Success Starts Here
Student Achievement on the Rise

This is an exciting time for Fresno Unified as a variety of initiatives are creating a culture of college-going and career preparation -- resulting in heightened academic success for students.

The hard work of staff and students is evident in a number of ways, including:

- Improved state test scores
- A record-high graduation rate
- Increased numbers of students applying for and attending college

- Large numbers of students involved in arts, athletics and other activities that better connect them to school

See ACADEMIC SUCCESS
Continued on page 7
Community Input Gathered to Prioritize Future Facility Projects

Hundreds of Fresno Unified parents and community members participated in outreach meetings throughout the district in late August and September and have taken an online survey to provide feedback on prioritizing future facility projects.

The Fresno Unified Board of Education in August approved placing a $225 million facility bond measure, known as Measure X, on the Nov. 8 ballot. The bond measure would be used to fund a portion of the district’s $1 billion in facility needs, as outlined in the Facilities Master Plan, while maintaining the current authorized tax rate and building upon previous investments.

In advance of November, district staff conducted seven community meetings in every high school region and created an online survey, gathering community input to help prioritize future facility project needs.

For example, Sunnyside region meeting participants shared their interest in building new classrooms to replace portables and providing more technology for students. At the Fresno High regional meeting, participants shared their interest in safety measures such as an increase in security cameras and additional fencing, new classrooms to replace portables and upgrading performing arts facilities.

The community feedback gathered will assist the board of education in outlining top investment priorities for future facility projects.

In an effort to address needs within the Facilities Master Plan, Measure X would fund new and upgraded classrooms and technology; career technical education facilities; safety and security improvements, facilities for arts, activities, and athletics; repairs and upgrades to infrastructure including heating, air conditioning, electrical, gas, water, and irrigation; and a new southeast school to accommodate growing enrollment.

Fresno Unified uses its Facilities Master Plan as one tool for facilities planning. The plan, developed with extensive community input and approved by the board of education in April 2009, provides guidance and vision for improving district facilities while anticipating future needs. The plan identified nearly $1 billion in school facility needs districtwide.

At the time the master plan was approved, it was anticipated that several bond measures would be needed over a period of many years to fund the needed improvements. Measure Q in 2010 provided funding for the first approximately one-third of that need.

Incorporated in the Facilities Master Plan are long-range high school master plans, which were approved in March 2011 after extensive community feedback. Like the Facilities Master Plan, the long-range high school master plans are monitored and amended as necessary and are used to provide guidance for future facility investments.

Community members at McLaune High School talk in small groups about facilities priorities for the district during one of seven regional meetings held in August and September.

Fresno Unified Citizens Bond Oversight Committee

The Fresno Unified Citizens Bond Oversight Committee is all about accountability.

The committee, which is appointed by the Fresno Unified Board of Education, meets quarterly. It oversees bond measure expenditures for the construction, repair, and modernization of schools. The committee reviews quarterly reports from the district's independent auditor regarding bond expenditures, and communicates its findings annually to the Fresno Unified Board of Education and public to ensure school bond funds are invested as the voters intended.

Over the last decade, every audit report has been "clean." The auditors consistently report that bond dollars have been used only for bond projects, and every dollar has been properly accounted for.

Who is on the committee?
The Oversight Committee is made up of 15 members. Each board member appoints two members and the superintendent appoints the committee chair.

What are the minimum requirements?
Fresno Unified requires potential members be at least 18 years old, a resident in the geographic boundaries of the district, not be an employee or official of the district, and not be a vendor, contractor, or consultant of the district.

How long is the term?
Each member of the committee serves for a two-year term and for no more than three consecutive terms.

Are committee members compensated?
No.

Fresno Unified Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Members:
William Clark, Michael Lopez, Jose Mejia, Al Meyer, Jamee Moltini, Guillermo Moreno, Bruce O’Neal, Michael Rodriguez, Chuck Rojas, Barbara Steck (chair) and Dennis Zeuner.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

Hard Work by Students and Staff Paying Off in the Classroom

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.” While Henry Ford was probably not talking about preparing college and career ready graduates, his words of wisdom speak volumes to anyone associated with Fresno Unified. With eight weeks of the new School year underway, students and staff are building upon recent district success, and with support from the larger community, setting their sights even higher.

In late August Fresno Unified received results from 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) standardized tests and for the first time in 15 years, every grade level saw increases in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. This didn’t happen by chance. It took hours of professional learning from teachers, and a commitment to provide a culture of learning with high expectations and dedication to change conditions in the present. Students also made a considerable effort, focused on being in school ready to learn every day, embracing shifts in state standards, and focused on putting their best foot forward.

Fresno Unified has seen a number of positive indicators over the last few months beyond improved test scores. Graduation rates are at their highest in memory at 84%, and fewer students are dropping out, with consistent decreases the last two years. As the district continues to build upon our culture of college going and career preparation, we have seen an increase of high school seniors pursuing post-secondary options, up to 85% currently. District wide, students look differently at what it means to be involved in school -- they’re engaging in activities, the arts and athletics, providing another important layer to their learning.

Our board of education has invested significantly in Goal 2, ensuring students have an opportunity to experience local and state museums. See SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HMONG

Continued on page 15

Message from Dr. Carole Goldsmith

New Fresno City College President Committed to Improving the Region

As the 11th president of Fresno City College, I am proud to lead the first community college founded in California. While I have been the FCC president for less than 30 days, I have lived in this community for more than 30 years. I understand the role that this college has played in the city and over the last 30 days, I’ve come to see the potential promise of a bright future for this diverse and dynamic community we call home. I respect the college’s rich traditions and humble beginnings that started in 1910 with 20 junior college students and three instructors at Fresno High School. As I have met with faculty and staff, they are passionate about improving the lives of students and the communities we serve in the Central Valley. I believe we all can agree in the power that education has to transform lives.

One measurement of this is the fact that an individual with an associate degree from a two-year college can double their income within three years. Another measure of success is the ability to provide value added education and serve as the gateway of opportunity for thousands of people.

Students coming to FCC have an opportunity to start their university career here by selecting one of the 20 transfer degrees or Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), earn that degree and then transfer to a California State University campus, like Fresno State. As a parent, I know how much time and money that will save you!

During the Great Recession, FCC experienced an increase in enrollment, especially in the career and technical programs where folks came to learn a new trade or hone their skills to be more competitive in the workforce. It is no wonder that over 30,000 people each academic year choose to come to FCC to start their college career.

Superintendent Hanson and his leadership team at FUSD recently toured the Applied Technology Division on our campus. They met with our faculty who teach architecture and design, automotive technology, electronic systems technology, computer aided manufacturing, graphic design, photography and welding. I hope to continue further dialogue and it is my goal to build bridges with Fresno Unified and seek out unique opportunities that will benefit all of our students.

It is our duty and mission to provide students a seamless transition from high school to college. We are dedicated to working with Superintendent Hanson, Fresno Unified and our community to create a college going culture that will improve the lives of our families, neighbors and friends.

We invite you to come and tour our beautiful and historic campus, visit our website or attend one of our many athletic or culture events that occur on campus nearly every week. We are proud of our history in this community and will continue to provide educational opportunities for all who enter our doors.
Bullard High School Master Site Development Plan

Top Suggestions from Regional Community Meetings
- Build new classrooms to replace portables
- Build new facilities for CTE programs in high-demand occupations and growth areas; build/improve career centers
- Improve student drop-off and pick-up zones
- Improve security and fire alert systems
- Upgrade/renovate athletic fields
- Repair/upgrade heating and air conditioning

Edison High School Master Site Development Plan

Top Suggestions from Regional Community Meetings
- Build new classrooms to replace portables
- Build new facilities for CTE programs in high-demand occupations and growth areas
- Improve student drop-off and pick-up zones
- Build/remodel/upgrade gyms and locker rooms
- Install solar energy devices
Fresno High School Master Site Development Plan

Top Suggestions from Regional Community Meetings
- Build new classrooms to replace portables
- Build new facilities for CTE programs in high-demand occupations and growth areas
- Increase/improve fencing, gates and accessibility
- Build/upgrade/remodel performing arts facilities
- Repair/upgrade heating and air conditioning

Hooover High School Master Site Development Plan

Top Suggestions from Regional Community Meetings
- Build new classrooms to replace portables
- Remodel/reconfigure classrooms in existing facilities for CTE programs
- Improve student drop-off and pick-up zones
- Build/upgrade/remodel performing arts facilities
- Repair/upgrade heating and air conditioning
McLane High School Master Site Development Plan

Top Suggestions from Regional Community Meetings
- Build new classrooms to replace portables
- Repair/upgrade heating and air conditioning
- Build new facilities for CTE programs in high-demand occupations and growth areas
- Improve student drop-off and pick-up zones
- Build/upgrade/remodel performing arts facilities

Roosevelt High School Master Site Development Plan

Top Suggestions from Regional Community Meetings
- Build new classrooms to replace portables
- Build new facilities for CTE programs in high-demand occupations and growth areas
- Improve student drop-off and pick-up zones
- Upgrade/renovate athletic fields
- Repair/upgrade heating and air conditioning
Sunnyside High School Master Site Development Plan

ACADEMIC SUCCESS
Continued from page 1

“We are thrilled and encouraged by the success our students are achieving on a number of fronts. The hard work and dedication of staff, and the support of our community, is coming to fruition with test scores, graduation rates and in many other areas,” said Superintendent Michael Hanson. “At the same time, there is much more we need to achieve on behalf of our students, to help them learn and grow.”

Students Improve on State Tests
In late August, the district learned good news about state testing results. Last spring, students took the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) standardized tests and for the first time in 15 years gained in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, at every grade level tested.

While overall percentages of students meeting or exceeding standards remain lower than what the district is striving for, at 31% in ELA and 22% in mathematics, Fresno Unified is encouraged by the improvement in scores.

Gains are also evident in every substantially represented student group in the district, including Hispanic, African American, Asian, and white students, as well as the district’s English learner students.

Graduation Rates Up
Fresno Unified students are graduating at the highest rate in at least a decade, a result of the district’s increased efforts to break down barriers that have kept students from obtaining their diploma.

The district’s four-year graduation rate for 2014-15 was 83.8%, an increase of 4.5% over the 2013-14 rate of 79.3%, according to data released in May by the California Department of Education.

The graduation rate increased for several substantially represented student groups in 2014-15, including all groups with over 50 students.

• Graduation rates for Hispanics students rose from 77.6% in 2013-14 to 82.3% in 2014-15, compared to the national Hispanic graduation rate of 71% for 2011-12 (the most recent data available from the National Center for Education Statistics).

• Rates for African-American students rose from 73.1% in 2013-14 to 82.1% in 2014-15, compared to the national African-American graduation rate of 68% for 2011-12 (the most recent data available from the National Center for Education Statistics).

In addition, the four-year dropout rate for the district cohort is 11.7%, lower than the previous year’s 14.0%, and down from 15.6% in 2012-13.

The district’s 4.5% increase was the second largest graduation rate increase compared to other large school districts that are part of the California Office to Reform Education (CORE) with Fresno Unified. Only San Francisco Unified School District, with a gain of 5%, surpassed Fresno Unified.

College Going on the Rise
District data indicates that with more students finding success in high school, more are pursuing higher education, with 85% of seniors applying to college in 2015-16.

More than 5,000 high school students are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses and more than 5,000 high school students are enrolled in career technical education (CTE) courses.

Students Pursue Arts, Activities and Athletics
Students have to be in school to learn and one way of connecting students to their school and adults at their school is encouraging them to participate in arts, activities and athletics – the Fresno Unified Board of Education’s adopted Goal 2.

With expanded options for students, 64% of district students participated in Goal 2 activities during the past school year. That number is expected to rise as the district expands arts programs, increases transportation for Goal 2 activities and ensures high-quality athletic facilities and coaches.
Fresno Unified will expand free PSAT testing to eligible eighth and ninth grade students this year, providing more students with opportunities to prepare for college entrance requirements.

The expansion of free testing to eighth- and ninth-graders is in addition to the free PSAT testing already available to all eligible 10th and 11th grade students. All eligible eighth-11th grade students will take the PSAT 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT on Oct. 19 during the school day.

“The tests serve as a midpoint “check-in” on student progress and pinpoint areas of academic development.

Once students take the tests, the student scores generate no-cost, personalized, and focused practice by linking their scores to Khan Academy, a free online interactive tutorial.

The scores will also generate information about which accelerated courses the student is most likely to be successful in.

For 11th grade students only: PSAT/NMSQT scores are used to determine eligibility in the National Merit Scholarship Program, which recognizes and awards scholarships to the highest scorers nationwide.

Khan Academy

Fresno Unified’s goal is that all students who take the PSAT 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT build their skills in areas identified for support. Teachers will have access to the student scores to provide supports for students in the classroom. Another exciting opportunity for students is the 24-hour tutoring support through Kahn Academy. All students who take the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT will receive free academic support online from Khan Academy in all academic areas that is personalized to the needs of each individual student.

Khan Academy will also provide detailed feedback to students on their progress and performance as they complete their online practice. Students can access Khan Academy anytime and anywhere they have internet access.
Students Stay Connected: District Installs Wi-Fi on School Buses

Fresno Unified has installed Wi-Fi on school buses this year, making it easier for students to get homework done as they travel to and from school and for school activities.

Students can access the free Wi-Fi by using the username “FUSD BUS” and entering the passcode “iamready” on their mobile devices, laptops, or tablets.

“They can consider a Fresno Unified bus ride a mobile study hall.”
-- Superintendent Michael Hanson

All web traffic on the school buses is content filtered to ensure students have an educational and safe web experience that aligns with student expectations around digital citizenship.

“Fresno Unified students ride our school buses more than 5 million times during the course of a school year and we want to make sure they are able to study and stay on top of their school work and on track to graduate,” said Superintendent Michael Hanson. “The bus ride home will never be the same for our students. They can consider a Fresno Unified bus ride a mobile study hall.”

Fresno Unified is one of only a few school districts in the state providing internet access on school buses. According to Converge Magazine, only 5% of school district administrators report providing Wi-Fi on buses.

“It’s great now to have free Wi-Fi on the bus. We can do the research we need to do for homework and it helps us not get behind,” said Sunnyside senior Alexis Vang.

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/bus-wifi

Sunnyside High School senior Alexis Vang tries out the new free Wi-Fi available to students traveling on district buses to and from school or for activities. The Wi-Fi has been made available to help students delve into homework while traveling.
County Health Officer: Pets Improve our Lives, Reduce Health Risks

Our pets are a very important part of our lives. About two-thirds of U.S. households now own at least one pet, and as many as 90% of kids live with a pet at some time during their childhood. Recently, more and more evidence is mounting that our animal friends (especially our four-legged furry ones) are good for our health and wellness.

These benefits are thought to include:

- Lowered risk of heart attack, lower blood pressure, and lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels
- Increased incentive and opportunity for physical activity, which aids in losing or maintaining weight
- Decreased risk of developing allergies
- Decreased stress and anxiety
- Enhanced mood
- Improved socialization skills
- Fostering emotional, cognitive, social, and physical development in children

Bonding opportunities for families

In fact, animal-assisted therapy and pet-facilitated therapy programs are becoming common in hospitals and nursing homes.

While our interactions with our pets are important to our health and well-being, they do put us at risk for exposure to a variety of illnesses that we must guard against. These illnesses include salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, cat scratch disease, and even rabies, among others.

Particularly vulnerable to many of these illnesses are children under the age of 5 years, pregnant women, adults over 65 years, and those with weakened immune systems.

Here are some steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones while you enjoy those special members of your household:

- Always wash hands thoroughly after being around animals
- Avoid adopting a new cat, handling a stray cat, and cleaning litter boxes if you are pregnant
- Avoid pet rodents if you are pregnant
- Supervise children under age 5 while they’re interacting with animals
- Prevent animals from using children’s sandboxes as a toilet
- Don’t let pets lick people on the mouth
- Keep your pet in a fenced yard or on a leash to reduce contact with stray/wild animals

By Dr. Ken Bird
Fresno County Health Officer

$10 OFF
Use Promo code: BACK2SCHOOL

Local fruits and vegetables near you!

Ooooby now delivers to these school neighborhoods:
- King Elementary
- Lowell Elementary
- Muir Elementary

Visit ooooby.org/fresno for more information or call 559-674-ORGANIC.
DISTRICT ROUNDUP

Edison Students Salute Teacher Overseas

Edison High School students saluted the sacrifice of Edison teacher Gabriela Ibarra, who is serving overseas in the Army National Guard, by collecting 1,873 items for care packages for Ibarra and every member of her unit. The care packages were presented at Edison’s football game Sept. 9.

McLane Art Students Exhibit Project

“GroundWaterZero,” a McLane High School ArtVenture Academy project about the drought’s devastating effects on East Porterville residents, will be featured at the Barn Theater in Porterville with an opening reception from 7-9 p.m. Oct. 29.

Design Science Seniors Recognized

Design Science Early College High School seniors Missael Campos and Logan Chase were recently recognized as National Hispanic Scholars by the College Board. The program recognizes about 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT who have scored in the top 2.5% among Hispanic and Latino test takers in the region.

Want to Teach? Tips for Attending the Aspiring Teacher Expo

Fresno Unified is seeking to hire future teachers and will host a Credential and College Expo for Aspiring Teachers on Oct. 18.

The expo will be held from 4-8 p.m. at McLane High School, 2727 N. Cedar Ave. Representatives from colleges and credential programs from throughout the Central Valley will be available to provide information about the various pathways to becoming a credentialed teacher.

Participants will have the opportunity to start networking early and talk to Fresno Unified representatives about the district’s teacher pipeline programs. To get the most out of the expo:
• **Transcripts:** Bring unofficial transcripts. They will be helpful in determining a pathway that is best for the aspiring teacher.
• **Explore All Options:** Participants should talk with as many recruiters as possible who might be interested in their major, experience, skills and accomplishments. Keep an open mind!
• **Attire Is Important:** Conservative, professional business attire is best.
• **Chart Your Course:** If time is short, participants should select the colleges or programs they are most interested in learning about and visit them first. The job fair will be set up in an “open house” format so that participants can talk to the recruiters of their choice.

• **Have a Resume:** A resume is an advertisement. Keep it short in length but cover the basics: education, skills, and work experience.

This expo is a must for those who are considering teaching as a profession. Pre-register using the link http://tinyurl.com/aspiringexpofall2016.

Law School 101

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 7-9PM

You’re invited to this free informational forum to learn more about the legal profession and what a law degree can do for you. At this forum you will be introduced to law school, from courses offered to admission requirements.

Register for either event at www.sjcl.edu or 559/323-2100.

LSAT Forum

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7-9PM

This forum is a free session on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), led by Dean Jan Pearson, to develop strategies to approach the analytical thinking questions on the test.

The LSAT is offered 4 times a year. The next test is December 3rd, with a deadline to register by October 18.

To register for the LSAT go to www.lsac.org.
SWEET: Third-Grader Bakes

This month’s Student Spotlight is on Jalen Bailey. In addition to school work and after school activities, Jalen is a young entrepreneur.

In July, he launched Jalen’s Bakery, an online bakery service to honor his grandparents, Jane and Robin, with the goal of earning money to buy his mom a house. While Jalen is at school, his assistant and mom, Sharhonda Mahan, takes orders. After school and homework, Jalen is in the kitchen making his favorite peanut butter cookies from scratch. (Jalen says the secret to his cookies’ fluffiness is in the mixing.) Then Jalen and his mom deliver the baked goods -- cookies, tarts, and muffins -- to customers in the Fresno and Clovis area.

In hopes of expanding, Jalen went to his first business mixer and met a local photographer and web designer, which led to a new website (http://www.jalenasbakery.com) with photos.

With the holidays coming up, Jalen is busy working on new items -- powdered sugar cookies, brownies, and cookies shaped like pumpkins, turkeys, and Christmas trees.

Do you consider yourself a novice or expert baker?
I think I’m in the middle. I’m learning more from my mom.

Who is your favorite celebrity chef?
I like the chef [Emeril Lagasse] that says “bami” and Rachael Ray.

What is your favorite subject in school?
I like science. Science is like baking.

What extra-curricular activities are you involved in?
I like football, soccer, basketball, and karate. I also like going to the after-school program.

Who inspires you?
My mom.

State Test Results on the Upswing

For the first time in 15 years, Fresno Unified students improved on state test scores in all grade levels tested in both English language arts (ELA) and math.

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/sbac2916

Fresno Unified School District Superintendent Michael Hanson provided encouraging details on the district’s latest Smarter Balanced Assessment System (SBAC) test results on Aug 22 at Baird Middle School, one of the district’s highest performing schools.

“It’s a positive reflection of what our staff has been doing each and every day with our kids,” Hanson said.

The SBAC, based on the new state standards, is in its second full year of use. Fresno Unified has not had year-to-year increases in both subjects, for every tested grade level, since the inception of the former state testing system, the California Standards Tests (CSTs) in 2001.

A highlight of the results is that the district’s overall percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards increased by 4% overall in ELA and by 4% as well in mathematics. The gains were led by third and fourth grade mathematics increases, at 7% and 6% respectively.

The results mean that more than 1,400 additional students are meeting standards in ELA and more than 1,300 students in math on these rigorous new assessments launched in 2015.

While overall percentages of students meeting standards remain lower than the district aspires to, at 31% in ELA and 22% in mathematics, the increases are an indication of the great work students are doing, with the support of the Fresno Unified staff.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Game On: Co-Athletic Directors Bring Expertise, Fun to the Job

Brett Mar and Pat Riddlesprigger take over this year as co-athletic managers for the district. As the district expands, students’ involvement in Goal 2 -- arts, activities and athletics -- their role has become even more critical. Mar has been a P.E. teacher in the district for nearly 20 years and has coached cross country, track, wrestling, football, and baseball. Riddlesprigger worked at Edison High School for 19 years, coaching basketball, teaching business and was athletic director for eight years.

What are your goals in this new position?

Mar: I have many goals, including increasing Goal 2 participation in all grades and helping to build leadership capacity for our middle and high school athletic directors.

Riddlesprigger: Learn about all the moving parts to make district athletics more; listen to our stakeholders -- sites, ADs, leaders, plant coordinators, etc. -- on how we could improve communication; and build relationships, capacity and trust.

What is the best part about the job?

Mar: Supporting and working with all school sites and also building relationships districtwide.

Riddlesprigger: Having the opportunity to work with a wealth of great people within the district from the Goal 2 team, high school athletic directors, site leaders and site staff, as well as district leaders.

Are there any new athletics initiatives in Fresno Unified that the community/families should know about?

Mar: One of our many projects has been to implement the new concussion protocol for our sites. With the assistance of many stakeholders and after many months of work, we are now able to see it put into practice.

Why do you think it’s important for students to be part of athletics?

Riddlesprigger: Athletics has the ability to touch everyone from every background and I feel it provides students with life-long skills, ranging from learning how to work with others, how to deal with adversity, how to build character, how to be a leader, decision making, to name a few.

Given that you are both sports fanatics, do you root for rival teams? Does that cause tension in the office?

Mar: I have many teams I root for depending on the sport season. In the NFL, I have always been a fan of the Minnesota Vikings. No tension in our office since Pat’s Steelers and my Vikes don’t play each other!

Riddlesprigger: No tension, everyone in the office is a Steelers fan!

Who are your favorite professional athletes and why?

Mar: I don’t have one favorite athlete, but I do admire professional athletes who give back to their communities through charities and giving of their time.

Riddlesprigger: Charles Barkley. Of course I enjoyed watching him play -- an undersized power forward that dominated during his time. However, I truly admired how he spoke his mind.

Who’s the better athlete between the two of you?

Mar: Let’s just say… the older I get, the better I was.

Riddlesprigger: Depends on the sport!

Library Tech Loves Books, Kids

Lori Davis, a library tech at Wawona Middle School for 11 years, was an Excellence in Education finalist last spring. Wawona vice principal May Her says about Davis: “She treats all students with respect, even if they come to school with a bad attitude. She has an amazing way of turning students around after they work with her in the library.”

You have a knack for making connections with students, even though you are not a classroom teacher. What is your secret?

I truly respect each and every student that walks through the library door. Whether they have earned my respect is not important. Each student needs to feel valued and more than a few students, by the time I see them, feel of very little value to anyone.

What is the most challenging part about your job?

I think the most challenging part of my job is getting all the things I need to get done on a regular basis completed. Many people assume that all a librarian or a library technician does all day is check in and check out books. That is actually a very small portion of what our job entails.

What kind of experience do you hope students have in the library?

I want to see them back again and again, and that includes the ones that claim they don’t like to read. I believe

Lori Davis, a library technician at Wawona Middle School, loves to help students find the right book to make them fall in love with reading.

See EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT Continued on page 14
All Seniors Receiving College Packets to Encourage Exploring Options

Greater numbers of Fresno Unified students are graduating eligible for college -- with a wide array of options -- but many students are not aware of all of the colleges that they can apply to.

Eighty-five percent of Fresno Unified students applied to college last year, but just half of eligible students applied to colleges that correspond with their academic profiles. For example, 54% of the low-income students eligible for University of California are actually applying to UC campuses, and less than 44% of low-income students applied to California State University campuses.

This fall, in an effort to expand students’ higher education plans, the district launched a pilot program to inform seniors of all of their college options that match their academic profile. The district has sent every eligible senior a customized college information packet based on the premise that many students and parents are just not aware of all of the colleges the student is eligible for.

The packets contain a matrix of California public universities and colleges the student has qualified for and recommendations on next steps to take.

A letter was sent to their parents as well encouraging them to support their student in pursuing all college options. The letters were translated in English, Spanish and Hmong.

With a Nov. 30 deadline to apply for most four-year colleges and universities, the customized college packets contain critical information that will help guide students as they make their decisions about college.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 13

they just haven’t found the right book yet; I can and will help them with that if given the chance!

What was your favorite book as a teen?

“Island of the Blue Dolphin” by Scott O’Dell.

What is your favorite book(s)

to recommend for students at Wawona?

“Wonder” by R.J. Palacio.

College Lus Qhia

Coob tus ntawm Fresno Unified coc tub kawn ntawv tau kawn tiaw tsnim nyog mus kawn college – nrog rau ntau txoj hau kev xaiw zoo – tiam sis ntau tug tub kawn ntawv tsnis paub txog tag nhro tej colleges uns lawv muw jeev xwm thov tau rau.

Yim caum-tsib feem pua ntawm Fresno Unified coc tub kawn ntawv tau thov mus kawn college tsib no, tiam sis tsus muaj li ib nihub ntauv muaj kev tsnim nyog thov mus kawn colleges uss muaj feni rau lawv kev kawn txui ci. Pev txawv li, 54% ntawm coc tub kawn ntawv tau nyiaj txiag tsaawg muaj kev tsnim nyog thov rau University of California tiam sis ho thov mu rau cov vaj loog kawn UC, thib tsawg tsihj li ntawm 44% ntawm coc tub kawn ntawv tau nyiaj txiag tsaawg tau thov mus kawn rau cov vaj loog California State University.

Lub caij nplookj zeez, ib qho kev sib zog los nthauv tej kev npaj tub kawn ntawv kev kawn txui ci siab, hawv pauv tesv kawn ntawv tau ua ib qho kev sim los qhia cov kawn qib kaob ob ntawm tag nhro lawv tej kev xaiw kawn college uas haun nrog lawv kev kawn txui ci. Hawn pauv tesv kawn ntawv tau xa college pob ntawv nuab lus qhia rau tsih tawm kawn qib kaob ob muaj kev tsnim nyog awi thi kawv kawn ntawv 4r wawv us ntau tug tub kawn ntawv thib niab txkv tsi tsau paub txog dua li ntawm tag nhro cov colleges tub kawn ntawv muaj kev tsnim nyog rau.

Cov pobs ntaww muaj ib qho qauv ntaww California public universities thib colleges tub kawn ntawv muaj kev tsnim nyog rau thib tej kev pomm zoon rau tej kauv nuan no laown ton niuj.

Ib tsab ntaww tau xa mus rau lawv cov niab txiv thib nqua hau lawv los muaw kev txhawb pab lawv tus tub kawn ntawv kom muaw tag nhro tej kev xaiw kawn college. Tsab ntaww xa uas Askiv, lus Mew thib uas Hnool.

Nrog rau Imub kev kaw kev Thaum Ibs Hlis tim 30 los thov rau ntau lu college plaub yxooy thib universities, college cov pobs ntaww hlouw muaj lus qhia tsceem ceeb uas yuav pab coj tau cov tub kawn ntaww raws li lawv muaw tej kev txiv txiv sim siab txog.

Pob ntaww kuj tsceem muaj lus qhia txog tej kev nkaj, kev them kawn college, tej nyiaj pub thib California Dream Act. Tub kawn ntawv thib lawv tey zim neeg raug hau ku kom mus niamb xywuu txawv txok kev xaiw thib ntsib nrog tub kawn ntaww tus kws qhlab ntaw kawn txui ci.

See COLLEGE PACKETS

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zoos and many of our nearby natural resources. This year that investment was expanded further to include students in transitional kindergarten through second grade. Investing in our youth in a way that nurtures and expands their understanding of our world is key in developing their critical thinking skills and keeping them engaged.

Another way to keep students engaged and focused on academic success is by investing in their learning environment. In preparation for the upcoming bond measure on the November ballot, Measure X, Fresno Unified conducted seven regional informational meetings in August and September, gathering feedback from the community on the district’s Facilities Master Plan and potential investment priorities. Thank you to all who attended or shared your thoughts on our online survey. With your input and support, we can keep the positive momentum going as we reach even higher.

Mensaje del SUPERINTENDENTE

“Si todos se movilizan juntos hacia adelante, entonces el éxito se atiene así mismo.” Mientras que Henry Ford probablemente no estaba hablando acerca de cómo preparar graduados listos para el colegio/universidad y carrera, sus palabras de sabiduría dicen mucho a todas las personas asociadas con el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno. Con ocho semanas del nuevo ciclo escolar en progreso, los estudiantes y el personal elaboran el reciente éxito de distrito y con el apoyo de la gran comunidad, fijan su mirada aún más alto.

A fines de agosto el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno recibió los resultados del 2015 del examen estandarizado Consorcio de Evaluación Smarter Balance (SBAC) y por primera vez en 15 años, se vio un incremento en cada nivel del grado en artes del lenguaje inglés (ELA) y matemáticas. Esto no sucedió por casualidad. Tomó horas de aprendizaje profesional de los maestros, el compromiso de proveer una cultura de aprendizaje con altas expectativas y dedicación para cambiar las condiciones en el presente. Los estudiantes hacen esfuerzos considerables, enfocados en permanecer en la escuela listos para aprender todos los días, estrechando los cambios de los estándares estatales y enfocados en poner lo mejor de ellos con el pie hacia adelante.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno ha visto un número de indicadores positivos en los últimos meses más allá de mejores resultados. Los promedios de graduación están en el punto más alto en la capacidad de 84%, y menos estudiantes están desertando/dejando la escuela, con disminución constante los últimos dos años. Mientras que el distrito continua construyendo sobre nuestra cultura de ir al colegio y preparación de carrera, hemos visto un aumento de estudiantes del 12vo grado (seniors) en la preparatoria, persiguiendo opciones de post-secundaria, hasta un 85% en la actualidad. Los estudiantes a nivel distrito miran de forma diferente lo que significa estar involucrados en la escuela –están participando en actividades, artes y atletismo, proveyendo otra capa importante para su aprendizaje.

La Mesa Educativa ha invertido significativamente en la Meta 2, asegurando que los estudiantes tengan la oportunidad de experiencia local y museos estatales, zoológicos y muchos de nuestros recursos naturales alrededor. Este año esa inversión fue ampliada aún más para incluir a los estudiantes de kinder transicional a segundo grado. Invertir en nuestros jóvenes de forma que enriquece y amplía la comprensión de nuestro mundo es clave en el desarrollo de sus habilidades de razonamiento crítico y mantenerlos comprometidos.

Otra forma de tener a los estudiantes comprometidos y enfocados en el éxito académico es invirtiendo en su ambiente de aprendizaje. En preparación para el próximo broho de la medida en la boleta electoral de noviembre, medida X, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno llevó a cabo siete reuniones informativas regionales en agosto y septiembre, recolectando opinión/sugerencias (feedback) de la comunidad en el Plan Maestro de Instalaciones del distrito y posibles prioridades de inversión. Gracias a todos los que asistieron o compartieron sus pensamientos en nuestra encuesta en el internet. Con su opinión y apoyo, podemos mantener el impulso positivo continua mientras llegamos aún más alto.

Thawi Coj Tsev Kawm Ntawv Cov Lus Tshaj Tawn

“Yog hais tias txhua tus txav mus lawm tom ntej ua ke, ces kev vam meex jwes yeex yeu ua tus tus kheev.” Txawmias Henry Ford yuav tisam tham txog kev npaj kev kawn college thib cov neeg kawn tiav npaj txhijh dej de nujm nws lo huv kev txjawy ntsen ntu kwag kawsas rau ib tus neeg tngw muaj feem nrog rau Fresno Unified. Nrog rau yim lau lim tiam kawn ntaww tshajh los no, cov tug kawn ntaww thib cov neeg khlaiv dej num rau lawh pauv tsev kawn ntaww kev kawn tau ntsiv nes nus no, thiab nrog rau kev txhaww pab ntu kwag kawsas nos ntawm neeg siej zog, ua rau lawv txoj kev xav sib daw.

Nyob rau hib Yim Hli yuav haxs xauz Fresno Unified tau txawj tej kev qha tshwm los ntawm xyoo 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) qhov kev ib txawm xecun rau thaww zauj yug 15 hib xyooz, txawm thicm qib pom tau muaj nce hauv fus askuv (ELA) thib lej. Nej yov yim lam ci tshwm sim. Nws siv ntau xaj naow ntawm kev kawn dej num los ntawm cov xib fhvb, ib tug neeg muaj kev cog siab hlo rau los npaj ib tug yam nttxwv untawm kev kawn nrog tej kev cia siab thib cog siab los hloov tej kev uy avh dawlos. Cov tug kawn ntawv los kuj muaj ib qho kev siob zog peem, ua tsu ntses rau kev mus kawn ntawv npaj txhij log los kawn txhaw laub, pum zoo hloov ub xevv tej qauv teev tseg thib ua ntawm tes hauv lwm zoo tom ntej.

Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawn Ntawv tau pom muaj tej cin zoo rau ntu hlis dhaav los tsaj hib qhov nia txhlm kхо. Cov feem pum aawaw txawv yim nyob rau qhov siob kawn nkasas uas nco tau ntawm 84%, thiab cov tug kawn ntawv tso kev kawn teev txaww zuj zis, ob huv yoxos dhaav los yeex txq sis zis zuus. Tam lo hib lawh pauv tsev kawn ntaww tsenm yuav yuav ua tus yam nttxwv mus kawn college thib npaj txhijh dej de num, peb kuj pom muaj kev nce ntawm cov kawn qib bau vau hauv tsev kawn ntaww them zee tava mus kawn kawn tsev kawn ntaww qib siab, nce txqog li tilaw 85% tim sim no. Hauv pauv tsev kawn tsev thib cov neeg plaws, cov tug kawn ntaww tau saib sib txaww ntawm kev txumaw lawv hauv kawn kawn txhais si cas – lawv tau tuavaw nrog lawv tej de num uau, kev kawn ntaww thib kev ua kis las, npaj muaj ib txhcej tseem ceeb heew lawv troj kawn kev.

Peb Pawg Thawj Coj Kev Kawn Txjui Ci tau nqis peev tau ntuaw nkaugis hib Hom pnia 2, kom puab meeg tias tej tuaw kawn ntawm muaj lb eib fim tau los vam dua ub jezib los zothiab ub xevv tej kawn thaww qib txceeg qib teg, tej vaj tsajh paib ub qhov chaw untawm tep tej chaw tswj tsq. Lub xyoo no qhov kev nqis peev tau ntawm muaj deb zog xam nrog rau cov tug kawn ntawm lawv “transicional kindergarten” txog qib ob. Kev nqis peev rau peev cob me yuam throw yuav yib ib txoq jev tehnaw lawv troj kev kawn thib toab peb lub ntaib jeg yob yis tuam sijs los tsm lawv troj kev xav xecem ceeb thieej ceev lawv tuam niwam.

Dun lwn txoj kev ceev lawv tuam niwam tuab ub ntses rau txoj kev kawn tau txju ci yov kev los nqis peev rau lawv troj kev kawn. Rau kev npaj rau qhov (bond) niyaj txiao thqov nyob rau lub Kawn Hlis dian untawm pov snab, Measure X, Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawn Ntawv tau huu muaj tej rooj sib than nyob rau xya cheeb thsam thanam lub Yim Hli thib lub Cuaj Hli los muaj tej tsqaw yim los untawm neeg zej zog txog hauv pauv tsev kawn untawm qhov Quav Npaj Chaw Siv thib tej yuav tau muab sb ib nqis peev tau ntej. Ub tsajh rau txhaw los tus tau mus koom thib muab kij tej tsqaw yim los untawm sib qha hauv peev tau muab los tsaiv yim los muab fus hauv “online” Nrog rau kev kev muab tsqaw yim thib kev txhaww pab, peb ub rau peeb muaj zog pho ub mu mus kom ncav qhov sib siaw plaws.

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Kev sib zog peem ua pom tau tias muaj qho kev sib koom tes tiag txaww lwm lub chaw khiaiv hauv lwm untawm Equity and Access, College and Career Readiness, Communications and Technology departments. Qhov kev sib zog peem ua no pom tau yam Long Beach Unified School District tau kawn txog wos kev sib zog peem ua rau kev ncv tes mus rau nws tej yim tsev neeg nrog rau tej li tilaw hua mus kawn college.
Healthy Minute
Take a Minute for Your Health

Depression
Shedding Some Light on Depression
Depression not only affects your brain and behavior—it affects your entire body. Depression has been linked with other health problems, including heart disease. Dealing with more than one health problem at a time can be difficult, so proper treatment is important.

Signs & Symptoms of Depression
- Ongoing sad, anxious, or empty feelings
- Feeling hopeless, irritable, or restless
- Feeling guilty, worthless, or helpless
- Loss of interest in activities or hobbies once enjoyable, including sex
- Feeling tired all the time
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, or making decisions
- Difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep, a condition called insomnia, or sleeping all the time
- Overeating or loss of appetite
- Thoughts of death and suicide or suicide attempts
- Ongoing aches and pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems that do not ease with treatment.

What is Heart Disease?
Heart disease refers to a number of illnesses that affect your heart and nearby blood vessels. Your heart is a muscle that pumps blood through your body. Like any muscle, your heart needs a constant supply of oxygen and nutrients, which it gets from blood pumped from the lungs and other parts of the body. Blood vessels carry this oxygen and nutrient-rich blood to the heart.

If not enough blood reaches your heart, you may feel a pain in your chest called angina. You may also feel angina pain in the left arm and shoulder, neck, or jaw. You may not always feel angina when your heart is not getting enough blood.

A heart attack occurs when the blood supply to your heart is cut off completely. If blood flow isn't quickly restored, the part of your heart that does not receive oxygen begins to die. While some heart muscle may be permanently damaged, quick treatment can limit the harm and save your life.

How are Depression & Heart Disease Linked?
People with heart disease are more likely to suffer from depression than otherwise healthy people. Angina and heart attacks are closely linked with depression. Researchers are unsure exactly why this occurs. They do know that some symptoms of depression may reduce your overall physical and mental health, increasing your risk for heart disease or making symptoms of heart disease worse. Fatigue or feelings of worthlessness may cause you to ignore your medication plan and avoid treatment for heart disease. Having depression increases your risk of death after a heart attack.

Treatment Options
Depression is diagnosed and treated by a health care provider. Treating depression can help you manage heart disease and improve your overall health. Recovery from depression takes time but treatments are effective. Regular exercise not only protects you against heart disease, it may also help reduce depression. Your health care provider can recommend safe exercises and activities suitable for you.

Source: WELCA; Take Charge: WELCA's Online Self-Care Bulletin

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, dependent children age 18+, early retirees, and retirees covered under the District’s health benefit plan.