Scholarship Winners Honored for Hard Work and Perseverance

A group of 49 high-achieving seniors from every high school in the district -- many of whom overcame daunting circumstances -- were honored May 10 at the annual Student Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

The students were awarded scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $2,500 totaling $61,000.

Meet 14 of these outstanding students -- one from each high school -- on pages 4-10, along with information about their high schools.

The students who received the scholarships overcame numerous roadblocks during their education journey, including family tragedies, extreme poverty and language barriers.

“We’re honored to be able to award these students with some financial help to use towards college,” said Interim Superintendent Bob Nelson. “We hope the scholarship provides a solid step forward to help the deserving students achieve their career goals.”

The Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund was established in 2009, and made possible by generous donations from the community and district employees.

A State of Education luncheon in the fall is the largest single fundraiser for the scholarships.

The district has raised over $360,000 for the fund, and with the 49 winners from last month, will have awarded scholarships to 230 college-bound Fresno Unified seniors since its inception.

Education and Industry Leaders Gather for Fresno Unified's First CTE Summit

The district hosted the area’s first Career Technical Education Summit on May 9 at Duncan Polytechnical High School, bringing together education and industry leaders with students and parents.

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

Interim Superintendent Bob Nelson, Fresno City College President Carole Goldsmith, and Jim Yovino, superintendent of Fresno County Schools, were panel participants and showcased Valley efforts to expand career technical education (CTE).

Roundtable discussions on how to better communicate and collaborate in expanding CTE options for students followed panel presentations. CTE courses empower students to make meaningful career choices by providing opportunities to explore their interests, develop career skills, and

See SUMMIT
Continued on page 14
Nutritious Free Summer Meals Available for Fresno Children

Fresno Unified is working to ensure that students maintain good nutrition, even during the summer months.

Free meals will be available to all youth ages 1 through 18 at more than 45 locations throughout the city beginning June 12 and through August 9. No registration, application or demonstration of financial need is required, but meals must be eaten on site. The district served nearly 200,000 meals last summer.

For more information, call the Food Services Department at (559) 457-6250. The program is federally funded and administered by the United State Department of Agriculture’s Office of Food and Nutrition Services.

Alimentos Gratuitos en el Verano Para Niños de Fresno

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno está trabajando para asegurar que los estudiantes mantengan buena nutrición, aún durante los meses de verano.

Los alimentos gratuitos estarán disponibles para todos los niños de 1 a 18 años de edad en más de 45 lugares a través de la ciudad iniciando el 12 de junio hasta el 9 de agosto. No se requiere llenar solicitud ni comprobante de ingreso, pero los alimentos deben ser consumidos en la escuela. El distrito sirvió alrededor de 200,000 alimentos el verano pasado.

Para más información, llame al Departamento de Servicios de Alimentos al (559) 457-6250. El programa es financiado federalmente y administrado por el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos Oficia de Servicios de Nutrición y Alimentos.

Pluas Noj Dawb Muaj rau Fresno Cov Me Nyuam Yaus

Fresno Unified tab tom ua hauj iwm kom tej tub kawm ntawv tau tej zaub mov muaj kuab zoo, tib yam nkaus rau cov lub hlis caij ntuj qhua.

Pluas noj dawb yuav muaj rau txhua tus me nyuam hluas hnb nyoog 1 txog 18 nyob rau ntaj tshaj li 45 lub chaw thoob plaws hauv nroog pib txij tham lub Rau Hli tim 12 txog rau lub Yim Hli tim 9. Tsis tas yuav muaj kev cuv npe, ntaub ntawv thov los yog qhia tias tu ncua niyaj txiaq raug tseev kom muaj, tiam sis cov pluas noj yuav tsum yog noj khiag ntawm lub chaw. Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tau muab kwv lam li 200,000 pluas noj rau lub caij ntuj qhua dhau los.

Rau lus qhia ntaxv, hu rau Food Services Department ntawm (559) 457-6250. Qhov kev pab yog them los ntawm soom fvw thib saib xyuas los ntawm teb Chaws Meskas Lub Chaw Saib Kev Ua Lijaj Ua Teb Lub Chaw Saib Tej Kev Pab Khoom Noj thiab Kuab Zaub Mov.

Free summer lunches will be available for young people ages 1-18 at sites throughout the city.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

District Investments Mean More College and Career Options for Graduating Seniors

June is here and that can only mean one thing -- graduation season. Starting back on May 18 and continuing through June 7, Fresno Unified students at our comprehensive and alternative education high schools are celebrating this momentous occasion on 17 different graduation stages around our city. No matter the stage, this exciting day signifies both a student’s past achievements and their path to future accomplishments.

As college and career ready graduates, students have every possible option available to them with a strong academic foundation and workplace skills and competencies necessary for success beyond high school. Thanks to key board investments, more students have benefited from A-G courses, career technical education pathways, increased social emotional supports, and opportunities to participate in athletics, activities and the arts.

Collectively, these learning experiences will guide our graduates in the next phase of their lives whether focused on a post-secondary education or a career out of high school. Like the students following after them, I am confident our graduates will utilize the many lessons of high school both in and outside of the classroom to be true contributors to our economy and our community. Fresno Unified wishes them much success, wherever their life path should lead them.

Over the last many months, the Board of Education has been engaged in budget presentations based on community input from over 145 Local Control Accountability Plan listening sessions. Throughout those sessions, the district continued to hear a need to expand our 21 high school career technical education pathways. Last month, our College and Career Readiness team had an opportunity to present to the board current progress and proposed plans for CTE growth. It was exciting to see how far along Fresno Unified has come, and the plans to expand the program even more. Soon construction will start on a large diesel truck hands-on repair facility at Duncan Polytechnical High School. It will be the only one in the state to have a bay large enough to accommodate this one-of-a-kind, project-based investment.

See SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HTML

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This is Not Your Grandfather’s Manufacturing Career

Message from Mike Betts, CEO of Betts Company and chairman of the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance

The 2016 presidential race put a spotlight on bringing jobs back to the U.S., particularly in manufacturing. While the focus during the campaigns was on losing the jobs to lower-wage economies abroad, there is another reality: We lost interest in the greatest American middle-class industry sector somewhere along the way.

Contrary to another belief, technology hasn’t taken these jobs either -- it’s only changed them. The physical muscle required for manufacturing jobs 20 years ago has been replaced with the need for intellectual muscle and technical expertise, and here in the Valley we’re building our own world-class workforce.

The San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance’s 2017 Manufacturing Summit in April was attended by nearly 800 people -- over 200 of them students, 90 exhibitors, and two notable keynote speakers affecting manufacturing and policy on a wide national level. SJVMA and the annual summit are bringing together this industry sector in unprecedented ways.

The aim: To develop pathways for a future workforce.

The energy surrounding the rebirth of manufacturing is electric, and very exciting for the economic development of Fresno and the whole Valley. Through tools like the E3 Network, which matches students with employers to participate in job shadowing and internships, we are engaging our children earlier to think about careers and explore the many onramps to success. Robust new career technical education programs are being launched throughout the region, enabling students to fast-track into the workforce through project-based learning and dual-enrollment in courses through our high schools and community colleges simultaneously.

The development of these invaluable programs is based in our ability to come together as a community and focus efforts on one goal -- building a world-class workforce development ecosystem. Fresno Unified is working closely with the State Center Community College District to ensure these programs are meeting employer demands, and move seamlessly into post-secondary curriculums.

With incredible alignment of focus, the synergy being created is resulting in remarkable programs and unlimited options for our kids to build a bright future -- for themselves, and in turn, enriching our community.

The Fresno Business Council, SJVMA and Betts Company are proud to partner with Fresno Unified in creating bright futures for our next-generation workforce. If you or your student is interested in learning more about manufacturing and the many career pathways available, we encourage you to visit sjvma.org.
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2017

Nathalie Alejandra Mena-Rodriguez
Bullard High School

GPA: 3.44
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Mechanical engineer

About Nathalie: Bilingual; raised by her mom; dad passed away; low-income home; numerous family members under one roof; inspired by older sister who pursued a career in civil engineering and bought her own home at age 22; involved in numerous school clubs.

Her words: “Throughout these struggles and setbacks, I have been able to maintain a focus on my school. It has not always been easy to juggle family responsibilities with studies, but seeing how hard my mother works and how she has not given up on us encourages me to persevere.”

Teacher Paul Lassman: “Nathalie is very motivated and dedicated to her education. She finds learning fun. I enjoyed having her in class because when she discovered something new, she would always tell others about it. In this way, she helped other students who might not have grasped the concept as clearly.”

Bullard High School
Graduation rate: 92.8%
Enrollment: 2,500
Fun fact: Over 25% of the current faculty at Bullard High School are Bullard graduates.
Greatest accomplishment: Bullard students consistently attend some of the nation’s elite colleges, including Stanford, MIT, UCLA, Harvard, Princeton, and University of Southern California.
CTE pathways: Business, Entrepreneurship & Technology; Biomedicine; Law & Social Justice
Principal: Carlos Castillo

Jaazania Dunton
Cambridge High School

GPA: 2.85
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: High school guidance counselor

About Jaazania: Arrived at Cambridge a year and half behind in credits but caught up and will graduate on time; works as a sales associate for Ross Dress for Less; has overcome many family difficulties; is from a single-parent home; with only 50 credits needed to graduate her senior year, Jaazania has been an office aide at Cambridge and shadowed guidance counselor Jose Perez, inspiring her to pursue a similar career because of the satisfaction she found in helping students.

Her words: “My motivation for my goals are my two little sisters. I know they look up to me and follow in my footsteps so I want to be as successful as I possibly can be for them so they can see that it’s possible to succeed in life.”

Testing coordinator Michelle D. Angel: “She has displayed great work ethic, maturity beyond her years and has overcome some great obstacles. She deserves any and all opportunities that come her way and has represented Fresno Unified well.”

Cambridge High School
Enrollment: 550
Fun fact: Cambridge High School is the only school in the district with a local mayor on its faculty -- April Hogue, mayor of Dos Palos.
Greatest accomplishment: Cambridge had a record number of graduates in 2016 – 182.
Principal: Pete Pulos
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2017

Viviana Hernandez
Design Science Early College High School

GPA: 3.86
College: California Baptist University
Career goal: Nursing

About Viviana: She and seven siblings raised by their mother; Viviana works as a babysitter and in retail; inspired to pursue a nursing career by her brother and grandparents’ illnesses; involved in numerous activities, including student government, and has volunteered more than 700 hours during high school; will graduate with her high school diploma and an associate of arts degree from Fresno City College.

Her words: “Over time, I have learned that working with people and even leading people is what I am good at. I am also good at addressing a problem and finding solutions. I enjoy helping people and seeing lives change, by simply speaking to someone, is something I love most.”

Design Science teacher Sandra Cloney Munoz: “She proves her own resiliency in rising above her own struggles to help others in her extensive volunteerism. She is a natural leader and an amazing young lady who continues to grow intellectually, academically and in her social awareness.”

Enrique Solis
DeWolf High School

GPA: 1.66
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Architect

About Enrique: One of six children in a single-parent home; mother is an immigrant from Mexico whose hard work in manual labor and sacrifice for the family inspires him; would be the first in his family to earn a college degree; plays guitar and sports.

His words: “It is my first hope to design and build [my mom] a home of her own -- not apartment after apartment, not living temporarily with others. I am a humble man in search of an education and just to live life on my own terms.”

Teacher Betty Lee Gong: “He is a pleasure to have in class and his positive attitude and belief in himself that he could graduate has inspired many students.”
Lou Vang  
**Duncan Polytechnical High School**

**GPA:** 3.90  
**College:** Fresno State University  
**Career goal:** Elementary teacher  

**About Lou:** Was born in a refugee camp in Thailand and immigrated to the U.S. in 2004; from low-income family; English learner; was inspired to pursue teaching as a career by her second grade teacher, who saw she was struggling and gave her extra help and attention; part of Duncan’s Teacher Academy career pathway; is in numerous clubs and activities, including student leadership; perfect attendance since 2013.  

**Her words:** “I had difficulties in understanding English. However, my second grade teacher changed me into who I am today because of what she did for me.”  

**Duncan math teacher Kevin Mack:** “Lou distinguished herself by asking insightful questions in class and at after-school tutorials, by her meticulous pursuit of understanding the material, her good performance in informal and formal assessments, by tutoring her peers and by bypassing the first year of calculus to take AP Calculus BC.”

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Mohammad Rashid 
**Edison High School**

**GPA:** 3.62  
**College:** Undecided  
**Career goal:** Software developer  

**About Mohammad:** Mother is terminally ill and hospital bills will add to the difficulty of paying for three children in college next year; parents immigrated from Palestine to secure a better future for their children; activities include the football team, Black Student Union, AP Ambassadors and Edison Tiger Theatre Co.  

**His words:** “Conflict resolution is another skill that I’ve learned during my time as captain of the defensive line and while babysitting. I’m also comfortable in front of large crowds due to my acting background and I’m capable of learning anything given enough time.”  

**Edison science teacher Dina McPhail:** “He is able to help peers with difficult concepts, but does so in a way that is both practical and non-condescending. He has shown the ability to bounce back from adversity and is willing to put in extra time to improve on weaknesses.”
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2017

Nataly A. Romero Robledo
Fresno High School

GPA: 3.71  
College: UC Berkeley  
Career goal: Psychologist  
About Nataly: Lost her father at age 3; was taken from her home at age 4 because she had tuberculosis and was not being treated; returned to live with her grandmother who died a few months later; moved to Mexico with her mother and was expected to earn money at age 9; is now on her own as an unaccompanied youth; played varsity soccer, volleyball and badminton.  
Her words: “Before my grandma passed away, she had made me promise that no matter how tough life would get for me I should always continue to take a step forward, although it might hurt. Of course, I did not know what she meant back then, but as I grew it began to make sense.”  
Instructional aide Kaylah Caputa-Powell: “I’ve never met another student who strides through their struggles with such grace and success. Nataly has faced many challenges throughout her life, personally and socioeconomically; these challenges have never stopped her from achieving her goals.”

Fresno High School
Graduation rate: 92.3%  
Enrollment: 2,140  
Fun fact: The Senate is the oldest continuously active high school club in the United States.  
Greatest accomplishment: Fresno High is authorized as an International Baccalaureate school wall to wall.  
CTE pathways: Innovative Design and Engineering Academy; Marketing and Business Academy; JROTC  
Principal: Elisa Torres Messing

Bijun Jiang
Hoover High School

GPA: 4.0  
College: UC Davis  
Career goal: Computer programmer  
About Bijun: Parents immigrated from China; low-income family; English was her second language; wants to make computer knowledge more accessible to low-income communities, including children in her own neighborhood; wants to develop more efficient multilingual computer systems; enjoys reading and writing.  
Her words: “My own environment has motivated me to develop my goal. As part of a low income community…I am a lucky individual who had the chance to explore and understand the functions and importance of computers in school.”  
Hoover teacher Esther Koers: “Bijun Jiang is relentless. Even when she receives a top score, she knows there is room for improvement. Her work is always exemplary.”

Hoover High School
Graduation rate: 86.52%  
Enrollment: 1,800  
Fun fact: Hoover’s alumni range from the first teacher in space to the current Fresno State softball coach.  
Greatest accomplishment: Hoover’s greatest accomplishments are those of its students, prepared to work in multiple fields.  
CTE pathways: Public Service; Eco-Technology; Media, Design & Production  
Principal: Rebecca Wheeler
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2017

Victoria Marie Gamez
J.E. Young Academic Center

GPA: 2.79
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Elementary teacher and coach

About Victoria: Low-income family; missed large chunks of school because of a broken leg from playing basketball as a freshman and other health issues; after being told she would not graduate with her class she registered for J.E. Young and graduated early in December; channeled her passion for sports into volunteering at the Saturday Sports program, helping elementary students and recruiting other volunteers; has volunteered in the office of Kirk Elementary School since August 2011, amassing 2,076 volunteer hours; has volunteered for 4,160 hours at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church; works at Little Caesar’s Pizza.

Her words: “Yes, there are always downfalls and people who try to bring me down but I still keep going. I have never let any of my medical history or any obstacles stop me.”

Kirk Elementary School office manager Deborah Coronado: “She has potential and I see her doing great things in her years to come. She is a responsible young lady and I am so proud of the young lady that she has become.”

Nicholas Ortiz
Phoenix Secondary Academy

GPA: 2.83
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Firefighter

About Nicholas: Has lived with various relatives and in group homes; attended seven different elementary schools; battled a speech impediment; in middle school was left unsupervised until CPS intervened; was expelled his freshman year for gang activity but formed connections with teachers at Phoenix Secondary and finally found academic success, which turned his life around; has reconnected with family; will be first in family to go to college.

His words: “There have been many people in my life who have told me I won’t succeed, and my future is sitting in a jail cell or dead. However, I have another future in mind. I have come too far and been through too much to turn back now. I am not going to let anyone or anything prevent me from reaching my dreams.”

Teacher Kristin Reese: “In the time I have known Nick I have watched him transition from a confused and angry teenager to a determined, goal oriented man on a mission. In my seven years of teaching at community day school, Nick is one of the few students I have seen put forth the unimaginable effort to change his life’s course.”
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2017

Arafat Amin
McLane High School

GPA: 3.83
College: Undecided
Career goal: Registered nurse

About Arafat: Immigrated from Bangladesh at age 12; got a head start on his nursing career through the medical career pathway at McLane and volunteering at Veterans Hospital; played varsity baseball; volunteered with Special Olympics; earned a spot at the Rotary Club’s Camp Royale summer leadership camp.

His words: “My father and mother have taught me that no matter what it takes, I must continue to work until I have reached my goals.”

McLane teacher Jennifer Pennington: “His family has sacrificed to allow him to get the best education possible. He is determined to make their sacrifice worth it, both for them and for himself. He wants to live the American dream and I truly believe he will.”

Teya Juarez
Roosevelt High School

GPA: 3.94
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Technical and acting work in performing arts

About Teya: Will be a first generation college student; discovered a passion for theater arts at Roosevelt; was further inspired after traveling with the Drama Department to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland; has taken six years of improvisation classes and been in choir for 10 years.

Her words: “I want to show the world that art, in every form, is powerful and can change the world. Whether art makes one person smile or an entire nation stand up for something, it is powerful.”

Drama teacher/director Kathryn M. Koch: “One of the many things that inspires me about Teya is her thirst for knowledge. She is eager to learn about everything, theatrical and non-theatrical. She is open and willing to learn new ideas and concepts.”
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2017

Dez’Rey and Reyna Reyes
Sunnyside High School

GPA: Dez’Rey 3.9 and Reyna 3.73
College: Dez’Rey – UCLA; Reyna – UC Santa Barbara
Career goal: Dez’Rey: neurosurgeon; Reyna: attorney specializing in foster care reform

About Dez’Rey and Reyna: While living on the Ft. Mojave Indian Reservation in Arizona, twins Dez’Rey and Reyna lost their father in 2007 to suicide. With their mother not part of their life, they moved from relative to relative and were eventually placed in foster care. Social Services united the girls with their grandmother in Fresno, who has made many sacrifices to support their education and raise the two girls and their two brothers. They will be the first in their family to attend college. Dez’Rey enjoys playing the piano and basketball and was part of the Doctors Academy. Reyna enjoys art and basketball.

Their words: Dez’Rey -- “Living on the reservation opened my eyes to the socioeconomic and health struggles of those around me. I knew at a very young age I wanted to be in the medical field. I did not want to be stuck, unmotivated and uneducated. I knew education was the way out of a stagnant life and the way to accomplishing my goals while helping others.”

Reyna -- “After experiencing the loss of parents in my life, delayed court decisions, broken family relationships and financial hardships, I am still very much motivated to pursue my education in criminal justice. I want to positively influence others in the court system -- young children who need a stable home and elementary students who are too worried about what they are going to home to while trying to learn how to add and subtract.”

Social worker Doloris Maesner on Dez’Rey: “She grew up in an environment where crime, substance abuse, teen pregnancy and suicide are considered the norm. Education is often overlooked as a means of overcoming these tribulations. Dez’Rey has overcome many obstacles and has moved forward to follow her dreams.”

Upward Bound program adviser Kyle Davis on Reyna: “I have known Reyna to be a goal-oriented, bright and respectful young woman. She has not only taken advantage of the rigorous courses offered at Sunnyside High School, she has also been an active student on campus and among the community of Fresno.”
Summer-time Projects will Upgrade Schools Across Fresno Unified

Asphalt paving reconstruction:
Parking lots at the Center for Professional Development

Exterior paint improvements:
Aynesworth, Centennial, Forkner, Gibson, Lowell, Mayfair, McCardle, Muir, Rowell, Turner, Viking and Webster elementary schools; Cooper Academy; Cambridge High School; Phoenix Academy; and Cesar Chavez Education Center

Floor refinishing:
Sunnyside High School practice gym

Locker Replacement:
Ahwahnee Middle School and Duncan Polytechnical High School

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements:
Terrencez Middle School gym/wrestling room heating and cooling replacement; Hoover cooling tower; start design to replace existing evaporative cooling with air conditioning at Del Mar, Fremont, Jackson and Pyle elementary schools and Computech, Ft. Miller and Yosemite middle schools; replace underground water circulation piping at Kings Canyon Middle School

Roof Replacement:
Multi-purpose building at Heaton and Roeding elementary schools and locker rooms at Scandinavian and Tenaya middle schools

Security Lighting:
Elementary schools

Water Conservation:
Manual to automatic irrigation replacement at Pyle, Ericson, Kratt and Jefferson elementary schools; Ft. Miller and Kings Canyon middle schools; and Duncan Polytechnical

Tennis court reconstruction:
Edison and Roosevelt high schools

Maintenance and Operations Director Served District for 28 Years

Jeff Friesen, the district’s director of maintenance and operations since 2013, retires at the end of June after 28 years with Fresno Unified.

What is the best part about your job?
Supporting students’ opportunity to become career ready.

What is the most challenging part about your job?
Meeting all needs of schools with limited manpower and resources.

What have been the best innovations your department has implemented to better serve schools and the district?
The development of the Mobile Maintenance Trailer Program – five mobile trailers outfitted as shops containing tradespeople and materials to support schools’ repair needs. The trailers rotate throughout all schools for a week duration at a time.

What do most people probably not realize about maintenance and operations and what the department provides?
Our department gets to provide all building and grounds upkeep — facilities, grounds, gardening, and custodial service for the entire district. There is never a dull moment!

What’s the weirdest problem at a school your department ever faced?
Creative students vandalized all exterior locks the night before school starting. No reason to embellish how, however I assure you we were more creative by ensuring all locks were repaired and ready for first day instruction.

What was your very first job?
Mowing neighborhood lawns, paper boy, fabrication of decoupage plaques, flipping burgers, courtesy clerk for Save Mart, and draftsman for Taylor Wheeler Builders. This was all before graduating from high school.

What is one thing most people do not know about you?
I’m a die-hard San Francisco Giants fan, I ride a Harley, I walk on the street side of my wife when walking down a sidewalk, and I always open the door for ladies.

What do you plan to do first after you retire?
Get reacquainted with my wife, spend some serious time with my beautiful granddaughters, and most likely home improvements for my kids. Travel in our fifth wheel, and probably hit more Giants games.

What’s your dream vacation?
Making every day Saturday! Spending time with family and friends.
Sunnyside High School has Record Number of Dell Scholars

Four students from Sunnyside High School have been selected as Dell Scholars this year, bringing the total number of Dell Scholars from Sunnyside to 49 -- the most of any high school in the country.

Dell Scholars receive $20,000 scholarships to the college of their choice and the program provides students with resources and mentoring beyond financial assistance to ensure recipients have the support they need to earn their bachelor’s degree.

This year’s recipients are Veronica Leal and Jennifer Becerra, who will attend UCLA, and Jennifer Yang and Kassy Vang, who will attend UC Berkeley.

All of the winners were in Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) classes, which prepare students to be eligible for four-year universities with a focus on closing the achievement gap.

Tony Fiori, AVID coordinator at Sunnyside, attributes the school’s large number of Dell Scholars to the hard work of AVID elective teachers.

“They work tirelessly to identify potential Dell Scholars year after year and provide them with the support and encouragement they need to become scholars,” Fiori said. “I would also add that it is vital to have an administration that fully supports AVID and sees the benefits this program produces for our students.”

Fiori said all of this year’s Dell Scholars have worked extremely hard.

“All of them represent the grit, potential, and ambition that the Dell Scholars program is looking for in its recipients,” Fiori said. “We, as a Sunnyside staff, are very proud of their accomplishments.”

The Dell Scholars program is an initiative of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. The program recognizes students who have overcome significant obstacles to pursue their education, with a greater emphasis on grit, ambition and potential rather than academic records and test scores.

In addition to their $20,000 scholarship, students receive a laptop and textbook credits. The four Sunnyside seniors are among 400 Dell Scholars selected nationwide.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Hoover High School Aide Named Fresno's Poet Laureate

Bryan Medina, a paraprofessional in Hoover High School's functional skills program, has been named as Fresno's poet laureate -- a two-year post -- and was officially appointed April 27 by the Fresno City Council.

How long have you been writing poetry?

Writing has been a part of my life since I was 12 years old. First, in the form of journaling: talking about my everyday life. Then, in the early '80s rap was just beginning and rhyming with elements of storytelling started to show up in my early writings. In my later teens I felt I could express myself better without having to always depend on a rhyme scheme and fell in love with free verse -- an unrhymed, non-metrical style of poetry-writing made famous by poet Walt Whitman. In my 30s, it was prose poetry with its language play and descriptive pictures, which led me directly to what I’ve been writing and performing the last nearly 20 years: spoken word.

Are you best known for slam poetry? What is a poetry slam?

Although I’ve done other art type things in and out of Fresno (co-owned an art gallery, was a movie and TV extra, and currently an art activist and 3-D paper mache artist in my spare time) I would say “yes.” Slam poetry is a type of competition where people read their poems without props, costumes, or music. After performing, they receive scores (0-10) from five randomly selected judges. The judges can be anyone; they don’t even need to be poets! Scores are awarded based on how much each judge likes a poem. Some competitions are just scores only to determine a winner, while in others, like the Beat Down Slam, our winners take home a cash prize every month.

How do you plan to tie being poet laureate into your work at Hoover High?

Since I already work in education, I would like to expand on that theme and reach out to schools to bring knowledge of our local writing history. I’d like to facilitate students in “thinking outside the box” -- to find their own individual creativity to not only better themselves, but also as a tool when confronting problems instead of using violence.

What are your goals as Fresno’s poet laureate?

I would like to take the poet laureate platform and update it a bit. I’d like to take advantage of the dynamic technology and digital experts here in Fresno to try and use the web and its many ways to connect with others as a means of letting even more people know about our city and its residents.

Name one thing most people do not know about you.

I’m very shy.

If you were not in education, what would your career be?

A full time artist!

Find out how you can become a donor or benefit from food giveaways in your community.

Do YOU have a connection to farmers, packers, grocers or any organization that may have EXCESS food?

Food to Share can help get that food to neighborhoods with little or no access to fresh produce!

For more information, contact Fresno Metro Ministry at 559-485-1416 or chanel@fresnometmin.org

Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Implementation and Dissemination for Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative
Fresno Unified Receives National Award for Financial Management

The Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) recognized the district recently for reaching the highest standards in financial management, accountability and fiscal control with the Award for Excellence in Financial Management. The CGCS, the leading coalition of systems, presented the award at the May 3 board meeting.

“The Fresno Unified School District has demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to excellence in financial management and integrity in the stewardship of taxpayer dollars,” said CGCS Executive Director Michael Casserly, who presented the award.

This is only the fifth time since the CGCS initiated the award program in 2008 that it has honored a school district with its highest national award for sound financial management.

“Fresno Unified has worked diligently over the last decade to adhere to the highest financial accountability standards,” said Ruth Quinto, district deputy superintendent/chief financial officer. “This award is a significant milestone and recognizes the substantial fiscal progress we’ve made, which allows Fresno Unified to provide better facilities and programs for our students.”

Free EOC Lunch Sites

The Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission will offer free lunches this summer at the following Fresno locations. For dates and hours, call (559) 266-3663.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lunch Site</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American Historical &amp; Cultural Museum</td>
<td>1857 Fulton St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arriaga Community Center</td>
<td>3582 S. Winery Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Rodriguez Library</td>
<td>3040 N. Cedar Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Picture Elementary School</td>
<td>735 N. Glenn Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dickey Playground</td>
<td>1515 E. Divisadero St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Einstein Park</td>
<td>3566 E. Dakota Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Dorado Park</td>
<td>1343 E. Barstow Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRM</td>
<td>1940 N. Fresno St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank H. Ball Center</td>
<td>706 Mayor St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Library</td>
<td>2420 Mariposa St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Calwa</td>
<td>3980 E. Jensen Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Cross Center for Women</td>
<td>421 F St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>House of Gospel</td>
<td>3941 E. Mono St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>3079 E. Grand Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kearney Cooley Plaza</td>
<td>720 W. Hawes Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lafayette Park</td>
<td>1516 E. Princeton Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Park</td>
<td>357 N. Glenn Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ella Brown Community Center</td>
<td>1350 E. Annadale Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melody Park</td>
<td>5935 E. Shields Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mosqueda Community Center</td>
<td>4670 E. Butler Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Savior’s Lutheran Church</td>
<td>2101 N. Fruit Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange Center School</td>
<td>3530 S. Cherry Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks at Fig Garden</td>
<td>4085 N. Fruit Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinedale Community Center</td>
<td>7170 N. San Pablo Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quigley Park</td>
<td>808 W. Dakota Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAMPCAMP</td>
<td>1101 E. University Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romain Playground</td>
<td>745 N. First St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scout Island</td>
<td>7695 N. Van Ness Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Crest Apartments</td>
<td>1160 E. Church Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyside Library</td>
<td>5566 E. Kings Canyon Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted. C. Wills Center</td>
<td>770 N. San Pablo Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Courtyard</td>
<td>4498 N. Cornelia Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upward Bound</td>
<td>5240 N. Jackson Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Villa Margaritas</td>
<td>1235 N. Recreation Ave. Apt. 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villa Fresno Mobile Home Park</td>
<td>2333 W. McKinley Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Fresno Elementary School</td>
<td>2910 S. Ivy Ave.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation Director Honored

Reggie Ruben, director of Transportation Services for the district, was awarded the Blackwell Memorial Award from the CHP for 20 years without an accident. Ruben received the award April 25, which is National School Bus Drivers Day. Ruben has been director since 2013. He began driving buses in Los Angeles at age 19 and was hired as a bus driver for Fresno Unified in 1996.
experience for district students. We have also begun working with California Health Service University to expand our healthcare pathways, providing a local bridge to their pharmacy, nursing, or medical school. Add to that the recent relaunch of our Law and Social Justice Pathway at Bullard High School and plans for a construction pathway at Fresno High School, and it is clear CTE expansion is underway.

At our first-ever CTE Summit on May 9, we shared the floor with CTE partners Fresno County Office of the Superintendent and Fresno City College. We gained helpful input from business leaders, parents, and the community surrounding additional needs facing our Central Valley. As a district, it also provided helpful feedback reinforcing that board investments continue to develop strong, confident and engaged college and career ready graduates. Next month’s issue of Building Futures will highlight the many CTE programs helping make that happen for the youth of our city.

**Inversiones del Distrito Significa Más Colegios/Universidades y Opciones de Carrera Para los Estudiantes Graduados del 12vo grado**

Junio, ya está aquí y eso sólo puede significar una cosa — temporada de graduación. A partir del 18 de mayo y continuando hasta el 7 de junio, los estudiantes del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno en nuestras preparatorias de educación comprensiva y alterna estarán celebrando esta ocasión trascendental en 17 etapas diferentes de graduación alrededor de nuestra ciudad. No importa la etapa, este día emocionante significa ambos, logros pasados del estudiante y la ruta para logros en el futuro.

Como estudiantes graduados listos para el colegio y una Carrera, tienen todas las opciones posibles disponibles para ellos con un fuerte fundamento académico y habilidades para el lugar de trabajo y competencias necesarias para el éxito más allá de la preparatoria. Gracias a las inversiones clave de la mesa directiva, más estudiantes se han beneficiado de los cursos de la A a la G, senderos educativos de carrera técnica, aumentando los apoyos socio-emocionales y oportunidades para participar en deportes, actividades y artes.

En general, estas experiencias de aprendizaje guiarán a nuestros estudiantes graduados en la próxima fase de sus vidas, ya sea que se enfocen en estudios superiores o en una carrera después de la preparatoria. Al igual que los estudiantes que siguen después de ellos, conoció que nuestros graduados usarán muchas de las lecciones de la preparatoria en lugares diferentes y dentro del clásico de calles para ser contribuyentes verdaderos a nuestra economía y comunidad. El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno les desea mucho éxito, a cualquier parte que el sendero de su vida les debe llevar.

Durante los últimos meses, la Mesa Educativa ha participado en las presentaciones presupuestales basado en la opinión que se escuchó en más de 145 sesiones comunitarias del Plan de Responsabilidad de Control Local. Durante estas sesiones, el distrito continuó escuchando la necesidad de ampliar senderos de carrera técnica educativa 21, en nuestra preparatoria. El mes pasado, nuestro equipo de Preparación Para el Colegio y una Carrera tuvo la oportunidad de presentar a la mesa directiva el progreso actual y la propuesta de planes para el crecimiento CTE. Fue emocionante ver que tan lejos habíamos llegado el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno y aún mejor los planes para ampliar el programa. Muy pronto se iniciará la práctica en la construcción de camiones grandes de cielo en la instalación de la Preparatoria Duncan Polytechnic. Será la única en el estado en tener una plataforma lo suficientemente grande para acomodar este proyecto de clase única, basado en experiencia para los estudiantes del distrito.

También, comenzamos a trabajar con California Health Service University (CHSU) para ampliar nuestros senderos de cuidado de salud, proveyendo un lapso local a su farmacia y muy pronto escuela médica. Se agregó el ramplamiento de nuestra reciente sendero educativo de Ley y Justicia Social en la Preparatoria Bullard y planes para construir la ruta educativa a la Preparatoria Fresno está claro que la ampliación del CTE está en progreso.

En nuestro primer CTE Summit el 9 de mayo, compartimos la sala con los socios del CTE de la Oficina del Superintendente del Condado de Fresno y Fresno City College. Obtuvimos opinión útil de los líderes de negocios, padres y la comunidad, acerca de necesidades adicionales que enfrenta nuestro Valle Central. Como distrito, también se propusieron sugerencias útiles reforzando las inversiones de la mesa directiva para continuar desarrollando la fortaleza y confianza, estudiantes comprometidos a la universidad/colegio y graduados listos para una carrera. El artículo de Building Futures para el próximo mes pondrá en relieve muchos programas de CTE los cuales contribuyen a ayudar a la juventud de nuestra ciudad.

Haav Paus Tsev Kawmn Ntxaw Njeg Peeg Peex Tlxais Tawr Nias Muaj Tej Kew Xaiv Ntawr Rau College thiab Kev Ua Dej Num rau Cov Kawn Tiav Qib Kaum Ob

Lub rau li twb los txog lawm thib txais tau ib qho tias — lub cajj kawmn tiav. Pib lub Thsiv Hli tim 18 thib muas txog rau lub Rau Hli tim 7, Fresno Haav Paus Tsev Kawmn Ntxaw cov tub kawn ntawr hauv ntxawr lub tsev kawn ntawv them siab thibb lwm txog kew kawn txuj ci ti tab um koob tseeb rau lub cajj noq txog 17 lub sam thaj kew kawn tiav thob plaws peb lub noog. Txawm yuav gog lub sam thaj twog los xij, hauv los zum xauv npo no qhia tau ng vho kawmn ntawv qhov kev kawn tau thiaw lawm txog kev rau kew tu iaq thaj lawm tom ntxej.

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Fresno County Health Officer Offers Straight Talk about Marijuana

You are at that exciting, stressful, yet extremely critical time in your life when you begin to take control of the behaviors and ways you view, and approach, the world around you. These behaviors will determine your health and well-being.

The views and habits you develop right now, set the stage for your happiness, contentment, and future success.

The most harmful threats to your long-term health and well-being include tobacco products, electronic vaping, alcoholic beverages, and drugs (including inhaled and edible marijuana.) These products can badly affect your physical and mental capabilities, make you ill, or even result in death. They will, without any doubt, worsen your future health and cripple your chances for career success and future happiness.

Many of you know that it is now legal in California to use marijuana “recreationally” at age 21. As with the tobacco and alcohol industries, young people will be targeted by a brand new industry intent on making a profit at the expense of your health and future. To protect yourself, know all the facts.

Your brain will continue to develop until age 25. Changes in the structure and function of the adolescent brain have been documented with repeated exposure to marijuana -- the effects of marijuana use are not temporary. For example: Studies show that a regular marijuana user who begins as a teen can lose up to eight IQ points by age 25. This reduction in IQ occurs along with weakened short-term memory and decreases in concentration, attention span, problem solving, speed of information processing, reasoning, and verbal comprehension. It will also decrease your muscle control, coordination, judgment, and reaction time.

This means you will do more poorly in school, job interviews and evaluations. You will do more poorly in sports, enjoy them less and your relationships will suffer. And you will be sicker throughout your life.

You have probably heard that marijuana, and its components, have been used as medication, but it actually has very few proven medical uses. What it does have is a long list of proven bad effects.

I urge you not to try this stuff. I urge you to quit if you are using it, and to ask for help if you can’t quit. But most of all I wish you a long, healthy, prosperous, and happy life.

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Summer Swimming at High Schools

Fresno Unified in partnership with the City of Fresno PARCS Department will open five of its high school pools to community swimming and swimming lessons June 12 through August 6. The pools will be open noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and in the afternoons Monday through Friday (times vary based on the pool and dates).

The joint program, Community Blue and Green Space, offers safe community access and programs during the summer with swimming and park activities at Fresno, Hoover, Edison, Roosevelt, McLane and Sunnyside high schools. Swimming lessons will be offered at Fresno, Hoover, Edison and Bullard high schools.

Swimming will be free on Saturdays and Sundays, $1 on weekdays for children and $2 for adults. For more information regarding hours and cost of lessons, call 621-2900 or visit www.fresno.gov/parks/.