me.”

Inspired by: “Mr. Gabe Villasenor always saw potential in me. I was content with not failing classes and he encouraged me to strive to get A’s.”

I am Fresno Unified: “I am a Hispanic young woman who has had a chance to be something more than my stereotype.”
Albert Agabekyan  
Duncan Polytechnical High School

GPA: 4.17  
College: UCLA/neuroscience/medical school  

Highlights: Lifetime California Scholarship Federation, Link Crew leader, gives flamenco guitar lessons to peers, ASB vice president, academic tutoring for friends and family, Youth of the Month, multiple Excellence medals, first place talent show, volunteer Veterans Administration Hospital in Fresno

Overcoming obstacles: “Since the age of two, I was diagnosed with a condition that affects my physical appearance. Growing up was a stressful task, whether it was at a home or at school. I realized that no one deserved to be treated the way I had been because everyone deserves to be treated with moral equity and respect. I have grown up watching my peers succumb to depression and have watched others take advantage of those who they consider to be weak. As a neurosurgeon, I believe I will make my philosophy a reality and reduce the psychological fatality within our youth.”

Inspired by: “Mr. [Mark] Zamora was the first teacher to applaud me for my efforts and honestly recognize me for who I was, disregarding my history. He encouraged me and foresaw my potential in a way that I never seen before. It is an honor to have been his student. He is one of the only people who I admire as a noteworthy role model that has strengthened my determination.”

I am Fresno Unified: “Fresno Unified is a society with unique individuals who hold valuable talents, perspectives, qualities and skills. Although I am only one person, my determination and passion is what defines the ubiquitous value of Fresno Unified.”

Shoji Hishida  
Bullard High School

GPA: 4.32  
College: MIT, Cal Tech, or Fresno State Smittcamp Honors College/physics  

Highlights: Marching band, Math Team, drum captain (snare drum), MESA, Youth Court juror, Academic Decathlon, volunteer Science Olympiad coach at Baird Middle School, AP Scholar with Distinction  

Pursuing Excellence: “I’ve approached my classes with enthusiasm and a love of learning. During my junior year, I studied independently and passed the AP physics test with a 5 when the class was not offered at Bullard.”

Inspired by: “Mr. (Steven) Fisher, my teacher for Academic Decathlon, has been very influential. It is uplifting to see how much he really cares about his students. He has created a learning environment that is both fun and intellectually engaging.”

I am Fresno Unified: “I will always work my hardest to be the best that I can be. I won’t let anything keep me from pursuing my hopes and dreams.”
You’ve heard the saying “it takes a village to raise a child,” and we’re fortunate to have such a strong, dedicated, tight-knit team of staff and residents here in Fresno who have dedicated their time, energy, and resources to making Fresno a better place through education.

Reflecting on the year coming to a close, we’ve made some significant investments in our students that has resulted in students learning at a much higher level, and more complex topics. In turn, Fresno Unified is shaping young minds to better prepare them. Our efforts have included:

- Redesigning our middle schools to include additional hours of professional learning for teachers, and more time for the students to spend with those teachers.
- Adding over 15,000 ASUS tablets to our classrooms to increase our students’ access to technology.
- Renovating and updating others thanks the Board of Education and the local community for their support of Measure Q.

As we approach the end of the 2013-2014 school year, I can say with immense pride and sincerity that this has been one of the most outstanding school years that I can remember in my nine years as Superintendent. I want to express my deep appreciation for the ongoing commitment displayed by Fresno Unified’s teachers, staff, administrators and families in helping us fulfill our mission of “preparing career ready graduates.” We are on the move!
A Warrior View of New Fresno High Park

The entire Fresno High School student body gathers on April 2 for the official dedication of Warrior Park, an inviting new lawn and plaza at the front of the school that completes the dramatic makeover to the campus’ entrance. This photo was one of the first taken by The Fresno Bee’s drone.

Christi Xiong

Hoover High School

GPA: 4.22
College: California State University, Fresno/nursing
Goal: Educate the Southeast-Asian community about western medicine
Highlights: Link Crew leader, leadership, varsity tennis and badminton, Fresno Unified Student Advisory Board Human Element ambassador, Cross-Age Club, Key Club, Asian Club, Lifetime California Scholarship Federation, rally emcee, Photo Class/Club, Patriot of the Month, Fresno Exchange Club Girl of the Year, National Daughters of the American Revolution Award

Overcoming obstacles:
“My father was diagnosed with liver cancer in 2009, due to Hepatitis B. My father’s cancer was something that terrified me and my family. In the end, my father decided to do the transplant. Through his illness, my family and I have reached out to our relatives, community, and friends to share our story about having more faith in western medicine. Because of our cultural background and different beliefs, western medicine is not the first choice in treatment for such diseases. Most of the time when our people seek help, it’s too late. Although the Hmong people have successfully assimilated, healthcare issues and options are still a barrier to many because of the lack of healthcare education, understanding and trusting of the healthcare systems. I have made it my goal to share my father’s survival story to not only the Hmong community in which we live in but also to many third world countries such as our adopted homeland, Laos and Thailand, where many Hmong people reside. I firmly believe that education is the first line of defense and I would like someday to share this wealth of knowledge to those who need it the most.”

I am Fresno Unified:
“I am Fresno Unified because I owe my entire educational career to all of the people who have helped me achieve.”

Karli Ashjian

Bullard High School

GPA: 4.32
College: UCLA/pre-med/medical or pharmacy school
Highlights: Leadership, Link Crew, student council, varsity volleyball, ROCKs Club, Academic Decathlon, Human Element Club, California Scholarship Federation, Adventure Club, Student Advisory Board member, School Site Council, Composition Fashion Show, Fresno Exchange Girl of the Year, Young Womanhood Recognition, Girls State representative, volleyball captain, Coach’s Award

Inspired by:
“My activities/leadership teacher, Laurie Momjian, helped me when I was freshman class president by making me come out of my shell. We have had such a great relationship ever since my freshman year for she challenged me to take charge of my class and also she inspired me to be a leader among my peers. By setting the bar and standards high, I was able to grow into the confident leader I am today.”

I am Fresno Unified:
“I juggle academics, activities, and sports all while maintaining a 4.32 GPA and being a summa cum laude valedictorian. Also, taking hold of the Human Element program, I have touched the lives of many as I try to show them the power kindness has on a person. I think the true spirit of Fresno Unified is trying to make others know what they are truly worth.”

Francisco Gomez-Alvarado

Design Science Early College High School

GPA: 4.32
College: Northwestern, Duke, Johns Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth, Notre Dame, or University of Southern California/biology/ophthalmology
Highlights: Army Cadet Corps serving veterans, church altar server and lecture, volunteer homeless ministry, student government, Academic Decathlon, tutor, National Hispanic Scholar Award, honor roll, American Legion Award, Jr ROTC Medal for the Military Order of the Purple Heart

Overcoming obstacles:
“My life has not been easy and I will be the first in my family to go to college. I have always known I had to get an education.”

Inspired by:
“I consider my mother my first teacher and I believe she has influenced me the most.”

I am Fresno Unified:
“I am Fresno Unified because I owe my entire educational career to all of the people who have helped me achieve.”
Aaron Caldwell
Edison High School

GPA: 3.6
College: Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)/mathematics education/Spanish minor/master’s in math

Highlights: Student government, School site Council, NAACP Youth Board, Glee Club, Black Student Union, leadership, Link Crew, Fresno Chamber of commerce Jr. Board vice president, Building Youth Tomorrow, Today organization, ACLU, Too Legit Dance Club, Human Element, WASC student committee, Youth of the Month, five-time Student

Obstacles overcome: “Many thought my grades would drop when my mom decided to leave at the end of my junior year to another city to take a job. I chose to stay here at Edison and I continued to thrive. Although things were rough because of transportation and other obstacles, I didn’t let that stop me from being the voice for our Edison students. I spend a lot of my time representing Edison at Student Advisory Board,

Scott Elia
Hoover High School

GPA: 3.84
College: California State University, Fresno/engineering

Goal: To help build California’s roads, bridges, and highways

Overcoming obstacles: “As a freshman I was very small and shy. I struggled to find my place and was picked on a lot. I didn’t know how to “fight back” in a positive way. I found my place in leadership and found people to support me and help me out of my shell. They accepted me for who I was. Sophomore year was hard; I got a little lazy and had some relationship problems that took my focus away from school. Second semester junior year, my teachers and friends intervened and set me straight. The Human Element was a big part of my story. I learned through sharing my struggles with others and hearing how my classmates overcame who I wanted to be and how I can make a difference.”

Julie Xiong
Duncan Polytechnical High School

GPA: 4.26
College: California State University, Fresno

Highlights: Air Force Junior Reserved Officer Training Corps, Unarmed Drill Team commander, Girls Combat Dodge Ball, volleyball, support officer, Alpha Flight sergeant, Link Crew commissioner, Trigonometry Excellence Medal, American Legion Scholastic Excellence Bronze Medal, Academic Top Gun, Superior Performance Award, Cadet of the Quarter

Pursuing excellence: “What makes me stand out is my confidence. No matter what the obstacle is in front of me, I take on the challenge and put in everything I have. It is not all about winning but it is about the journey of getting to the destination. We learn more from our experiences than from our victories, although victories are great also. Acting with confidence and a positive attitude during any kind of situation makes me stand out from my peers.”

Inspired by: “Mr. [Due] Hoang, my eighth grade algebra teacher and tennis coach from Yosemite Middle School, made learning in a school environment fun and that is the sole reason I enjoyed learning math. It wasn’t all about the numbers but it was about how to apply the concepts to life. He indirectly proved to me that there is a way to make learning fun.”

I am Fresno Unified: “Fresno Unified is a place of opportunities for all students. I am Fresno Unified because I see potential in people – we will one day live in an inviting, welcoming world. With the opportunities presented by our school district, everyone has a chance at building a better place to live and grow old in.”
**Hogwood, Madden Honored with Fresno Pacific Awards**

Val Hogwood, director of curriculum and instruction, and Kurt Madden, chief technology officer, were each given a Recognition Award at Library Leadership Day at Fresno Pacific University on March 14. This award recognizes school personnel who have gone above and beyond in supporting school libraries and school librarians. Madden was honored for his strong technology leadership, his support of the Tournament of Technology, and work in assembling the district’s Technology Advisory Committee. Hogwood was honored for her strong commitment to school libraries, including helping library technicians and coaches become familiar with new online resources that directly support the Common Core Standards.

**Band Director Makes Beautiful Music at Sequoia**

Sandy Tapia, the band director at Sequoia Middle School, was selected as the middle school certificated winner at the district’s Excellence in Education dinner March 4.

**What is your background in music and how did you come to be Sequoia’s band teacher?**

I began playing an instrument in the fourth grade at my elementary school. I knew right away that I was going to choose the flute just like my aunt. In 2006, I graduated from Fresno State with my degree in Music Education. After teaching for four years in high school and two years in elementary school, I started seeking opportunities in the middle schools.

**Why is it important that students participate in music or the arts or athletics (Goal 2)?**

Research has proven that being involved in music not only raises test scores in general, but also improves reading skills. Music is the only class that provides the opportunity to use both sides of the brain. It is intellectually, physically and emotionally challenging for students.

**What have you accomplished at Sequoia with the students?**

The Sequoia music program has grown immensely in just two short years. I started last year with two music classes and we now have five classes. In addition to the growth in classes, I have started a mariachi band and color guard after school. I have added several performance opportunities for our students. This includes a Roosevelt High School football game, Roosevelt High School pyramid performances, the Fresno Christmas Parade, lunch time events, elementary school visits, rallies, festivals, competitions and open house.

**What difference is your program making in the school neighborhood?**

My program is making a positive impact on our school campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods. I have taken my students out in the neighborhood several times rehearsing for parade performances and even just to play for the community. Our evening performances have brought several hundred audience members to our school. It is such a pleasure to see the community out cheering for our students as they march by and even taking pictures on their phones.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?**

Each day my goal is to offer my students the opportunity to be successful whether it be a musical concept or not. Some days they choose not to take that opportunity. Other days they are the most remarkable individuals that I have ever met. It is on those days that I love to see their eyes light up and the light bulbs turn on. I have had students jump out of their chairs to cheer when they realized how to apply a musical concept in their playing.

**What is most challenging about your job?**

The most challenging aspect of my job is learning how to positively communicate with such a diverse community. The language barriers cause miscommunication between our students and our parents. The cultures offer not only a variety of languages, but also a variety of beliefs in how education plays a role in their children’s lives. I believe that it will take time and patience to connect with so many different types of families in our neighborhoods.

**Attendance Specialist is Finalist for County Award**

Selena Rico, a child welfare and attendance specialist for the district, has been selected by the Fresno County Office of Education as a finalist for the Educator of the Year competition in the classified employee category. Rico was one of five employees honored as Fresno Unified’s winners at the Excellence in Education dinner March 4.

**You faced many obstacles as a teenager. Tell us about your background:**

As a young person, I experienced homelessness, domestic violence, teen pregnancy and tragedy. As a result of those life experiences, I developed an instinct to root for the underdog. In other words, I always try to help those who are overlooked, underserved and even rejected. I dropped out of school my junior year, but enrolled myself in an independent study program and obtained my GED at age 17. I have some college units, but no degree yet. I plan on returning to college this fall to pursue a degree in social work.

**Why do you think you’ve been successful as a child welfare and attendance specialist?**

I am able to relate to the families I come into contact with. I don’t focus on the poor decisions people make, I try to focus on what we are able to do about it.

**What strategies do you use to help students and families?**

I try to gain their trust so they are open and honest with me. I always ask myself what I can do to help them instead of placing blame. They already feel pretty bad.

**What do you see as the biggest obstacles to students being successful in school?**

Some children were not raised in stable homes nor do they have consistent parenting. If good habits are not established from a young age, the students can be almost uncontrollable by middle school. Another obstacle could be poverty or homelessness. Some children stay home because they cannot wash clothes or they are living house to house. Substance abuse is also another obstacle. Some children are exposed to this at a young age and it’s considered the “norm.” It’s hard to convince a student that getting high is bad when their parents do it daily.

**What do you like best about your job?**

What I like best about my job is the opportunity to make a difference for families at some of the worst times in their lives.

**Sunynside, McLane Teachers Selected for Stanford Fellowships**

Eight Fresno Unified teachers have been accepted to participate in the first cohort of the Stanford Hollyhock Fellowship for High School Teachers as part of a two-year commitment. The two-week summer program will offer workshops on core content for early-career teachers along with year-round support, mentoring and networking through an online platform. Teachers selected were Jose Garza, Minerva Herrera, Jonathon Troxell and Paul Magarity from Sunnynside High School and Isaac Thornton, Nune Grigorian, Amanda Bertram and William Mitchell from McLane High School.
Leilani Gutierrez-Palominos
Sunnyside High School

GPA: 4.32
College: UC Berkeley Regents Scholar/molecular and cell biology
Highlights: Doctors Academy, Key Club International, Junior Court of Honor, “Don’t Make Me Laugh” bullying prevention, Campus Pride, Stand up for Excellence, lifetime California Scholarship Federation, volunteer in numerous areas, swim and water polo teams, All-League swimming, National AP Scholar with Distinction, Wildcat Achievement Awards, honor roll
Overcoming obstacles: “I grew up in this American world and felt part of it, but was not accepted due to my illegal status. Despite being an illegal immigrant and facing constant prejudice and odds against me, I strived to be at the top of my class. Getting my permanent residency in 2008 has allowed me to take full control of my future. I am the first in my family to be driven to pursue the medical field.”
Inspired by: “Mr. (Duran) Garcia saw greatness in me even when I didn’t see it in myself. He believed in me, even when I didn’t. He told me I could do it even when I thought I couldn’t. The constant faith he had toward me helped shape me to set high goals and have confidence. Mr. Garcia has played a tremendously positive role in my life.”
I am Fresno Unified: “Fresno Unified has given me an unparalleled education that has allowed me to get accepted into UC Berkeley and also offered Cal’s most prestigious Regents and Chancellors scholarships based on my academics. Sunnyside has provided me with strong connections to my teachers, peers, and community. As we say in Wildcat land, “Be proud of who you are and what you represent!”

Andy Vang
McLane High School

GPA: 4.32
College: UC Santa Cruz/literature
Highlights: Chamber Choir, Writing Club, lead role “Fiddler on the Roof,” Art Club president, Fresno City Council Award of Recognition for “Zombie Prom,” University President Award for poem “Zos Vib Nais” or “Ban Vinai Refugee Camp” at CSU Fresno Young Writers Conference, Hmong American Writers Circle Award for poem “White Rice” Young Writers Conference, FACET Award for poem “Black Coffee”
Overcoming obstacles: “I have learned to sacrifice my time because my mother is a single mother who works hard for my family. I had to babysit my nieces and nephews while being enrolled in three AP classes and keeping my involvement in church. While my friends have time to hang around and socialize, I have given up most of that time to help my mom’s workload while focusing on my schooling as well.”
Inspired by: “Miss [Kristen] Norton, my English teacher for my junior and senior year, has influenced me because of her passion for literature. Through her and my fellow classmates who also love literature, I have discovered that writing can bring people together and bring focus on other aspects of life that are not materialistic.”
I am Fresno Unified: “I showcase that even though I came from a lower-class, working family, I still make an impact on my community and encourage others to strive and work hard.”

ATTENTION
The updated Annual Notification of the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) can be found online at: www.fresnounified.org/families/Pages/cs.aspx
Please contact 457-3736 for additional information.
Jeovanna Yanez
Fresno High School

GPA: 4.19
College: UC San Diego/pre-med or psychology
Goal: Assist children as a school psychologist or through private practice
Highlights: Cheer, CAS Club, International Baccalaureate Club, county library volunteer, elementary tutor

Inspired by: “Mrs. [Cate] Dossetti...is a great motivator and has taught me lessons I’ll never forget. She has motivated me to continue trying until I reach my goal.”

I am Fresno Unified: “I’m part of a body of students who share a common story. The majority of us want to succeed and become amazing. We all struggle with similar obstacles and I’m just a student who wants to be better than average.”

I believe in getting more out of life.

My time is precious. Every moment counts. That’s why I chose Kaiser Permanente. My doctor is close to home, so when I go for a checkup, I can visit the lab and pharmacy, too—all in one trip. Back home, I can go online and order refills, request routine appointments, get health advice, and more. It’s that easy. This way, I have more time to spend on what matters most—life.

I am Fresno Unified: “I’m part of a body of students who share a common story. The majority of us want to succeed and become amazing. We all struggle with similar obstacles and I’m just a student who wants to be better than average.”

Enrique Cazares-Navarro
Sunnyside High School

GPA: 4.26
College: California State University, Fresno Smittcamp Family Honors College/biology/Spanish minor
Highlights: Doctors Academy, Runners Club, Ignite, lifetime member California Scholastic Federation, cross country and swim teams, Academic Decathlon Team, Gold Volunteer at Community Regional Medical Center, honor roll, Principal’s Award, published by The American Library of Poetry, Wildcat achievement in both foreign language and Academic Decathlon, Student of the Month

Overcoming obstacles: “I am a child of a parent who is disabled and is 91 years old. I assumed the responsibility for my father by taking care of him like he cared for me in my previous

SUPT’S MESSAGE
Continued from page 3

We have several examples in this edition of several students who did just that. You’ll read some amazing stories about Fresno Unified graduating seniors who have overcome immeasurable odds to get where they are. Fresno High’s German Cervantes Ledesma came to Fresno from Mexico during his sophomore year without knowing English. However, through his perseverance he learned to speak English in a short period of time, and is now graduating with a 4.0 GPA and will be a valedictorian this year.

The student stories you’ll read about in this issue are just a small sampling of the big picture, but they reflect the dedication, perseverance and collaboration of all of our parents, staff and teachers throughout the district.

I urge all of our students, teachers and staff to keep up the hard work and finish out the school year strong. Remember, it is important to never stop teaching or learning. As we move into the summer months, your break should be a time of fun and relaxation, but also a chance to stay sharp for next school year. Have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you next year.

MAYOR’S MESSAGE
Continued from page 3

I believe in getting more out of life.

My time is precious. Every moment counts. That’s why I chose Kaiser Permanente. My doctor is close to home, so when I go for a checkup, I can visit the lab and pharmacy, too—all in one trip. Back home, I can go online and order refills, request routine appointments, get health advice, and more. It’s that easy. This way, I have more time to spend on what matters most—life.
Parents Urged to Enroll Students in Preschool

Delllah Keo, left, and Jordan Yang get a head start on learning during pre-kindergarten at Vang Pao Elementary School. Parents are encouraged to enroll early for preschool by picking up enrollment packets at neighborhood elementary schools with a deadline of May 30 to return the required documentation. From now through summer, enrollment and information are also available by appointment or on a walk-in basis at the district’s satellite early learning office, 1015 Fresno St. (at A Street). For more information, call 457-3775 or 457-3684. Pre-K is open to children turning 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2014.

Youa Her
Roosevelt High School

GPA: 3.8

College: California State University, Fresno

Highlights: Nursing or education

Overcoming obstacles:
“I came to the United States in 2005 as part of the new wave of Hmong refugees. I did not know a word of English when I came. I had to learn how to live in a whole new world and even how to use money. I have worked very hard to achieve all the things that I have thus far. I appreciate everything that the Fresno Unified schools have provided me to help me achieve my dreams. I am at an academic level now where I take AP and honors classes that others do not take advantage of even though they are born in this country or have been here most of their lives. To overcome my language barrier, I read a lot. Reading is a skill that has helped me to develop my language and understanding of my new world. I am motivated to do well because my mom has never had any formal education and in our culture, women often do not get the choice to go to school. If there was enough money to send your children to school, they send the males. This is a new time and age and even as a girl, I have so many opportunities. I cannot waste that chance.”

Inspired by:
“My biology and health science teacher, Mr. Dan Jeung, taught me about pursuing a career in the medical field, saving lives. He told us about his story, what makes him who he is today.”

I am Fresno Unified:
“This region and this city embraces multiculturalism and I have been shown understanding, tolerance, patience, and the education I have received has allowed me, a small flower transplanted from a different country, to flourish and grow. Roosevelt High has given me many opportunities to gain life skills through activities like badminton, leadership and the Health Academy pathway. Fresno Unified is, in one word, opportunities.”

Providing volunteer adult crossing guards for students in Fresno Unified

Executive Director: Michael E. O’Hare
559.289.9456
safe2school937@hotmail.com

Yvette Espinoza
Edison High School

GPA: 4.32

College: California State University, Fresno

Highlights: FIRST Robotics, speech and debate state qualifier, MESA member holding numerous offices, doubled MESA participation, advanced to MESA regionals three years, exchange student to Munster, Germany, Sister Cities exchange program, volunteer Hands On Central California and SWAT, Student Ambassador Award city of Fresno, honor roll, assistant soccer coach Slater Soccer League, AP Scholar with Distinction

Overcoming obstacles:
“I am a Mexican female student, first generation to go to college. I had to overcome limitations instilled in me by my maternal grandfather and father who didn’t favor higher education amongst females. I joined lots of clubs and participated in many community service events all for the day in which admissions decisions came out. Yet it was only until this year that I realized that attending a prestigious college shouldn’t be my goal in life. My turning point came this year when I realized that grades and prestige are just that, but the knowledge gained from the classes and the degree I get will be what opens doors for me. I may have gotten a rejection letter from Stanford, but because I am more mature now, I know that life doesn’t end there, since I still have one thing left: graduate school.”

I am Fresno Unified:
“Fresno Unified is a combination of all these different countries coming together to become ‘college ready graduates.’ Not only did I contribute to the diversity of the district, but I became prepared to attend college and achieve my career goals, and because of that, I can say that I am Fresno Unified.”
Residency Program Better Prepares Teachers for Common Core

Through a new Teacher Residency Program about to complete its first year, aspiring teachers become well-versed in cutting-edge practices and resources utilized within Fresno Unified, including instruction that is aligned with the new Common Core State Standards.

The Common Core standards, adopted unanimously by the California Board of Education in August 2010, require students to spend more time thinking and reasoning and less time memorizing facts. The standards require students to think critically, analyze information, solve problems, and explain/justify how they figured out the answer. The district initiated implementation in 2013-2014 and is now in the third cycle of training for teachers.

The residency program, a joint effort between the district and California State University, Fresno, supports Common Core training efforts, with the overarching goal of improving student achievement in math and science by recruiting, training, and retaining highly qualified individuals into the teaching profession. The program focuses on grades 4 through 8.

The program supports the vision of the Teacher Development Department to ensure that every classroom has a highly effective teacher who demonstrates the ability and desire to educate students at a high level. Fresno Unified is committed to building a teaching workforce that reflects the values and cultural diversity of the community of students it serves in order to close the achievement gap.

Fresno State professors and leadership staff from Fresno Unified co-teach courses, which creates a blend of educational theory and relevant, real-world instructional content. Topics include engaging students in high levels of learning, classroom management in a collaborative environment, understanding the new standards, planning for different learners, classroom assessment, and working with teacher teams, known as “accountable communities.”

With the introduction of Common Core standards this year in classrooms, special attention was placed on Fresno Unified’s scope and sequence documents, which provide a suggested structure for planning units and lessons and include resources and assessment rubrics. This has provided residents in the program with a clear understanding of the process used for planning instruction that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

“The preparation for teachers in this program far exceeds any other program I know,” said Teresa Morales-Young, administrator of Teacher Development for Fresno Unified. “Some of the benefits include more time with students, quality professional learning, financial supports, and working in a cohort. These benefits remove barriers and allow our residents to focus on being the best teachers possible.”

Through this coursework and professional learning, participants in the Teacher Residency Program will obtain a multiple-subject credential, a supplemental credential in math and/or science, and a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Residents also receive three times the normal amount of classroom student teaching. They begin working with a mentor teacher prior to the school year so that they are able to be in the classroom immediately. During student teaching, participants receive more planning time and co-teach with another member or team in their cohort. The coordinator of the program, Gayle Spencer, believes that students in the program “will feel like a third-year teacher when they begin working full-time.”

The second cohort of the Teacher Residency Program begins in mid-May with 24 participants and is expected to have a significant impact on the quality of instruction for Fresno Unified students as the district moves forward with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

Gaston Middle School Becoming Community Focal Point

Construction of the Rutherford B. Gaston Sr. Middle School in southwest Fresno is on schedule to welcome its first students for the 2014-15 school year. Students, parents, and the Gaston community are invited to tour their new school at a special welcoming event Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Leslie De La Torre
Roosevelt High School

GPA: 3.33
College: California State University, Fresno/education/physical education teacher

Highlights: Soccer, volleyball, leadership, honor roll, Most Valuable Player volleyball, captain soccer and volleyball, All-League soccer, Scholar Athlete

Overcoming obstacles: “At the age of 15, I lost my father. It was really hard for me to let him go. He always told me to make him proud. I was taking history during summer school while he was sick and then passed away. It was hard to keep going, but what happened to him had a big impact in my life. Not being able to see, hear, and touch him makes it harder because I think about it and realize that he’s really gone. The reason I keep going is because of him; I want to make him proud, especially as I play the sport we both love. Every goal I make is dedicated to him.”

Inspired by: “One of my teachers, Mr. Mark Gradoville, has influenced me in a very good way. He taught me not to give up. He told me about his dad, who is now in nursing, and how he’s doing. He gave me a lot of support and has been a great teacher.”

He followed his dad’s footsteps, which was to be a good man and also do what they loved doing—playing basketball and coaching. He has always been there for me since the day he met me. Especially, even more so when he heard about my loss. Hearing his story made me think about my future. Also he inspired me to be with my mom and never take her for granted because she’s a great mom and my No. 1 supporter.”

I am Fresno Unified: “I thank Fresno Unified for the education I have received, especially the opportunities to play sports. The extra-curricular activities have given me the focus, and self-discipline to be more successful. Sports made me a team leader, and I also have learned to be part of a team and get along with others, and from that I’m capable to use it inside the classroom.”
Measure Q Expands Open Space at Fresno High, Roosevelt High

The district has added an inviting lawn and concrete improvements to the front of Fresno High School and a new amphitheater and quad area to Roosevelt High School as part of ongoing Measure Q projects.

The addition of Warrior Park at Fresno High completes a dramatic makeover to the entrance to the campus that opens up the view of historic Royce Hall. On April 2, community members, staff and the entire student body gathered to celebrate the new open space with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The area is about the size of a football field and designed to be large enough to accommodate all students for events.

Board Member Carol Mills, at the dedication, noted that the space “helps build community.”

“I love seeing all of you out here today,” she said.

Across town at Roosevelt High, students, staff and the community dedicated Rough Rider Stable on April 11 with a ribbon cutting and a battle of the bands between staff and students. The area features three stages and extensive space for student events.

A tree in Rough Rider Stable was also dedicated in honor of one of the school’s recent retirees, Jack Chavoor, for his service to the students and community of Roosevelt High. The Rough Rider Stable is in the center of the campus, near the 12-classroom addition that opened in January 2013.

Board Member Luis Chavez, an alumnus of Roosevelt High, told students at the dedication, “You are going to find success here” and that the district was committed to students “to make sure you are ready to go to college or go into a career by the time you graduate from here.”

Warrior Park and Rough Rider Stable are part of $130 million in Measure Q projects completed or underway throughout the district following the community’s overwhelming support for the bond measure in November 2010. Measure Q projects are providing better teaching and learning environments, a boost to the local economy and reinvestment in Fresno neighborhoods.

Warrior Park features a round concrete area with walkways radiating in each direction as well as green space that has already become a favorite place for students to hang out. Student Angelina Cortez said Warrior Park has been a place where “new friends and new experiences have been created.”

“It’s the new gathering place for everyone,” said project manager Tim Patterson. “And it just makes Royce Hall pop even more.”

The project is the final piece in major renovations to the front of the school that included the demolition of the low-profile library and administration buildings known as the “bunkers.” The 1971 buildings were replaced with a new administration building and library media center that also house 20 classrooms and allowed the school to remove 22 portables. The new buildings, opened at the start of this school year, complement the classic architecture of Royce Hall.

Other Measure Q projects recently completed, under construction or soon to begin construction include:

- Baird Middle School: Construction on gym underway; planning underway for a classroom building.
- Bullard High School: Construction of two classroom buildings, library/career center, administration building and expanded central quad is scheduled to begin in late spring.
- Centennial Elementary School: Classroom building completed.
- DeWolf/Design Science campus: Construction of classroom building and renovation of multipurpose building to start in spring.
- Easterby Elementary School: Classroom and kindergarten buildings to be completed in spring 2014.
- Hamilton K-8: School-wide modernization nearing completion.
- Hoover High: Construction of new pool targeted to start late fall 2014.
- McLane High School: Construction underway on a new classroom building.
- Sequoia Middle School: School-wide modernization is underway.
Overcoming obstacles:
“I have the worry of being an undocumented student. I never knew what the future would hold for me due to the expense of college. Because of this obstacle I felt pressured, saddened and discouraged because I never thought attending a university would be a reality for me. At the beginning of senior year, I understood my situation better and was informed of the financial opportunities that were offered to students like me. With the encouragement of both teachers and my mother I felt more confident about my future.”

Inspired by:
“My AVID teacher, Mr. Todd Sanders… was encouraging, tough, realistic and someone that I felt comfortable to turn to with anything that I needed. A quote I remember him often saying was, ‘No excuses, just results!’ And these words of advice have guided me to stay focused and prepared for any obstacle that I have encountered.”

I am Fresno Unified:
“I am able to succeed in sports and academics and I know those are goals Fresno Unified wants every student to achieve throughout their years in school.”

Reap the Health Benefits of Reading

By Yvonne Juarez, MD
Kaiser Permanente Fresno
Chief of Pediatrics

Today’s world is consumed by technology – from cell phones to tablets and computers – our children’s lives are filled with countless hours of screen time.

It’s rare to see children with books in their hands outside of the classroom.

But reading remains an integral part of a child’s development and a key to their future success in and out of the classroom. Even before a child is born, speech and language lessons start when an unborn baby hears and responds to familiar voices. Reading to newborns and young children not only gives them comforting contact, but can help with developing their speech and language skills.

As children develop, reading plays an even more important role in stimulating their imagination and educating them about people, places and things in the world around them. Books can often open up dialogue with children on topics that parents might not otherwise know how to address.

Studies show that children whose parents read to them do better in school they have less substance abuse, a lower drop-out rate, and lower rates of depression.

But beyond all that, reading at grade level is critical to children’s health and overall development. Pediatricians can often diagnose certain medical conditions – from developmental delays to eye problems – by gauging if a child is reading at an appropriate level for his or her age.

That’s why Kaiser Permanente Fresno pediatricians pass out free books to many of our young members at well-child visits. We want to encourage parents to read to their children and demonstrate how important reading can be for a child’s development.

Each year, Kaiser Permanente Fresno is taking that one step further by partnering with the Fresno Unified School District on a reading program. Throughout 2014, a pediatrician will visit several elementary schools, starting with Viking Elementary in May, to read to students and distribute books.

This partnership is one way that Kaiser Permanente Fresno can join with the district in working to ensure more students are reading at grade level. We recognize how vital knowing how to read can be for a child’s overall health and future success.

But with all the distractions in a child’s life – from after-school activities to homework – it can often be difficult to find the time for a child to enjoy some leisurely reading.

Here are some tips for how to encourage children to read:

• Set the example. Showing a child you have an interest in reading will make them more likely to want to read too.

• Choose books with topics that interest them. It doesn’t have to be a long book, just something that will keep their attention.

• Set aside time in the day for reading. Even if it’s just for 10 minutes before bed it can be a good way to get your child to relax and unwind from the busy day.

• Visit the library or local bookstore with your child. Show them all the collections available for them to choose from.

• Engage with your child about what they are reading. Take time to ask them questions to make sure they are enjoying the book.

With all the everyday stressors in our lives, reading can help the whole family unwind. Suggesting a child relax and curl up with a good book can be a great, quiet activity. For more resources about the benefits of reading to children visit kp.org/fresno.
Highlander Outfitters Program Serves McLane Community

McLane High School hosted an open house for the McLane Highlander Outfitters program in partnership with Sunnyside Seventh Day Adventist Church on March 12. The McLane Highlander Outfitters program provides clothing, shoes, hygiene products, towels, food, and anything else needed to get ready for school each day to students in need. The open house launched an expansion of the program to serve additional schools in the McLane region.

Sunnyside’s AVID Demonstration School Status Renewed

Sunnyside High School has been granted Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) National Demonstration status through the 2017 school year following a visit by the AVID Center in February. Sunnyside is among less than 200 schools around the country that demonstrates the high degree of student support and expectation that AVID requires for demonstration schools.

Students are Spellbound at Spelling Bees

Cyrus Vannini from Manchester GATE Elementary School won Fresno Unified’s spelling bee on Feb. 14 at Sunnyside High School, with Jackson Rolfe from Manchester GATE placing second and Joshua Nickles from Fremont Elementary School placing third. Computech Middle School seventh-grader Leah Whitehouse won first place in the countywide spelling bee March 19 at the Fresno Convention Center’s Exhibit Hall, correctly spelling “doggerel.”

Ericson Elementary Celebrates Perfect Attendance with Movie

Students and staff from Ericson Elementary School celebrated perfect attendance for the second quarter by hosting “Movies with Mom” April 2 and 3 for more than 400 students and parents. More than 200 students had perfect attendance.

Starr Students Say Be Kind… and Pass it On!

First grade students at Starr Elementary School, led by teacher Marceen Farsakian, were selected by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation as the 2014 Random Acts of Kindness Challenge winner. Principal Charlie Reynolds said students in the Kind Kids Club inspire the entire school with their many acts of kindness, which have included making kindness capes for the kindergarten students, writing kind words to others with sidewalk chalk, and hiding kindness bookmarks in books at the school library. The club was started three years ago, with students making a conscious effort to spread kindness to their families, school and community.

McLane Students Unveil Most Influential People Mystery Rooms Exhibit

More than 2,500 students, parents, staff and members of the community viewed the World’s Most Influential People Mystery Rooms art project Feb. 14 at McLane High School. Created by Three Dimensional Design art classes, the project encouraged students to explore the achievements of over 40 influential inventors, military leaders, mathematicians, scientists, athletes, politicians, musicians, doctors, explorers, artists, spiritual leaders and iconic characters in history. Students created a collection of mystery rooms, miniature three-dimensional displays that creatively exhibit the accomplishments and personalities of significant characters in history.

White House Displays McLane High School Students’ Art

The White House selected four paintings by McLane High School art students to display from a larger collection of art and writing chosen for a special exhibit in May honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. The student work is from “Stories of Home: The Southeast Asian Story Project.” Four students and two teachers from McLane traveled to Washington for opening ceremonies. The four paintings selected by the White House were “Looking Back” by Paying Yang, “Looking to the Future from My Past” by Julio Aguilar, “Staraya Phoumansavath: Americanization” by Mary Hernandez, and “Coming to America” by Robinson Thao and John Chang.

Roosevelt Business Academy Prepares Taxes for the Community

Roosevelt High School students, trained by the IRS, volunteered every Saturday morning in February and March to prepare tax returns for the community, free of charge.

Lowell Students, Parents Tackle Weighty Issue

Lowell Elementary School students and their parents viewed a special free screening of an HBO film featuring stories of how youth across America are battling obesity on a personal, family and community level on Feb. 20. The Weight of the Nation for Kids was shown in English and Spanish for students in grades 4, 5, and 6 and their parents. The event also included a nutritious meal, discussion about childhood obesity and community resources booths.

Fresno High Students Plant Valley Oaks

Sixteen students from Fresno High School’s Environmental Club, parents, and teacher Karl Kaku on Feb. 1 planted 25 valley oak saplings and about 50 interior live oak and canyon live oak seedlings in a five-acre scarred area along the upper Kings River. The volunteers dug holes, moved rocks, ran hose, planted, staked, created protective wire-mesh enclosures, watered and fertilized the new trees.

Tehnepite Rededicates Refurbished Baseball Field

Tehnepite Middle School rededicated its newly refurbished baseball field Feb. 26, honoring former athletic director and Coach Bill Weatherly, whom the field was originally named for. The late coach’s son, Bullard High School teacher Mark Weatherly, threw out the first pitch against Scandinavian Middle School following the rededication.

Bullard Takes Second in Kids Day Contest

Bullard High School won second place in the 2014 Kids Day School Challenge in March, raising $12,008.28 in the annual region-wide effort to raise money for the hospital through the sale of special Kids Day newspapers.

CART Wins ROP Skills Challenge

A team from the Center for Advanced Research & Technology (CART) was named Grand Champions at the ROP Career Skills Challenge at Fresno City College March 27. CART’s team is made up of and coached by students and teachers from both Fresno Unified and Clovis Unified. Students competed against schools from Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa counties.

Bullard TALENT Shines Among High Schools at Competition

Bullard TALENT’s middle school jazz band, advanced band, advanced orchestra, concert choir and Showcase group brought home 12 awards from the San Francisco Heritage Music Festival March 29-30, where 850 students from across the country competed. Bullard TALENT and one other school were the only middle schools to compete among the field of high school groups. Directors are Jane Wagner, Randy Berger, Stephanie Adney and Craig Erker.
STUDENT COLUMN

High Schools Close Out the School Year With Human Element Events

This year there has been an amazing movement throughout the Fresno Unified School District. High schools across Fresno Unified have launched the Human Element, a pro-kindness campaign to stop bullying in the school setting. In the high schools there have been rallies, noontime activities, and even all day activities, including High-Five Hallways and Complement Wednesday, in hopes of getting this strong empowering message out to our growing numbers of students.

Individually, the high schools have already begun to reach out to their feeder middle schools and incorporating the Human Element into those campuses so when those students get to their neighborhood schools, they are already fully familiar with the Human Element. At Fresno High, we have already implemented some activities at school, such as High Five Hallways on Wednesdays, Human Element in our rallies and passing out bracelets that say “HUMAN” and “KINDNESS IS OUR WEAPON OF CHOICE!” that display the Human Element in short phrases. We have put up posters at school that kids can sign, pledging that “Kindness is the Warrior Way” and that they want to be apart of this impacting movement.

Our hopes for the Human Element is that we not only have it going in Fresno Unified, but we also push it throughout California, then from California we want to push it across the nation. After that, we have big hopes that we get the Human Element world wide so that we have a safe environment all over the world. These are big steps that the Fresno Unified Student Advisory Board is willing to take. The Student Advisory Board’s goal is to fully implement an empowering movement within the next 5-6 years, which will create a true culture of kindness.

As a representative for the Student Advisory Board from Fresno High, I have had the utmost pleasure of being a part of such an amazing movement because the biggest thing we focus on in this project is the question, “How can you judge someone when you know their story? How can you put others down when you know the hardships and struggles that they have to face each and every day?”

District Employees March for Babies

Staff from Wilson Elementary School were among employees from across the district walking in the three-mile March for Babies on April 12 at Woodward Park, the culminating event for this year’s fundraising campaign for the March of Dimes. This was the third year Fresno Unified raised funds districtwide for research that supports healthy babies.

By Dale Ditto
Fresno High School Senior

Bullard TALENT, Kings Canyon and Roosevelt Win Arts Awards

Bullard TALENT K-8 School, Kings Canyon Middle School and Roosevelt High School are top winners in a new arts recognition program honoring schools for creating quality arts programs for all students.

Bullard TALENT and Roosevelt won Gold Awards and Kings Canyon a Silver Award in the inaugural Fresno County Office of Education Superintendent’s Model Arts Award (SMART) program. Following an awards ceremony in March, schools took home SMART flags to display as well as a package of arts education benefits for students and teachers.

The awards are another example of schools’ success in implementing Goal 2 adopted by the Board of Education, which says “All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics.”

“These three schools exemplify our efforts throughout the district to involve students in all grades and at all schools in the arts. Studies have shown a strong connection between student success in academics and their access to the arts,” said Allan Kristensen, the district’s manager of visual and performing arts and physical education programs.

The SMART awards are designed to encourage quality arts programs that teach the state-adopted content standards for visual and performing arts and to provide technical assistance in planning and implementing arts education. Schools had to submit a detailed application that included lesson plans, student work, and scope and sequence for arts education.

Bullard TALENT won a Gold Award for its comprehensive instruction in all four arts disciplines for all students, having highly qualified arts specialists and multiple subject teachers supported by many opportunities for professional learning, and the school’s wide variety of performing and exhibiting opportunities for students as well as numerous arts partnerships in the community.

Roosevelt, the only high school in the county to win an award, was selected in recognition of the school’s broad selection of performing and visual arts classes and for beginning to advanced level classes to meet the skill level of all students, said Susan Sanders, Roosevelt School of the Arts coordinator.

“We also provide numerous public performance opportunities for our students to hone their skills. Our facilities and teaching staff are top notch and the quality of our productions is beyond that which you would expect from high school students,” Sanders said.

Kings Canyon, which received one of the highest awards given to a middle school in the county, was recognized for the high quality arts education it offers through art, drafting/architecture, folkloric dance, band, percussion, choir and orchestra.

“The application process was pretty intense and gave me the opportunity to really assess our programs,” said Kings Canyon Principal Edith Navarro.

Staff from Wilson Elementary School were among employees from across the district walking in the three-mile March for Babies on April 12 at Woodward Park, the culminating event for this year’s fundraising campaign for the March of Dimes. This was the third year Fresno Unified raised funds districtwide for research that supports healthy babies.
Mensage del Superintendente

Conforme nos vamos acercamos al fin del año escolar 2013-2014, puedo afirmar con inmenso orgullo y sinceridad que este ha sido uno de los años escolares más destacados que yo recuerde en mis nueve años como Superintendente. Quiero expresar mi más profunda apreciación por el compromiso continuo mostrado por los maestros, personal, administradores y familias del Distrito Escolar de Fresno por ayudarnos a cumplir nuestra misión de “preparar graduados listos para una profesión”. ¡Estamos avanzando!

Ustedes han escuchado la frase “se necesita un poco para sacar adelante a un niño(a)” y nosotros tenemos la fortuna de tener ese equipo integrado, fuerte y dedicado de personal y residentes aquí en Fresno quien han dedicado su tiempo, energía y recursos para hacer de Fresno un mejor lugar para la educación.

Reflexionando sobre el año a punto de terminar, hemos hecho algunas inversiones significativas para nuestros estudiantes que han tenido como resultado que el aprendizaje de esos estudiantes esté a un nivel mucho más alto con temas más complejos. A cambio, el Distrito Escolar de Fresno esta moldeando mentes jóvenes para muchas carreras.

Nosotros proponemos la capacitación en los Estándares Académicos Fundamentales Estatales para todos nuestros maestros, así ellos pueden brindar a nuestros jóvenes las herramientas necesarias para tener éxito más allá de la graduación.

Estos son momentos verdaderamente memorables para el distrito – y durante el mes de junio nuestros estudiantes del grado 12 de preparatoria pronto caminarán a lo largo del escenario experimentado las ceremonias de graduación, uno de los grandes recuerdos en sus jóvenes vidas.

Aquí está mi mensaje para la clase del 2014: Cuando escuches tu nombre llamarán y te Retirarán de la escuela a la persona esperando entregarle tu diploma, toma un instante antes de seguir adelante y disfruta y déjate llevar por ese momento. ¡Lo lograste! Estas entrando en la siguiente etapa de tu vida, aprendiendo y experimentando. Las cosas serán diferentes después de la graduación de la escuela preparatoria, pero es exactamente la razón por la que has trabajado tan duro y la razón por la que tus maestros se esforzaron tanto en ti. La siguiente etapa será más desafiante y ese es precisamente el punto. Conócela y tú la puedes hacer.

Tenemos varios ejemplos en esta edición de varios estudiantes que hicieron exactamente eso. Vas a leer algunas de las historias increíbles académicas de estudiantes graduados del grado doce del Distrito Escolar de Fresno que superaron inmensurables desventajas para llegar donde están.

German Cervantes Ledesma de Fresno no uas muab lawv lub sij hawm, Fesno no uas muab lawv lub caij ntuj sov, koj qhov kev mus so li, tias tsis txhob tsum txog kev qhia los yog lub sij hawm uas koj cov xib fwb yam yuav npaj lau, neeg uas yuav muab koj kuj muaj ob peb qhov kev piv txwv li yuav tau txais kev no lawm, tiam sis qhov tsis txhob tsum txog kev qhia los yog lub sij hawm uas koj cov xib fwb yam yuav npaj lau, neeg uas yuav muab koj kuj muaj ob peb qhov kev piv txwv.

Tuam Thawj Coj Kawm Tsab Xov

Peb lub xyoow kawm ntawv 2013-2014 twb los yuav xaus, yog li ntawm kuv hais tau tias xyoow no yog ib lub xyoow uas zoo tsjahl rau txooj kev kawm ntawv raws li kuv tau los uas thawj coj saib cov tsev kawm ntawv tau cuaj lub xyoos no. Kuv xav mbuab qhaav rau peb cov xib fwb, cov neeg ua hauj lwjm, cov thawj coj thiov yim tsev neeg uas muab kev paab cuam rau peb ua tau mus ncaav peb lub hophmiah uas”preparing career ready graduates.” Peb yeex nyob rau ntawm qhov mus lwov ntawg!

Koj yeex nyob rau ntawm tias “nws siv ib lub zog los tu ib tus menyuam,” yog li ntawm peb muaj moow kawg uas peb muaj ib peb neeg mob siab zoo li cov neeg ua hauj lwjm thiov yim tsev neeg nyob hauv rau hauv Fresno no uas muab lawv lub sjih hawm, dag zog thiov kev paab los uas kom Fresno yog ib qhov chaw zoo los ntawm txooj kev kawm.

Rov qab muab xyuas dua los ntawm lub xyoow uas yuav los xaus, peb yeex tu u kom muaj kev peb rau peb cov menyam kawm ntawv uas pom tau tias menyam kawm ntawv yeex kev kawm tau siab li siab tau lawm, thiov kawm kev kawm nyuaj tsjahl. Yogi li ntawm Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv Fresno yoej yeex muab kev qhia tau rau cov menyam uas kom lawv npaj tau zoo yuav lawv tus keej. Peb cov kev pab yog muaj.

• Kev tsim kho dua rau cov tsev kawm ntawv qib nrub nrab ua kom muaj sih jawm rau cov xib fwb mus kawm ntxiv thiov muab sjih jawm rau ntawv cov menyam kawm ntawv tau mus kawm ntawv cov xib fwb ntxiv.

• Muab tau ntaw tshahl li 15,000 lub ASUS tablets rau peb cov chav qhia ntawv ua kom cov menyam kawm ntxiv tau siv cov technology no ntaw.

• Muaj kev kho thiai ua lwm yam yog li ntawm uas taug rau rau Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntaww Pawg Neeg Sajh Laj thiov peb lub jeex zog uas mus muab kev kom tes rau qhov Measure Q.

• Muab kev cov qhia rau peb cov xib fwb tas ntsh ntawv qhov Common Core State Standards, lawv thiai li muab tau cov kev qhia ua kom paab tau peb cov tub ntxhais kawm ntaww kom lawv kawm tau zoo mus dilha qhov kev kawm tiav rov lawm taw.

Cov no yog ib cov kev tseeb los ntawm lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv- thiov txooj thiam lub Rau Hli peb cov menyam kawm ntawv nyob qib siab yuav mus taug kev nyob sau sam thiaj ntawm qhov kev kawm ntawv tias uas ua rau laww nco txog tias laww tu ua ib zaug nyob rau hauv laww lub neeg lawm.

No yog cov lus ua kuv hais rau cov tub ntxhais kawm tas xyoow 2014 no: Thaum koj nov hu koj luj peb mus rau ntawm tus neeg uas yuav muab koj dikam diploma rau koj ces ntses me ntis uan ntel koj mam mus ua kom txhual yam nkaq mus rau koj too ces hais tias kuv kawg tas lawm txaj koj! Koj yuav mus ntixiv rau ib them com ntel ntawm koj lub neej, kawm thiai paub txog tias yog li cas. Yuvu muaj nuat tiaw yam thauw kawm ntawv tias qib siab no laww, tiam sis qhov no tbw yog qhov uas koj siv siv zog kawm ntawm ntaw thiov qhov no yog qhov uas koj cov xib fwb yuam kom koj siv siv zog ua rau. Yogi li theem tmt ntej no haj yam yuav nyuaj dua yog li ntawm koj thiai li yuav tau npaj li no tos. Yoga paub lawm ces koj yeex yuav tsun kawm tau xwb.

Peb kuj muaj ob peb qhov kev piv txwv txog ntawm ib cov menyam kawm ntaww uas laww ua zoo li ntawm los npaj ntat. Koj yeex tau nyeem tej cov dab neeg txog peb Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntaww Fresno muaj ib cov menyam kawm ntawv tas uas laww tau ua dhaiu ib cov kev nyuaj nyuaj zoo li hais no ntat. Nyob rau ntawm Tsev Kawm Ntaww Fresno yoj German Cervantes Ledesma uas yog tuaj nram Mev (Mexico) teb tuaj rau hauv Fresno no thauu uas nwg kwab qeem uas qhov los txuj tes nwg cw no nwg tkaw maw hauv lawm tau hais nwg kwaw tau qib nias 4.0 GPA thiaj teem yib yib los uas kawm tau zoo tsjahl.

Cov kev qhia txog peb cov menyam kawm ntaww uas koj tau nyeem nyob rau ntaww no raas yog ib qhov nyuaj me yeex xwb ntxiw ntawm cp ntau xwb, tiam sis nwg yog los ntawm uas kuv kev muab kuv koom tes, kev txiai txim siab, kev siv zog ntawm peb cov niam txiv, neeq ua hauj lwjm thiov cib fwb tas nro.

Kux thaww uba kom peb txhuaw tus menyam kawm ntaww, xwb fwb thiov neeg ua hauj lwjm siv zoo uas hauj lwjm hauv lawm kawm tas xyoow no mus rau qhov zoo. Nco ntsiow tias, nwg yog ib qhov uas tsen ceeb heev lila, tias tis txhob tsum txog kev qhia losyg kev kawm. Thaum uas peb yuav mus so rau lub caij ntu joj, cov qhov kev mus so yog lub sij hawm uas mus koj nyob muaj kev kaj siab thiai so tiag, tiam sis yog ib qhov uas koj yuav xais tias koj yuav ua li caj koj thiai li yuav lawm tau zoo xyoow yom tnej no. Kuv xuv hais tias mej neaw dous yuav tsuais kev noq juxtap nyob zoo thiai muaj kev kaj lom zem, kuv li mbtisb nej dua rau lwm xyoow.
A Great Gift for Your Grad!

Computer Loans as low as 3% APR*

Healthy Minute

Recipe Step-by-Step

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly oil a 13"x9"x2" pan. In a large mixing bowl, combine apples with sugar, raisins, and pecans; mix well. Let stand 30 minutes. Stir in oil, vanilla, and egg. Sift together flour, soda, and cinnamon. Stir into apple mixture about one-third at a time. Turn mixture into pan. Bake 35 to 40 minutes. Cool cake slightly before serving.

Makes 20 servings
Each 3½-by-2½-inch serving contains:
241 calories, 5 g fat, 57 mg cholesterol, 273 mg sodium, 45 g carbohydrates

Recipe courtesy of Claremont EAP, Krames Staywell

WellPATH seeks to foster a healthy work environment and engage Fresno Unified School District employees in their health and well-being. Participation in program activities is open to active employees, spouses, domestic partners, and early retirees covered under the District's health benefit plan.