During a festive, inspiring evening Feb. 6, more than 600 guests gathered to celebrate and honor the district’s 45 Excellence in Education finalists. Five outstanding educators were announced as the top winners:

- **Classified category – Myra Ramirez**, home school liaison at Del Mar Elementary School
- **Certificated category, elementary – Carlanda Williams**, Greenberg Elementary School
- **Certificated category, middle school – Minith Real**, Gaston Middle School
- **Certificated category, high school – Laurie Wehner**, Duncan Polytechnical High School
- **Administrator category – Joy Nunes**, Anthony Elementary School

Ramirez, Real and Nunes will move on to the Fresno County Educator of the Year awards. Finalists were nominated by their peers for their work above and beyond for students and the district. The finalists demonstrated dedication to Fresno Unified students and a true desire to see them succeed at school and in life, a desire to keep on learning themselves and willingness to collaborate with and support their colleagues. Many had to overcome significant obstacles in their lives to attain their profession, and use that experience to support students in similar circumstances.

**Duncan Breaks Ground for New Heavy-Trucks Program**

Fresno Unified leaders, teachers and students joined with local business partners to break ground on a 1,620 square foot building for the new career pathway on Jan. 31. The new facility will be unlike anything being built at any high school across the country.

“There is no doubt that our world is changing and so are the needs of our community. Career technology education is helping us expand student learning to meet those needs, ensuring...”

See **LINKED LEARNING** Continued on page 5
Good Attendance Starts Early with Preschool and Kindergarten

When students miss school, they are missing out on learning -- even in preschool and kindergarten.

When students miss out on learning, it is often difficult to catch up and they are likely to do worse academically and socially than students who did not miss a lot of school. Researchers have found that missed days as early as preschool can mean students don’t read as well.

Preschool and kindergarten are a great place to start a habit of going to school every day. In preschool and kindergarten, students should not only be getting a base of learning to build on but establishing a pattern of going to school consistently.

What can a parent do to improve their child’s attendance?

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack back-packs the night before.
- Don’t let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be signs of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child is anxious about going to school, talk to their teacher or other parents for advice on how to make them more comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop a back-up plan for getting to school if something comes up, such as a family member, neighbor or other parent.
- Avoid making medical appointments or taking extended trips when school is in session.

Going to school, every day, even in preschool and kindergarten, is truly important. Research from the non-profit Attendance Works organization found that:

- Early absences are connected to reading difficulties and poor attendance patterns in later years.
- One study found that just 17% of students chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade were reading proficiently in third grade, compared to 64% of those with good attendance.
- Low-income children are four times more likely to be chronically absent.
- Poor attendance is especially detrimental for low-income students, who need more time in the classroom to master reading and have less access to resources outside school to help them catch up.
- Attendance rates are better in schools where parents feel welcomed and engaged and they trust their children are safe.

Applications for After School Program at 29 Sites Available March 23

Fresno Unified operates daily comprehensive after-school programs at 29 elementary schools across the district, with applications for the 2018-19 school year available starting March 23.

These Extended Learning programs are funded by the state’s After School Education & Safety Program (ASES) grants. They are an extension of the regular school day, offering literacy and academic enrichment that aligns with the regular school day core programs.

Students receive academic and literacy support through assistance with homework or reviewing and re-teaching state standards in language arts and mathematics. An enrichment component includes a variety of activities to engage students in new opportunities, such as community service learning, recreation and physical activities, science and technology, career awareness and other activities based on student interests.

The district’s Nutrition Center provides two healthy snacks each day.

All students from each of the 29 school sites, from kindergarten through eighth grade, are eligible to enroll. Programs operate school days only from the end of the school day until 6 p.m. Capacity is limited and enrollment is determined through a lottery system.

Students not selected are placed on a waiting list. Applications for next school year will be available at school sites and accepted until April 20.

Parents of students who are accepted into the program will be notified via letter from school or by phone in early May. Parents of students accepted will be required to attend a mandatory orientation. Students selected for the waiting list will be notified at a later date when space becomes available. For additional questions or information contact school sites or the Extended Learning Office at (559) 248-7464.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno opera a diario los programas después de clase de Aprendizaje Extendido en 29 escuelas primarias en todo el distrito, con solicitudes disponibles iniciando el 27, de marzo para el ciclo escolar 2017-18.

Estos programas de Aprendizaje Extendido son auspiciados a través de concesiones estatales de Programas Educativos Después de Clase y Seguridad (ASES). El programa de Aprendizaje Extendido es una extensión de la clase regular a diario, ofreciendo enriquecimiento en lectoescritura y académico el cual está alineado con los programas fundamentales de clase regular a diario.

El horario a diario incluye apoyo académico y lectoescritura, asistiendo a los estudiantes con la tarea o revisando y re enseñando los estándares estatales en artes de lenguaje y matemáticas.

El programa también incluye un componente de enriquecimiento para
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

District Celebrates its Finest Employees and Expansion of Duncan CTE Classrooms

I am incredibly thankful. I shared that sentiment more than once last month as we celebrated the dedication and commitment of 45 district employees and also broke ground on a one-of-a-kind instructional facility. And I am thankful.

February was a month of celebrating the personal capital district employees invest daily to ensure Fresno Unified provides meaningful opportunities for students and this community.

Feb. 6, more than 600 friends and family members came together to celebrate 45 finalists at Fresno Unified’s Excellence in Education awards. Nominated by colleagues, finalists ranged from teacher librarians, administrators, veteran teachers, new teachers, custodians, office managers and district support staff. While their roles and responsibilities in the district varied widely, they each shared a common goal -- to be a positive influence on the youth of our district.

The evening ended with the announcement of our 2017-18 winners: Elementary Educator of the Year, from Greenberg Elementary School, Carlanda Williams; Middle School Educator of the Year, from Gaston Middle School, Minith Real; High School Educator of the Year, from Duncan Polytechnical High School, Laurie Wehner; Administrator of the Year, from Anthony Elementary School, Joy Nunes; and Classified Employee of the Year, from Del Mar Elementary School, Myra Ramirez. Minith, Joy and Myra were chosen to move on to Fresno County’s Educator of the Year awards next fall. Congratulations to our finalists and winners. Thank you all for what you do for the sake of our more than 74,000 students, employees and community.

Message from Fresno Pacific University Director of Education Linda Hoff

Fresno Pacific Faculty Come Alongside District, FTA

On Monday afternoon, Feb. 5, the Fresno Teachers Association voted to ratify its contract with Fresno Unified. After 18 months of negotiations and reports that the process was stuck and a strike inevitable, the story changed. The community is asking, “What happened?”

Superintendent Bob Nelson and FTA President Tish Rice credited two faculty members from Fresno Pacific University for bringing alongside them to facilitate a conversation that centered on the relationship between the district and the teachers.

As director of Teacher Education at Fresno Pacific University, I have had the honor and pleasure of working closely with Fresno Unified leaders and teachers for many years. Drawing from these relationships, I invited Bob and Tish to join me and my colleague, Dr. Larry Dunn from the Center for Peacemaking at Fresno Pacific, to talk together about how they hoped the relationship between the district and teachers might be different.

We only asked that each one genuinely listen to the other. People on both sides of the table took risks as they uncovered misperceptions of one another’s intentions and goals. We didn’t bargain. We talked. Honesty grew. Respect grew. Trust emerged. As we made progress, one “win” at a time, we continually asked, “How can our success in this room make a difference outside of it?” That process later led Tish to call this our “sacred space.”

Just a few days before Excellence in Education, Fresno Unified broke ground on a one-of-a-kind facility at Duncan, with business partners, students and staff all there to celebrate. This project will modernize the current career technology education facilities while establishing the first large truck maintenance and repair training facility – a facility we believe puts students at the center of the transportation industry, poised to be a part of our city’s growing distribution industry in the heart of the Golden State.

There is no doubt -- our world is changing and so are the needs of our community. CTE is helping us expand student learning to meet those needs, ensuring we are preparing our students for the world that awaits them beyond the boundaries of Fresno Unified. CTE programs pair traditional academic learning with hands-on

See SUPT. MESSAGE
SPANISH AND HMONG
Continued on page 15

Non-Discrimination Policy: Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate or discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, parental or marital status, military veteran status or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment (BP 0410). For the full policy and a list of compliance officers, go to www.fresnounified.org.

www.FresnoUnified.org | PREPARING CAREER READY GRADUATES | Page 3
Fresno Unified is expanding its dual language immersion program across the district.

Currently, Ewing, Leavenworth, Rowell and Sunset elementary schools, Wawona School, Yosemite Middle School and McLane High School offer Spanish dual immersion. Next year, Burroughs, Calwa, Centennial, Lane, Roeding and Williams elementary schools will offer the Spanish dual immersion program for prekindergarten, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students.

Last fall, the district offered its first full Spanish dual immersion pathway continuum from pre-kindergarten through high school. Rowell Elementary feeds into Yosemite Middle and McLane High schools.

Fresno Unified is committed to providing quality curriculum to ensure students are bilingual, biliterate and culturally competent upon graduation.

The district is also expanding its Hmong language immersion program. Starting this fall, Fresno Unified will offer a new Hmong language immersion program at Vang Pao Elementary School. The program will offer one preschool class for children ages 3 and 4, one transitional kindergarten class for children ages 4 and 5, two kindergarten classes and two first grade classes.

The new Hmong curriculum comes after successful implementation of Hmong dual immersion after-school programs at Vang Pao and Greenberg elementary schools.

Fresno Unified’s Spanish dual immersion program begins at pre-kindergarten or kindergarten. At this starting level, students receive instruction in Spanish for 90% of the day and in English 10% of the day. With each passing grade level, the percentage of instruction in English increases, with fourth grade on curriculum taught 50% in English and 50% in Spanish. The students learn to read, write and speak in both languages.

The Hmong language immersion program follows a 50/50 model. Students are instructed 50% of the time in Hmong and 50% of the time in English in all grade levels. “Students who are bilingual and bi-literate will have many advantages when it comes to job opportunities, college and life. We’re pleased we can respond to our parents’ and community’s wishes to provide dual language immersion education for students,” said Dr. María Maldonado, assistant superintendent of English Learner Services.

All schools are currently accepting applications for pre-kindergarten, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. For more information, please call 457-3310.

Del Mar Elementary School has launched new classes this semester -- for parents.

Del Mar is the first Fresno Unified elementary school to host adult classes under a new partnership with Fresno City College. A 15-week English pronunciation class began in January on Wednesdays for parents and community members. The class meets for three hours in the morning and costs $20.

“This is exciting as we are the first elementary school to offer such classes,” said Myra Ramirez, home school liaison at Del Mar. “Del Mar Elementary believes in the positive impact of a good education. We strive to change the culture of our school from the inside out by investing in our parents.”

Of the 26 parents in the class, 23 are Del Mar parents. The parents had participated in English as a second language classes at Del Mar offered through Fresno Unified’s adult school for several years.

With the parents ready for a more advanced class, Ramirez researched and pursued options on their behalf, eventually reaching an agreement with Fresno City College.

Parents have the option of earning three college credits through the course. The course helps the adult students master the most common challenges in sounds, spelling patterns, rhythms and intonations. In the fall, Del Mar will offer listening and speaking classes and reading and writing next spring, giving the parents the opportunity to earn four units per class.
comprometer a los estudiantes en nuevas oportunidades con una variedad de actividades. Estas actividades pueden incluir aprendizaje de servicio comunitario, actividades recreativas y físicas, ciencia y tecnología, conocimiento de carrera y otras actividades de enriquecimiento basadas en el interés del estudiante. El Centro Nutricional del distrito provee dos bocadillos nutritivos todos los días.

Todos los estudiantes de cada una de las 29 escuelas, desde kindergarten transicional hasta el octavo grado, son elegibles para inscripción. Los programas operan sólo los días de clases a partir de que termina la clase hasta las 6 p.m. La capacidad es limitada, sin embargo la inscripción es determinada por medio de un sistema de sorteos. Los estudiantes no seleccionados son colocados en la lista de espera.

Las solicitudes para el próximo ciclo escolar estarán disponibles en la escuela y serán aceptadas hasta el 21 de abril.

Los padres cuyos estudiantes son aceptados en el programa se les notificará por medio de una carta de la escuela o por teléfono a principios de mayo. Los padres de estudiantes que son aceptados será obligatorio asistir a la orientación. Los estudiantes seleccionados para la lista de espera se les notificará después, cuando haya lugar disponible. Para preguntas adicionales o información comuníquese con la escuela o a la Oficina de Aprendizaje Extendido al (559) 248-7535.

Cov Ntawv Thov rau Kev Kawm Txusas Ntxiv Tom Qab Lawb Ntawv Qhov Kev Kawm Muaj Sai No

Fresno Unified tej kev khiav dej num txhua txhua hnung Kev Kawm Txusas Ntxiv tom qab lawb ntxaw cov kev kawm hauv 29 lub tsev kawm ntxaw them qis thoob plaws hauv paeus txawm kawm ntawv, nrog rau cov ntxaw thov rau xyoo kawm ntxaw 2017-18 muaj pb ntxaw lub Pbl Hlis tim 27 mus.

Cov Kev Kawm Txusas Ntxiv no raug them los ntxaw lub xeev qhov Txuj Ci Kawm Tom Qab Lawb Ntawv & Qhov Kev Nyob Nyab Xeeb (ASES) pob niyaj. Qhov Kev Kawm Txusas Ntxiv yog ib qho kev txusas ntxaw kev kawm txhua hnung, qhib muaj kawm nyesum

thiab sau thiab kev txhawb gab txuj ci uas yog muab tso nrog tej kev kawm tseem ceeb txhua hnung.

Sij hawm teem txhua hnung xam nrog rau kev txhawb gab txuj ci thiab nyesum thiab sau tub kawm ntawv tej hoo vawj los yog ua zoo xyuas thiab rov qhia dua lub xeev tej qauv teev tsev ua lus thiab lej.

Qhov kev kawm kuj xam nrog rau ib feem kev txhawb gab los txam tuv kawm ntawv hauv tej hau kev qhib tshiab rau ntau yam dej num ua. Tej dej num ua no muaj peev xwm xam nrog rau kawm txog zej zog kev gab, kev ua si thiab tej dej num sim lub ceev, txhawb fawb thiab txuj ci siab, paub txog dej num ua, thiab lwm yam dej num kev txhawb gab paws li tub kawm ntawv kev ntxim siab. Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv lub “Nutrition Center” npaj muaj o pluas noj txom ncuaj muaj kuab mub movt txhua hnung.

Txhua tus tuv kawm ntawv ntawv tej lwb lub ntawv 29 lub tsev kawm ntawv, los ntxawm transitional kindergarten txog qib yim, muaj kev tsm nyog los cuv npe. Cov kev kev khiav dej num cov hnuh kawm ntawv nkaus xwb thaan xaus ntxaw kev kawm txhua hnung ntxawm txog thaan 6 p.m. Chaw muaj tsawg, txawm li ntxawm los, kev cuv npe yog txiv txim siab los ntxawm ib qho kev nhro hmoov. Tej tuv kawm ntawv tsis raug xaiw yauv raug muab tso rau hauv daim ntawv teev npe los.

Myra Ramirez
Classified Employee of the Year
Job: Home school liaison at Del Mar Elementary School

Stands out because: Ramirez has outstanding communication skills with both students and adults and has earned the respect of the Del Mar staff, families and students because of her kind demeanor and work ethic. She is constantly securing resources in the community to help Del Mar families. She also has coached track and cross country teams, started a parent volunteer group, volunteers at all school events, works extra hours to manage breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria, coordinates parent learning opportunities and leads the Environmental Club for students. She sought the help of the Helping Hands Pantry to provide Christmas meals and toys for Del Mar families and works with the Central Blackstone Association on her own time to ensure students have a better place to live. Because of her work, Del Mar now has a supportive group of parents who participate in school events. Ramirez has been with the district since 2010 and with Del Mar for seven years. She is married with a 12-year-old daughter. She says: “I really want to change the culture of our school by investing in our parents.”

“Really want to change the culture of our school by investing in our parents.”

From her principal, Nicole Woods: “She builds relationships with everyone she encounters and her positivity is contagious.”

Carlanda Williams
Elementary Educator of the Year
Job: Third grade teacher at Greenberg Elementary School

Stands out because: Her love for her work shines through every day and the students can’t get enough of her amazing passion. She instills a true love of learning. She engages her students with whole brain teaching, using movement, listening, speaking and acting. She has transformed her classroom into a Disney-like happy place. She organizes Character Counts rallies, and has led cheer teams and dance troupes. She is a mentor teacher and is frequently asked to share her techniques and expertise by organizations such as National Geographic and the California Teachers Association Magazine. Williams has been with the district since 2009 and at Greenberg since the beginning of this school year. She says: “If you set that bar high, the students are going to rise to it.”

From resource specialist Michelle Diebert: “Carlanda is exactly the type of teacher we all wish the students could clone and place in every classroom across the district.”

Minith Real
Middle School Educator of the Year
Job: P.E. teacher at Gaston Middle School

Stands out because: He is beloved by students and staff for his dedication, sense of humor, excellent instruction and dance moves. He is part of a P.E. Department with the highest fitness scores in the district. He incorporates literacy skills into his P.E. lesson plans, having students take notes, write reflections and discuss their learning with partners as they collaborate to create games, dances and workouts to strengthen the muscle of the week. Every minute of instructional time is used efficiently. He is a master at using the district’s behavior expectation model and has very few referrals per year. He develops student leadership skills by having them lead warm-ups and collaborative groups and be responsible for jobs for each unit. If students forget their P.E. clothes, he has loaners. He coaches volleyball and golf, recruiting students who have never golfed before. At Fresno State’s request, he provides professional learning on how to teach P.E. for future teachers. Real was born in the jungle of Cambodia because the cities were not safe and does not know his exact birthdate. His family fled the war in Cambodia for refugee camps in Thailand before a church sponsored them to come to the U.S. They eventually settled in Fresno where he went to Wolters, Mayfair and Norseman elementary schools, Scandinavian Middle School and graduated at the top his class from Duncan Polytechnical High School. He is engaged to be married. Real says: “I was a shy immigrant child and my teachers took me in and talked to me and made sure I was OK. I want to pass the torch down.”

From his vice principal, Deborah Neufeld: “We love Mr. Real and all he brings to Gaston.”

District leaders celebrate with Excellence in Education winners. From left: Board members Claudia Cizares, Cal Johnson and Carol Mills, administrator winner Joy Nunes, elementary winner Carlanda Williams, classified winner Myra Ramirez, middle school winner Minith Real, high school winner Laurie Wehner, board President Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas, board clerk Valerie Davis, board member Christopher De La Cerda and Superintendent Bob Nelson.
2018 Excellence in Education Winners

Laurie Wehner  
High School Educator of the Year  
Job: Director of the nursing assistant programs at Duncan Polytechnical High School’s Medical Academy of Science and Health (approved and monitored by the California Department of Health)  
Stands out because: Wehner has been a Regional Occupational Program (ROP)/career technical education teacher in nursing education for many years and has helped build a highly successful nursing program at Duncan. She has dedicated more than 20 years to preparing students to enter the work force after graduation and has a 98% pass rate on the State Nursing Exam and manages 100 clinical hours for her students. Because of her exemplary reputation, Duncan nursing graduates are in high demand and are employed in hospital and care facilities throughout the city. She has established a culture of professionalism, diversity and responsibility, allowing her students to thrive and achieve academic success. She is a mentor to other teachers in the nursing pathway. She is married with three grown children. She was a medical surgical nurse for many years prior to becoming a teacher with Fresno Unified in 1994. Wehner says: “The impact we have on our community is to provide good medical care that is diversified.”  
From Wehner’s fellow teacher, Kristine Dutcher: “She has a high level of rigor that she consistently instills in her instruction in order to meet the demands of the state of California’s nursing curriculum.”

Joy Nunes  
Administrator of the Year  
Job: Principal of Anthony Elementary School  
Stands out because: Nunes is a model of decorum and patience even in the most difficult situations. She always makes others feel that they are being listened to and that their concerns matter. It is evident from her leadership style that she truly believes all children can learn and that she has confidence that her team can make that a reality for students. She makes her staff feel valued, respected and understood while imparting high expectations for students and staff alike. She is an advocate for all students participating in music and sports, regardless of hardships or academic challenges, so that they can better connect with others and their school, build communication skills and trust and learn to be part of a team. Nunes is married with a grown son. She has been with the district since 1998, eight years at Anthony. She says: “We need to equip kids to have all they need to make positive futures so they are not stuck in the cycle of poverty.”  
From Anthony teacher Guadalupe Andrade: “It is refreshing to see that she still understands the struggles teachers and students face day in and day out and that she can use that to motivate us to keep bettering our teaching and our school, for our future lies in the hands of these children.”
High School Students Flex Brains at Fresno County Academic Decathlon

Edison, Bullard Place Second and Third

Edison High School’s Daniel Clark, left, and Sumanjit Gill compete in the Super Quiz Feb. 3 at the Fresno County Academic Decathlon. Edison’s team placed second in the decathlon, finishing 680.5 points behind first place University High School (51,371 to 50,690.5). Edison outscored University High on the seven written tests (Art, Music, Math, Science, Social Science, Language & Literature, Economics), but came up short on the Super Quiz (560 points) and subjectives (289 points in Speech, Essay, and Interview). Edison swept the Dean’s Medals: Madeleine Fischer 9,209.3 (out of 10,000), Daniel Clark 9,066.6 and Sumanjit Gill 8,799.4. Edison won 49 medals to University High’s 46. Bullard High School’s team placed third in Division I behind Edison. In Division 2, Sunnyside High School was third and in Division 3 Duncan Polytechnical High School was third and also won Most Improved. In Division 4, Cambridge High School was third.

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Edison High School’s Daniel Clark, left, and Sumanjit Gill compete in the Super Quiz Feb. 3 at the Fresno County Academic Decathlon. Edison’s team placed second in the decathlon, finishing 680.5 points behind first place University High School (51,371 to 50,690.5). Edison outscored University High on the seven written tests (Art, Music, Math, Science, Social Science, Language & Literature, Economics), but came up short on the Super Quiz (560 points) and subjectives (289 points in Speech, Essay, and Interview). Edison swept the Dean’s Medals: Madeleine Fischer 9,209.3 (out of 10,000), Daniel Clark 9,066.6 and Sumanjit Gill 8,799.4. Edison won 49 medals to University High’s 46. Bullard High School’s team placed third in Division I behind Edison. In Division 2, Sunnyside High School was third and in Division 3 Duncan Polytechnical High School was third and also won Most Improved. In Division 4, Cambridge High School was third.
Preparing Career Ready Graduates

The Fresno Unified School District has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state, federal laws and regulations and has established procedures to address allegations of unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and complaints alleging violations of state or federal laws governing educational programs including all academic, extra-curricular and school-sponsored activities, the charging of unlawful pupil fees, and complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or any other characteristic identified in Education Code 200 or 220, Penal Code 422.55, or Government Code 11135, or based on their association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

A complainant has a right to appeal the LEA’s decision to the California Department of Education (CDE) by filing a written appeal within 15 days of receiving the LEA’s decision. In any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the respondent also shall have the right to file an appeal with the CDE in the same manner as the complainant if they are dissatisfied with the district’s decision. The appeal must include a copy of the complaint filed with the LEA and a copy of the LEA’s decision.

Civil law remedies may be available under state or federal discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying laws, if applicable. In appropriate cases, an appeal may be filed pursuant to Education Code Section 202.3. A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the LEA’s complaint procedure. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders.

The UCP shall also be used when addressing complaints alleging district noncompliance with legal requirements related to the implementation of the local control and accountability plan (LCAP). A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying must be filed not later than six (6) months from the date the alleged incident occurred or six months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. The time for filing may be extended for up to 90 days by the Superintendent or designee for good cause shown written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension.

As appropriate for any complaint alleging violations, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Superintendent or designee may keep the identity of the complainant confidential to the extent that the investigation of the complaint is not obstructed. Complainants shall be safeguarded from retaliation.

Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, discriminatory harassment, intimidation or bullying must be filed not later than six (6) months from the date the alleged incident occurred or six months from the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. The time for filing may be extended for up to 90 days by the Superintendent or designee for good cause shown written request by the complainant setting forth the reasons for the extension.

As appropriate for any complaint alleging violations, unlawful discrimination, discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Superintendent or designee may keep the identity of the complainant confidential to the extent that the investigation of the complaint is not obstructed. Complainants shall be safeguarded from retaliation.
Fresno High School Selected to Participate in New IB Initiative

Fresno High School has been selected to participate in a new national initiative to increase the number of under-represented students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

Fresno High’s IB program is a premier college prep curriculum that champions critical thinking, extra-curricular activities and community service. Students can pursue the Diploma Programme or the Career-related Programme.

Fresno Unified has created a kindergarten through high school continuum for IB through Daily Elementary Charter School and Cooper Academy middle school. Fresno High has offered the IB Diploma Programme since 2002 and was just recently authorized to offer the Career-related Programme.

The district is seeking to broaden participation in IB at Fresno High so that a greater number of students from a wider array of backgrounds can benefit from its academic and community-focused programs.

Fresno High has been selected to participate in IB’s Excellence and Equity Initiative, known as E2. Over the next two years, school leaders and teachers will work to remove barriers to IB participation for under-represented students and create pathways to IB programs.

They will also implement strategies that support the success of under-represented IB students and give them the tools they need to be successful after high school. Under-represented students include racial and ethnic populations and socio-economically disadvantaged students, including homeless and foster youth, who are typically underrepresented in advanced academic programs.

Research indicates that less than 1% of diverse schools nationwide have advanced IB programs in which their students reflect the diversity of the overall school population.

Research has also shown that IB programs can help underrepresented

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Aspiring Teachers Invited to District Expo at McLane High

Fresno Unified will host an Aspiring Teacher Expo on March 20 to encourage qualified candidates to enroll in one of the many teacher programs available.

The district offers more than eight programs for aspiring teachers seeking extra help along the way, including the Teacher Residency Program and Transition to Teaching. Fresno Unified is looking to fill more than 300 open positions for the 2018-19 school year, with a high need for special education, math, science and multiple subject teachers.

This year’s Aspiring Teacher Expo will feature some new attendees: Fresno Unified students. For the first time, the district is opening up the event to current high school seniors who are interested in finding out more about the rewarding field of teaching.

“Many of our high school students are already enrolled in education pathways with the goal of coming back to the district to teach. We’re hoping that by inviting them to the Aspiring Teacher Expo, they get complete access to all of the programs that can help them get there,” said Traci Taylor, a manager in Teacher Development.

Attendees are asked to bring a resume and dress in work attire. The March 20 Aspiring Teacher Expo will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at McLane High School. Representatives from the district’s university partners will also be on hand.

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DO YOUR KIDS KNOW WHAT THIS SIGN MEANS?

The black and yellow Safe Place sign identifies a location where youth can ask for help to resolve difficult situations. Safe Place sites provide youth an access point for immediate help. All Fresno Unified schools, Fresno and Clovis buses are Safe Place sites.

It can be hard for youth to confide in parents. We are here to help. Youth can text “Safe” with their current location (address/city/state) to 69866 to find the nearest Safe Place location.

For more info visit www.FresnoEOC.org/Safe-Place

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Fresno High School teacher Marco Tovar works with, from left, students Jaime De La Cruz, Billy Sayavong and Grisell Ochoa in an International Baccalaureate (IB) class. Fresno High has been selected to participate in a new national initiative to increase the number of under-represented students in the IB program.

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See FRESNO HIGH
Continued on page 11
District Hosts First Black College Expo for Juniors, Seniors

Fresno Unified hosted the district’s first Black College Expo on Feb. 13 at Fresno High School’s gym, a unique opportunity for juniors and seniors to meet one-one-one with many of the nation’s most prestigious historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

More than 400 students attended, with many of the 26 schools offering seniors a chance to apply and receive an immediate response on both admission and scholarships. By the end of the event, 249 offers of admission were made to students and more than $900,000 in scholarships awarded.

As an added benefit to Fresno Unified students, college application fees were waived and the normal cost to attend -- $7 or $8 -- was covered by Fresno Unified.

Representatives were also on hand from Clovis Community College, which has a transfer guarantee agreement with 35 HBCUs.

“This is the first event sponsored by the recently formed Office of African-American Academic Acceleration to highlight the importance of African-American academic success and achievement,” said Wendy McCulley, executive director of the Office of African-American Academic Acceleration.

“Historically, HBCUs have served as a place for African-American students to learn and thrive. They welcome all students and are increasingly diverse. We hope students and their families will take advantage of the many opportunities these colleges and universities afford.”

The district’s College & Career Readiness and Goal 2 departments were partners in putting on the event.

Participating schools were Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Bethune-Cookman University, Cheyney University, Clark Atlanta University, Dillard University, Fisk University, Florida Memorial University, Fort Valley State, Grambling State University, Harris Stowe University, Howard University, Jackson State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Langston University, Lincoln University PA, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T State University, Norfolk State University, Paul Quinn College, Philander Smith College, Southern A&M University, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, Wilberforce University, and Wiley College.

About IB

IB was founded in 1968. The non-profit foundation now offers four high quality and challenging educational programs to students ages 3-19 years old. IB engages with more than 1.4 million students in over 4,775 schools across 153 countries.

Groups be more persistent and successful and more likely to achieve entrance to college.

One of the most compelling studies found that IB Diploma candidates in Chicago Public Schools (low income, minority, first generation college goers) have not internalized the negative stereotype effect of similar non-IB students. The study concluded that, “the IB program in Chicago appears to have accomplished something very rare in urban education: it took economically and socially disadvantaged students and radically changed their long-term educational prospects by making them world-class learners with an arsenal of academic skills.”

“We are extremely proud of our IB programs at Fresno High and we want to make sure that every student on campus has an opportunity to experience the life-changing curriculum of IB,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 26-April 2</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
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Webster Elementary Makes the Right Moves with Chess Club

Webster Elementary School has a new chess club, thanks to volunteers from Pelco and Fresno State.

Students from the 16-member chess club are now busy learning to play chess or honing their skills during lunch. The club will compete in a regional chess tournament at Tehapi Middle School later in the school year.

It all began with employees at Pelco (a video security systems company in Clovis) wanting to share their knowledge of chess with Webster students and holding a week-long chess boot camp in January. They now volunteer on their lunch time on Wednesdays with the chess club.

The Fresno State Chess Club then stepped forward, and members come on Fridays to work with the students. Of the 16 club members, only four joined the club knowing how to play.

Fourth-grader Mario Mendez considers his next move during chess club practice with John Kemp, a member of the Fresno State Chess Club. Volunteers from Fresno State and Pelco are helping the new chess club members improve their skills.

Webster Elementary School fifth-grader Mario Mendez considers his next move during chess club practice with John Kemp, a member of the Fresno State Chess Club. Volunteers from Fresno State and Pelco are helping the new chess club members improve their skills.

Principal Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara and Pelco for the opportunity to help at Webster Elementary, and said that helping had been a great learning experience for club members as well.

“The enthusiasm to learn chess that we see from the boys and girls is an awesome experience,” Khera said.

“As we progress weekly, we notice advancement that shows hope for future opportunities for the students of Webster Elementary.”

Stacy-Alcantara said the chess club is teaching students to think and problem solve in a different context.

“It teaches basic skills, like taking turns and thinking before making a move. With the proliferation of video games, students seldom play classic board games and chess goes back to the basics. There is strategy and they are playing against a real live opponent,” Stacy-Alcantara said.

School Jobs at Mayfair Elementary Teach Pride in Campus

Mayfair Elementary School has launched a new program that engages students in meaningful work on campus as a way of contributing to their school and learning job skills.

During Mayfair’s first campus job fair on Feb. 1 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students interviewed for campus jobs such as classroom assistant, librarian assistant, playground equipment manager, recess snack assistant, custodial assistant, attendance data collector, tablet cleaner, student birthday manager, lost and found manager, and lunch server.

Students began working at their new jobs during morning or lunch recess on Feb. 15.

Mayfair Elementary piloted the school-based jobs program in the first semester with specific students who needed extra support based on attendance and behavior challenges. The school understands that beneath these issues are unmet needs of students that must be met with a new approach.

The school found that students who participated in the school job program became more connected and began to experience greater success in the classroom and playground, and improved academically. The school is excited to expand the job program school-wide this semester.

“Providing school jobs has given students an opportunity to practice life-skills that are needed for their careers in the future,” said Christeen Begley, a fourth/fifth teacher at Mayfair.

Mayfair Elementary is among district schools fully engaged in restorative practices, which is a culture and discipline shift to building, affirming, and repairing relationships. Providing meaningful ways for students to contribute to their school community is a cornerstone of restorative practices.

What makes this approach unique is that each student is mentored by a caring adult who understands that past behavior challenges came from unmet needs. School jobs are designed to meet students’ basic needs for belonging and competence.

The campus jobs also help Mayfair students prepare for college and career and work towards the district’s board-adopted Goal 3: “All students will demonstrate the character and competencies for workplace success.”

“The work we are doing as a school has brought a feeling of belongingness and has motivated our students to realize they are an important part of our school community,” said Mayfair Principal Gay Ockey.

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**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

**Computech Middle School Flute Player Hits the Right Notes**

Sasha Richburg, an eighth grader at Computech Middle School, could not believe it when she was selected to play as part of the 2018 California All-State Honors Ensembles.

“I was really not expecting to get into the band, but afterwards, when reality hit, I said, wow, I actually made it,” Sasha said.

Sasha was among 125 middle school students from across the state selected to attend the California All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC). The group spent two days rehearsing before the concert band performed on Feb. 18. Sasha plays the flute.

Sasha prepared for her audition by practicing every day. She has played the flute since she was in fourth grade.

“My dad is the one person that has influenced me the most. He’s also a musician and plays the piano,” Sasha said. “I’ve grown up in a musical home and he’s really inspired me to reach for the stars and achieve all that I’m capable of.”

Sasha also plays the piano like her dad and takes private piano lessons. In addition to playing the flute and the piano, Sasha keeps herself busy with tennis, forensics, and student leadership activities.

“A lot of my friends are shocked about all my activities outside of school. I have something every single day after-school and my weekends are filled with practice,” Sasha said.

Sasha said she also works hard to stay on top of her school work so she can enjoy doing all her extracurricular activities. She is not afraid of putting in extra time and working hard, but knows that it can be a challenge to try to fit everything in.

Sasha would like to attend Edison High School or San Joaquin Memorial High School next year and then would love to pursue college to be a doctor of oncology or dermatology.

“I’m not going to give up on my music. I’d definitely want to keep that in my life and in the event that I get married, I’d want my children to be musical and have music in their life as well,” she said.

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**STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**THE WHALE**

*By Samuel D. Hunter*

Directed by Charles Erven

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- March 4, 9, 10 • 2:00 PM
- FCC Theatre

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**SCREENING OF DOLORES**

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Friday, March 23 • 6:00 PM
Old Administration Building Auditorium
Presented by ValleyPBS

KAO KALIA YANG
Author of *The Latehomecomer*

Thursday, April 12 • 6:00 PM
Old Administration Building Auditorium
Co-sponsored by the Fresno County Public Library as part of The Big Read campaign
Refreshing: Teachers Eligible for New Computers Every Three Years

The district continues to better support the use of technology by both teachers and students, including improvements to the computer “refresh” program — the purchase of new computers.

Until four years ago, school sites paid for all computers, including computer maintenance. Teacher computers were often older or not performing, making administrative work like taking attendance difficult and discouraging meaningful use of technology in the classroom for learning.

In 2013, the district’s Information Technology Department, with support from the superintendent and the Fresno Unified Board of Education, began replacing computers that had been used for five years. In addition, computer costs were shifted from school site funds to district funds.

Beginning last school year, the refresh program got even better. The board approved funds for teachers to receive a new computer after their computer has been used for three years.

“When computers for students and teachers are current and working, then well-prepared teachers can effectively use technology to enhance learning for every student. It’s opening up new and exciting opportunities for learning,” said Philip Neufeld, executive director of Technology Services.

Each elementary school is saving about $10,000 a year because they don’t have to buy new computers for teachers, with even greater savings for middle schools and high schools. Those savings allow school site funds to be spent on other technology, or in some other way.

This school year, more than 1,400 computers will have been delivered to newly hired teachers as well as teachers whose computers were more than three years old.

The district also improved how student computers are funded and kept current across all school sites. Last summer, the board approved funding to refresh student computers after four years of use. This funding covers instructional classrooms at elementary schools and English language arts/math classrooms at middle schools and high schools.

School sites previously were responsible for purchasing new computers. Now sites are just responsible for maintenance. This has freed up at least an additional $20,000 per year for schools.

Similar to repairs for teacher computers, the repair process for student computers replaces a non-functioning or damaged student computer with a similar or newer model. For details see http://bit.ly/2E9pZkV.

Tioga Middle School library media teacher Matt Vongehr learns how to use Minecraft as a learning tool last June. The district this year initiated a new policy to provide new teacher computers every three years.
Este hace mucho tiempo que se iba a realizar y sin el apoyo del personal, socios de negocios y nuestra comunidad a través de la Medida Q y la Medida X esta clase de mejoras a las instalaciones no serían posibles. Le agradecer a nuestros estudiantes cuando digo que se realizará este nuevo proyecto CTE valdrá la pena esperar.

**Tuam Thawj Saib Kev Kawm tsab xo**

Kuv ua tsaug naa tuau. Kuv zoo siaab kawg naa htau.

Hace unos días antes de la Excelencia en Educación, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno inició la construcción única de la instalación en Duncan, con los socios de negocios, estudiantes y todo el personal al final para la celebración. El proyecto proporcionará las instalaciones de carrera de educación tecnológica actual mientras se establece la primera instalación de capacitación de mantenimiento y reparación de camiones – una instalación que creemos co-loca a los estudiantes en el centro de la industria del transporte, preparado para ser parte del desarrollo de distribución industrial en nuestra ciudad.

Sin duda – el mundo está cambiando lo mismo que las necesidades de nuestra comunidad. El CTE nos está ayudando a ampliar el aprendizaje estudiantil para reunir estas necesidades, asegurando que estamos preparando a nuestros estudiantes para el mundo que les espera más allá de los límites del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno. Los programas CTE a la par del aprendizaje académico tradicional con práctica sobre experiencia en una carrera. Aquí en nuestro Distrito Unificado se enfocar el cual equivala a 25 caminos de Enlace de Aprendizaje, 130 programas CTE y cursos para los grados 7-12 y más de 11,500 estudiantes participando a nivel distrito. La nueva instalación en la Preparatoria Duncan Polytechnical asegura que continuamos proporcionando a los estudiantes el mayor número de elección de la más amplia variedad de opciones.

El proyecto proveyó en el distrito del un nuevo salón de clase formal de mantenimiento en práctica de capacitación, talleres dentro del garaje/cochera y cubierta de espacio exterior para examinar las emisiones a los camiones. El edificio nuevo también incluye la educación del oficio de construcción incluyendo un espacio grande al aire libre. Duncan también ampliará sus talleres en los salones de clase actuales de soldadura y fabricación, proveerá un espacio de prestación de los camiones y mantenimiento automotriz.

**Mesaje del Superintendente**

Me siento increíblemente agradecido. He compartido este sentimiento más de una vez el mes pasado mientras celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de 45 empleados del distrito, también, se inició la construcción única de una instalación educativa. Lo agradezco mucho. El mes de febrero fue un mes de celebración de la inversión capital personal diaria de los empleados del distrito para asegurar que el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno provee oportunidades significativas para los estudiantes y esta comunidad.

El 6 de febrero, cerca de 600 amigos y familiares se reunieron para celebrar a los 45 finalistas en el reconocimiento de Excelencia en Educación del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno. Nomina- dos por colegas y por la comunidad, llevaron a cabo una meta común – para ser una influencia positiva en los jóvenes de nuestro distrito. La noche terminó con el anuncio de nuestros ganadores del 2017-18: Educador del Año de Primaria, Carlanda Williams de la Primaria Greenburg; Educador del Año de Secundaria, Minith Real de la Secundaria Gaston.; Educador del Año de Preparatoria, Laurie Wehner de la Preparatoria Duncan Polytechnical.; Administrador del Año, Joy Nunes de la Primaria Anthony.; Educador del Año Clasificado, Myra Ramirez de la Primaria Del Mar, Laurie, Joy y Myra fueron elegidas para avanzar a los reconocimientos de Educador del Año del Condado de Fresno el próximo otoño. Felicidades a nuestros finalistas y ganadores. Gracias a todos por lo que hacen por el bienestar de nuestros más de 74,000 estudiantes, empleados y comunidad.

Este montaje puso en el distrito para asegurar que el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno capital personal diaria de los empleados promiso de 45 empleados del distrito, celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de una vez el mes pasado mientras celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de 45 empleados del distrito, promiso de 45 empleados del distrito, celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de una vez el mes pasado mientras celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de 45 empleados del distrito, celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de una vez el mes pasado mientras celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de una vez el mes pasado mientras celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de una vez el mes pasado mientras celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso de una vez el mes pasado mientras celebramos la increíble dedicación y compromiso.

Tusas yog ob peb hnuab ua ntej qhov Kev Kawm Txuj Ci Zoo Sthaw Plaws, Fresno Unified tau khawb av rau ib lub chaw tshiab tshiab hauv Duncan, nrog kev koom tes tej neeg lag luam, tej lub kawm ntawv thawj neeg khiav dej num txhua tus ntawm ua kev zoo siab. Qhov dej num 130 CTE lub kawm ntawv thawj no tau meeg kawm, qhov dej num 130 CTE lub kawm ntawv thawj no tau meeg kawm, qhov dej num 130 CTE lub kawm ntawv thawj no tau meeg kawm, qhov dej num 130 CTE lub kawm ntawv thawj no tau meeg kawm, qhov dej num 130 CTE lub kawm ntawv thawj no tau meeg kawm.

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