Scholarships Awarded to Honor Hard Work and Perseverance

A group of 57 high-achieving seniors from throughout the district – many of whom overcame extreme hurdles – were honored May 9 at the annual Student Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

Meet 13 of these outstanding students on pages 4-10, along with information about their high schools.

Many of the students persevered through extreme circumstances, including the loss of parents and siblings, poverty, language barriers and turmoil at home.

“It is a joy to be able to award Fresno Unified scholarships to these outstanding students, who faced a variety of difficult circumstances and setbacks to get to graduation day. I am so proud of each of them, and honored on behalf of the entire district to help ease their burden a bit as they advance toward college,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

The district also honored members of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Fresno Consolidated Charter Region 9 with its Community Service Award. ACSA president Lynn Rocha Salazar, principal at Ayer Elementary School, accepted the award on behalf of ACSA.

ACSA sponsors the scholarship banquet and a number of other district events.

Roosevelt High School Celebrates New Athletic Facilities

Roosevelt High School celebrated its new pool, tennis courts and varsity baseball field and renovations to the varsity softball field on May 17 with a special event that included district leaders, students, staff and community members.

The new athletic facilities – combined with past projects that added a new classroom wing, entrance, fencing and quad area – have transformed Roosevelt into a modern campus while retaining the charm of the original Mediterranean Revival architecture.

The projects were all made possible thanks to the community’s support for local school bond measures, including the most recent in November 2016, Measure X.

The celebration included a fundraiser for the school, with donors contributing to watch district and community leaders make a “splash” into the pool.

“The expansive investments we celebrate today are because of the leadership of our board, and the support of our community for Measure X and previous bond measures. That support has given us the ability to make tremendous improvements throughout our district,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

“For Roosevelt, the transformation over the last few years has been stunning.”

The new 35-meter pool accommodates swimming, diving and water polo and replaces a pool built in 1951. The project also included a raised covered seating area, a new office for coaches, snack bar, locker and storage building and new offices for the school’s student resource officer and probation officer. New restrooms at the pool will also accommodate the upper baseball field and tennis events.

The varsity baseball field was completely redone, including a new field design, grass, sprinkler system, sound system, scoreboard (installed in the summer), batting cages and stadium seating. The varsity softball field received a new sound system and stadium seating, and

See ROOSEVELT ATHLETICS
Continued on page 14
Free Summer Meals Available at 50 Schools

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 50 locations throughout the city June 7 through Aug. 11.

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

Alimentos Gratuitos Disponibles durante el Verano en 50 Escuelas

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno está trabajando para asegurar que todos los estudiantes mantengan buena nutrición, aún durante los meses de verano. Los alimentos gratuitos estarán disponibles para toda edad de 1 a 18 años en más de 50 localidades alrededor de la ciudad desde el 7 de junio al 11 de agosto.

No se requiere inscripción, ni llenar solicitud, ni mostrar comprobante de necesidad financiera, pero los niños deben comer los alimentos en la escuela. El distrito sirvió alrededor de 200,000 alimentos el verano pasado.

Para más información, llamen al Departamento de Servicios Alimenticios al (Food Services Department) (559) 457-6250. El programa es financiado y administrado federalmente a través de USDA’s Office of Food and Nutrition Services.

Lub Caj Ntuj Qhua Cov Pluas Noj Dawb Muaj Nyob rau 50 Lub Tsev Kwam Ntawv

Fresno Unified tab tom ua hauj lwm kom paub tseeb tais cov tub kwam ntawv tswj kev noj kuab zuab mov zoo, tawnm tias nyob rau lub caij ntuj qhua. Cov pluas noj dawb yuav muaj nyob rau txhua tus me nyuam hlus hnuv nyog 1 xyoog txog 18 xyoog nyob rau ntav tsjaj 50 lub qhov chaw thoob plaws hauv nroog bib lub Rau Hli tim 7 mus txog yuam yim Hli tim 11.

Tsis tas muaj kev cuv npe, ntawv thov los yog qhia nyyaj txiag tis raug tseeb kom muaj, tiam sis cov pluas noj yuav tsum yog noj nyob rau ntawv lub qhov chaw. Hauv paus tsev kwam kwam muab cov pluas noj yuav luag txog 200,000 pluas noj lub caij ntuj qhua duab los.

Rau lus qhia ntav ntxiv, hu rau “Food Services Department” ntawm (559) 457-6250. Qhov kev pab yog nom tsww ua tus them thiab muab kev pab los ntawm USDA’s Office of Food thiaj Nutrition Services.
Congratulations on a Productive School Year

SBAC testing, scholarship banquets, graduation ceremonies, end of year carnivals – it’s the unofficial kick-off to summer vacation! In just a few short days, students throughout our city will close the books on another school year and launch into summer activities. Thousands of high school seniors will don their caps and gowns in anticipation of taking their next big monumental step towards adulthood. No matter the age group, the last day of school signifies, with great joy, a year of difficult work and one of significant accomplishments.

With ongoing investments from our board, our future college and career graduates have strong academic foundations, workplace abilities and the social emotional coping skills necessary to progress academically. Partnered with additional human capital investments in our employees and that of our facilities, the narrative about our students and our city is changing for the better. This school year we saw facility improvements with the modernization at two of our special education school sites – Rata High School and the Adult Transition Program. The new CTE facility at Duncan Polytechnical High School was also completed, modernizing the existing CTE facilities while establishing the first high school large truck maintenance and repair training facility in the country. The expansion included upgrades to the welding, construction and manufacturing shop classrooms, providing a presentation space with upgrades to the auto maintenance repair space as well. On May 17, the district celebrated the completion of facility improvements at Roosevelt High School with its new pool, tennis courts and athletic fields. This summer, our community will have the opportunity to try out these brand new facilities as part of our continued partnership with the city of Fresno. That partnership opens select Fresno Unified pools and playgrounds to the community, a much-needed expansion of recreational space.

This time of year also means the end of months of district budget planning. Over the last several months, the Fresno Unified Board of Education has been engaged in budget presentations based on community input from over 245 Local Control and Accountability Plan listening sessions. During those sessions, staff heard from thousands of students, parents and community stakeholders as they provided feedback and suggestions on future board investments. Many spoke of a desire to increase classroom technology for students, have more academic counselors on site to support the college application process, and a need to further increase free enrichment and field trip opportunities for students. Based on the totality of this year’s outreach, staff utilized the district feedback to develop and compile their budgets – plans that the board will discuss and approve later this month.

Throughout the budget process, district staff have invested a significant amount of resources discussing and developing a strategic plan to improve special education supports and services. In collaboration with our labor partners, staff spent the year diving into recommendations from the recent special education report provided by the Council of the Great City Schools – identifying our best practices as well as recommendations for improvement. The special education budget reflects the first phase of implementing many of those recommendations. Knowing the significance of the department’s roll out, district employees, parents and community members were also invited to provide input on the process.

Message from Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer

Know what Your Children are Doing This Summer

As the school year comes to an end, students will be spending more time at home, participating in summer activities, or going away to camps. Whether your child is at home or away, parents can ensure their child’s safety by keeping them under their watchful eyes.

This summer, become more involved in activities your child is participating in and talk to them about safety. Make sure your child knows what to do in case of an emergency and how to reach you by phone. Parents should come to know as much as they can about their child’s summer events and having them interact with reliable and vetted child care and service providers is essential to a safe and fun filled summer vacation. If needed, ask for references from family, friends, or neighbors and remember to always stay alert, informed, and mindful of your child’s safety.

The Fresno Police Activities League (PAL) is a safe year-around program that helps and nurtures kids who live in at-risk neighborhoods. PAL’s mission is to promote positive interaction between volunteer and off-duty law enforcement personnel and youth, through social, recreational and educational activities to teach good values, acceptable behavior and responsible citizenship. Our activities include youth boxing, a food and fitness program, a youth leadership council, and community events.

If you would like to get involved or know more about Fresno PAL, please visit their webpage at www.palphresno.org. Whether it’s going to be Fresno PAL or another fun activity you’re participating in, please stay safe and have a wonderful summer vacation.
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2019

Anthony Vallin
Bullard High School

GPA: 3.46
College: Reedley College
Career goal: Teacher/basketball coach
About Anthony: Varsity basketball; will study kinesiology; instability at home led him to live with his brother, who became his legal guardian at age 20 when Anthony was in the seventh grade; his brother’s care made a huge difference in his life; was accepted at four-year universities, a first in his family, but will attend community college so he can continue playing basketball.

His words: “The main thing about me as I have been growing up is that when I go to school I never let any of the bad things in my life affect my education because in my family no one has ever had good grades or went to college and I want to be the first one to go.”

Academic counselor Danielle Payn: “I hope that Anthony’s story brings you a sense of hope. It brings me hope for his future and the knowledge that he will move forward and make a positive different in the lives of others.”

GPA: 3.68
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Art teacher/art studio owner
About Sayla: From a single parent home; coped with a turbulent childhood by drawing; is separated from her siblings; Academic Decathlon; Women’s Alliance; wants to help others by showing them how to express themselves through art.

Her words: “I haven’t always had an easy life but with hard work and determination I will build an amazing life for myself. I will not continue the cycle and I will prove to others that you can pursue your dreams, even if you have faced struggle after struggle.”

Cambridge teacher Vanessa Page: “I have watched her grow in two years into a strong, hardworking and courageous person who has accomplished many goals. One of those is graduation. She beat the odds and worked hard to catch up to graduate on time.”

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

Cambridge High School

Enrollment: 560
Outstanding Alumnus: Former Cambridge student David Jimenez is now a member of the faculty teaching math.

Big news this year: Launched project based learning (PBL), welcoming district and community partners to PBL Showcase Dec. 12; the Men’s Alliance class presented a PBL activity to several middle schools.

CTE classes: Small Business, Marketing, and Graphic Design
Principal: Pete Pulos
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2019

Rodnea Doyle

**Design Science**  
**Middle College High School**

- **GPA:** 3.76  
- **College:** UC Davis  
- **Career goal:** General surgeon

**About Rodnea:** Father died; coped with turmoil at home by immersing herself in her studies and volunteering; Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp; president of the Black Student Union; Academic Decathlon; volunteers at Poverello House; wants to set an example for girls of color to pursue careers as a surgeon.

**Her words:** “While at Design Science I discovered myself, as well as my passion for helping others. I aspire to continue my journey in pursuing a higher education so that I am able to enroll in medical school so that I may give back to my community.”

**Design Science teacher Crystal Rodriguez:** “Over the last four years, Rodnea has blossomed into a confident and determined individual who will without a doubt accomplish any goal she sets her mind to. Rodnea has experienced great loss in her life, but she refuses to let that loss define her. Instead, this loss has helped her become a more compassionate and positive person.”

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Alizah Rodriguez

**DeWolf High School**

- **GPA:** 1.82  
- **College:** Fresno City College  
- **Career goal:** Registered nurse

**About Alizah:** From a low-income family; was floundering in high school until she transferred to DeWolf, where she took control of earning credits and the school structure and staff motivated her; is concurrently enrolled in medical courses at Fresno City College; is the first in her family to attend college.

**Her words:** “I literally love the education. It’s not easy, but it makes me proud of who I am and what I am going after.”

**DeWolf teacher Angela Scrivner:** “Alizah has exceptional ability and produces excellent, thoughtful work. As a leadership student, she takes the initiative and ensures that campus activities and responsibilities are accomplished.”

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DeWolf High School

- **Enrollment:** 180  
- **Outstanding Alumnus:** Angel Pimentel, administrative assistant at the Department of Public Health at Fresno State, marketing and advertising.

**Big news this year:** Project-based learning rollout – student project on homelessness.

**CTE:** ROP building and construction class; and the new Urban Innovations course

**Principal:** Frank Duran
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2019

Daniel Nire
Duncan Polytechnical High School
GPA: 3.88
College: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Career goal: Software engineer
About Daniel: His parents immigrated from Ethiopia; his mother is the sole provider for his family; ranked No. 3 in his class; passions are computer programming, video games, electronics and debating politics; inspired to study programming in high school because he wanted to know how his Gameboy worked; is a cadet in the Junior Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp.
His words: “Although it is difficult being the nerd who always does his work and gets scrutinized for it by his peers, it all pays off in the end. Now, I have a 4.2 augmented GPA, am ranked third in my senior class and am college bound for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.”
Duncan teacher Douglas Urabe: “He is goals driven, enjoys helping others and is always looking to improve his skills and future.”

Duncan Technical High School
Graduation rate: 100%
Enrollment: 1,047
Outstanding Alumnus: Misty Her
Big news this year: Opened a state-of-the-art career technical education facility supporting heavy truck, automotive, welding and fabrication, construction technology and manufacturing technology pathways.
CTE pathways: Nursing services, rehabilitative therapy (occupational and physical therapy), pharmacy technician, heavy truck, automotive, welding and fabrication, construction technology, manufacturing technology
Principal: Jeremy Ward

Darin Diep
Edison High School
GPA: 3.86
College: Azusa Pacific University
Career goal: Undecided/major is Biblical Studies and Humanities
About Darin: From low-income family; mother is disabled; was bullied when she was younger and struggled with depression; has a sibling who got involved in drugs and gangs; lead student for Youth Activation project; student body president; wants to do missionary work, open a homeless shelter, open an orphanage, improve the foster care system, create youth shelters and reduce food insecurity.
Her words: “I recognize my goals are ambitious, but if there’s anything God has shown me, it’s that determination and diligence produce results.”
Edison campus culture director Fabiola Perez: “Darin is a well-rounded person with a heart of gold. She believes in going above and beyond and many times that means putting her own needs last. She is an outstanding leader and leads by example.”

Edison High School
Graduation rate: 97%
Enrollment: 2,474
Outstanding Alumni: Dr. James Aldredge, Oscar Haynes, Mona Tatum, Chief Cecil Smith, Danny Alberty, Randy Williams, Sherley Anne Williams, Lawson Inada, Neng Thao
Big news this year: Academic Decathlon valley champions (18th title), girls soccer Central Section Division II champions, History Day state champions in Senior Division for Group Performance
CTE pathways: Biomedicine, Engineering, Computer Science, Green Energy Academy
Principal: Joey Munoz
**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2019**

**Juan Pacheco**  
Fresno High School

- **GPA:** 4.00  
- **College:** Fresno State University  
- **Career goal:** Software developer

**About Juan:** Ranked No. 1 in his class; varsity soccer and cross country; parents are immigrants and laborers; helps father with work on the weekends and contributes earnings to family; will be the first in his family to go to college; inspired by Mark Zuckerberg to go into programming; took advanced computer classes at Bitwise.

**His words:** “Dreaming big and having confidence in myself has provided me an ability to set goals in order to reach what I want to achieve in the future.”

**Teacher Emily Walker-Keller:** “Aside from his clear academic ability, Mr. Pacheco is a kind and caring leader. He balances school, work, sports and volunteering, and has found ways to use his talents to give back to his community.”

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**Jaidyn Cerrillo Ramirez**  
Hoover High School

- **GPA:** 2.63  
- **College:** Sonoma State University  
- **Career goal:** Physical therapist

**About Jaidyn:** Raised by a single mom but now living in foster care with extended family; began missing school in freshman year, went on home studies, fell further behind but prior to her junior year became motivated to graduate on time with her class and did so by taking online classes, night classes and both sessions of summer school; became “mesmerized” by physics in her junior year and joined a new physics club focused on building wind turbines to compete in KidWind; qualified with teammates for the national KidWind competition in Chicago (her first time out of the state) and won the Judges Award; team competed again this year in national competition in Houston.

**Her words:** “I have completely transformed from who I was my first two years in high school. My confidence has skyrocketed. I now understand my true potential. I want to make a difference.”

**Hoover counselor Barbara Rios:** “Jaidyn is an example of a student who has not let the difficult situations of her life define her. She is a true leader whose tenacity and perseverance have allowed her to overcome personal obstacles.”

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**Fresno High School**

- **Graduation rate:** 90.4%  
- **Enrollment:** 2,100  
- **Outstanding Alumni:** Charles Amirkhanian, Dick Ellsworth, Arthur Scott King, William Saroyan, Tom Seaver  
- **Big news this year:** International Baccalaureate (IB) Career Programme (CP) Diploma authorized  
- **CTE:** JROTC – Army; Warrior Entertainment (Digital Media); Construction Design and Technology Academy (C.D.A.T.)  
- **Principal:** Linda Laetner

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**Hoover High School**

- **Graduation rate:** 86.9%  
- **Enrollment:** 1,725  
- **Outstanding Alumnus:** Barbara Morgan  
- **Big news this year:** The streak continues – boys swim team wins eighth consecutive North Yosemite League title.  
- **CTE pathways:** Public Service; Eco-Technology; Arts, Media & Entertainment  
- **Principal:** Rebecca Wheeler

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For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/jaidynramirez
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2019

Eliya Nica Martinez
J.E. Young Academic Center
GPA: 2.98
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Psychologist
About Eliya: From a single parent home; began volunteering in nursing homes when she was a child; works at Starbucks to help family financially; will graduate a year early; earned Principal’s Award; will be the first in her family to attend college; became interested in psychology because of her personal experience with therapy.
Her words: “This is what motivates me, knowing that I’ll be able to hear people’s stories and help them because I know exactly what it’s like to feel lost, depressed and guilty, and to experience healing and hope for a bright future.”
Teacher Jennifer Gross: “Eliya’s determination and motivation to succeed in even the toughest circumstances have set her apart from the rest of the students.”

Melina Mendez Lopez
McLane High School
GPA: 4.0
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Certified financial planner
About Melina: Track Club and Key Club; ranked No. 1 in her class; works two jobs to help her family pay bills; is a teller in the on-campus Union Bank and part of the school’s financial career pathway; loves to read; will study business administration.
Her words: “Despite my background, I truly believe that six years from now when I graduate with a master’s in business, I’ll let my mother know that she will not have to worry about supporting herself, how she will feed my siblings or pay the bills. We’ll no longer have to sleep in the car, share a one-bedroom apartment or sneak into the fields to pick fruit to eat because I will support and give her all she needs.”
Academic counselor My Kou Chang: “Although Melina is not my child, she makes me very proud. I see the dedication, commitment, belief and hard work she puts forth every day. The light shines in her eyes despite her single-parent home and financial struggles to meet the basics of life.”

McLane High School
Graduation Rate: 88%
Enrollment: 1,772
Outstanding Alumnus: Susan Her, Class of 2009, received her doctorate in pharmacy from University of Pacific in May. Her gives back to her community by mentoring and providing guidance to current AP Chemistry students.
Big news this year: Improvements in facilities, including a renovated quad area, new baseball and softball fields underway, and plans for a library remodel and construction of a new aquatics complex and video production and broadcasting studio.
Pathways: Educational Careers Academy; Academy of Finance and Entrepreneurship; Medical Education and Research Academy
California Partnership Academy: ArtVenture Academy
Principal: Brian Wulf
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2019

Winpreet Singh
Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

GPA: 4.0
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Business manager/accountant

About Winpreet: Immigrated from India; ranked No. 1 in his class; launched Stutorz, a peer-to-peer tutoring app, and won second place in a Bitwise competition for the idea; on Fresno Chamber of Commerce Junior Board; co-founded Guru Nanak Scholarship program with the help of the local Punjabi community.

His words: “The confidence that the mentors and teachers put in me at [Patiño] helped me open up and become a passionate, vocal participant in all my classes and other extracurricular events. The guidance of so many resourceful mentors has helped me attain so many skills that now I have chosen business as my unwavering career objective.”

Patiño teacher Amber Curtis: “While a sophomore, Winpreet had a free period in his schedule, and instead of taking another easy class or elective, Winpreet opted to take both geometry and Algebra II simultaneously. This meant twice as much new math to learn, twice the math homework, twice the math projects and twice the math tests, but the idea of this didn’t faze Winpreet; it only rather excited him.”

Rayann Uribe
Roosevelt High School

GPA: 3.88
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Teacher

About Rayann: From a single parent, low-income home; is an award-winning athlete in golf, soccer and lacrosse; involved in the performing arts through dance; wants to be a teacher to provide a support system for students who don’t have that at home; volunteered with the city’s youth sports program.

Her words: “I personally know and understand the horrific effects that poverty has on families, which is why it is important for me to further my education. Going to college to continue my education is a must. It is my ticket to a better lifestyle.”

Academic counselor Ariel A. Mena: “Rayann excels in academics, shines in extracurricular activities and has a genuine heart for others. Rayann is motivated to work hard academically, this characteristic will take her far.”

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/winpreetsingh
**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2019**

**Linda Thao**
**Sunynside High School**

**GPA:** 3.88  
**College:** UCLA  
**Career goal:** Neurosurgeon  
**About Linda:** Parents immigrated from Laos; from family of 10 children; got her first library card at age 10 and checked out the maximum number of books – 26 – on her first visit to the Fresno County Library, launching her passion for reading and writing; varsity badminton and varsity tennis captain and MVP; Doctors Academy; volunteers at Community Regional Medical Center; works at a movie theater.  
**Her words:** “My drive is not just simply to become a health professional, but one who will be able to come up with innovative ideas in order to give back to the community. With the diversity in our corner of the world also comes a multitude of health disparities. It is essential to put a spotlight on this increasing concern.”  
**Teacher Kristin Altschuler:** “Linda is truly a dream student for any teacher, not just for her academic excellence, but for all the positive qualities she possesses. One of my favorite things about Linda is her quiet confidence. She just goes quietly about her business and works hard and excels.”

**Sunny Side High School**

**Graduation rate:** 94%  
**Enrollment:** 2,900  
**Outstanding Alumnus:** Principal Tim Liles says too numerous to list  
**Big news this year:** Tops in California for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion  
**CTE pathways:** AgriScience Technology, Multimedia marketing, Health and Human Services  
**Principal:** Tim Liles

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**List of Scholarship Winners**

**Bullard High School:** Nicholas Tom, Anthony Vallin, Cassandra Carr, Rebecca Ellard, Haley Peacock  
**Cambridge High School:** Sayla Nive Torres  
**Design Science Middle College High School:** Maria Lidia Roman Velasquez, Rodine Doyle, Rosamaria Guzman-Ortiz  
**DeWolf High School:** Alizah Rodriguez  
**Duncan Polytechnical High School:** Nayely Flor Hernandez Maldonado, Elena Barreto, Daniel Nire, Sandra Vazquez  
**Edison High School:** Darin Diep, Zakia Ashley, Ivan Diaz, Sam Hawley, Stephanie Ruiz, Lizet Vazquez-Zeferino, Mai Ka Yang  
**Fresno High School:** Eliza Gonzales, Geysi Amador Herrera, Juan Pacheco, Ian Cordova, Mayjane Martinez, Alyssa Pulido, Stephanie Ramirez  
**Hoover High School:** Jaidyn Cerrillo Ramirez, Catlyn Rose Bloomer, Zhasity King Jones, Kyle Ryan Gage, Yvette Jardon, Marc Nunez, Alexis Pedroza  
**J.E. Young Academic Center:** Eliy Nica Martinez  
**McLane High School:** Melina Mendez Lopez, Alyssa Montoya, Fabiola Angeles Reyes, Leslie Garibay, April Xiong  
**Patiño School of Entrepreneurship:** Winpreet Singh, Layla Gonzalez-Padilla  
**Roosevelt High School:** Yanet Marlen Garcia Martinez, April Natalia Garcia Martinez, Angelica Lopez, Octavio Lopez-Garcia, Jacqueline Pastor, Rayunn Uribe  
**Sunny Side High School:** Sukhmandeep Kaur Sidhu, Citlali Belladira Equia, Linda Sheng Thao, Shouana Yang, Denise Bautista Figueroa, Diana Enciso Ramos, Lily N. Vang, Marquay Jeshua Jamell Williams
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

College Liaison at Design Science helps all Students Pursue Higher Ed

Deborah Henell is part of the Design Science Middle College High School team that has helped 100% of seniors the last three years apply for college and be accepted by at least one college or university. She has worked for the district for 24 years, the last nine at Design Science. Her current job is as the college liaison. In February, Henell was a finalist for a district Excellence in Education award. Design Science principal Tressa Overstreet said of Henell: “She is committed to the goals of FUSD and every single day she comes to work because she knows the power of education.”

What made you decide to be a teacher? I enjoyed working with teenagers and ensuring they had access and opportunities that teachers provided for me as a student here in Fresno Unified. I loved everything science, especially biology, and teaching was a way for me to do both.

What subjects do you teach, and what is your role as college liaison?

I have previously taught Integrated Science, College Prep and GATE Biology, AP Biology, and College/Career Readiness. Currently as the college liaison, I bridge the gap between Fresno Unified policies and procedures and Fresno City College (FCC) policies and procedures for our students and staff. I am part of the team that works with students to select the college courses they take while in high school, ensuring students are completing their high school graduation requirements, their a-g college admissions requirements, and their college level general education courses for their associate and/or bachelor’s degree they are working towards.

What are some of the unique aspects

See DEBORAH HENELL
Continued on page 16

Child Welfare Specialist is Heart of Edison, Safe Haven for All

Sandra Williams is a much-loved child welfare specialist at Edison High School, and a finalist for a district Excellence in Education award in February. She has worked for Fresno Unified since 1985 and in her current position since 2008. Edison teacher Catherine Haynes said about Williams: “Sandra Williams is the backbone of Edison High School. She receives very little recognition for the difficult task of counseling troubled students, speaking with parents regarding attendance issues, rallying teachers together for community events and a myriad of other activities. If you are discouraged, need advice or just a place to sit, Sandra Williams’ office is the place to go.”

What does your job entail? This job demands that I establish relationships with students, parents, and staff members. These relationships empower students to remain on the graduation track with good attendance and “moderate” behavioral issues.

How do you build connections with families? Building connections with families is easy because the job demands honesty, truthfulness, and the ability to never mislead the students, no matter the circumstances. I’ve acquired a “specialized way” to talk to students and families that they almost always respond to.

What are some of the things you do to encourage staff? Lending an ear for staff, my friends, to listen to goes a long way. My open door policy allows my friends to come in at any time to talk about their personal issues, and occasionally get a “stern talking to” in a loving way if needed, or job related issues. This skill aids us in being able to laugh so that we continue educating and empowering students to earn their diploma.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? The highlight of my job is helping students avoid failure so that they can walk across the graduation stage.

What is the most challenging about your job? Opening minds to big ideas, like graduation or future employment, can be challenging especially for ninth-graders and some tenth-graders, and occasionally some 11th or 12th graders. In other words, getting students of all grade levels to understand the importance of education and the impact of their decisions or behavior is the most challenging part of my job.

If you could choose a different career, what would it be? Truck driving would allow me to talk or socialize and help numerous individuals that I would never have had the opportunity to engage with. It would allow me to refine my listening skills so that I am able to develop more relational capacity to establish lifelong friends or relationships.

What do you like to do when you are not working? I enjoy socializing with my three pups, who are really old grown folks with attitudes, while trying to organize my closet or relax.

Name one thing most people do not know about you. Most people do not know that my superpower is that I am from New York.

Sandra Williams, a child welfare specialist at Edison High School, is reminded every day of the lives she has touched by the dozens of photos of current and former students on her wall.
Community Blue & Green Space Summer 2019

Fresno Unified in partnership with the City of Fresno PARCS Department will open six of its high school pools to community swimming and swimming lessons June 10 through August 2. 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 Bullard, Edison, Fresno, Hoover, Roosevelt, and Sunnyside high schools. Swimming lessons will be offered at Edison, Fresno, Hoover, Sunnyside and Bullard high schools.

Swimming will be free on Saturdays and Sundays and $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/.

**High School Pool Schedules (June 10 - Aug. 2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pool</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Weekend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BULLARD</td>
<td>June 10-June 16</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 17-July 12</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 15-Aug. 2</td>
<td>12pm - 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOVER</td>
<td>June 15-Aug. 3</td>
<td>9am - 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 17-July 12</td>
<td>9am - 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 15-July 26</td>
<td>12pm - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 28-Aug. 2</td>
<td>12pm - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDISON</td>
<td>June 10-June 16</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 17-July 12</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 15-Aug. 2</td>
<td>12pm - 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROOSEVELT</td>
<td>June 10-July 12</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 15-Aug. 2</td>
<td>12:30pm - 4:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRESNO</td>
<td>June 10-June 16</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 17-July 12</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>July 15-Aug. 2</td>
<td>12pm - 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNNYSIDE</td>
<td>June 10-June 16</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 17 and July 12</td>
<td>2pm - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 15-Aug. 2</td>
<td>12pm - 3pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Schedules are subject to change | Weekdays- $1 Children/ $2 Adults | Weekends- FREE

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Student Learns Job and Life Skills from Adult Transition Program

Calen Jones, a student in the district’s Adult Transition Program (ATP), started a hardware store job a couple of months ago, using skills he learned in the workability program.

He is also learning how to ride the bus to get to work and to do basic chores around the house, like laundry and cooking, to become more independent.

ATP offers special needs students ages 18-22 help with their first working experience. Students must meet certain requirements to participate in the program, such as maintaining a 2.0 grade point average.

ATP also helps students develop social skills, assisting students like Calen gain independence and soar.

“I have a good heart,” said Jones, 22, a phrase he uses to describe how he feels when he goes to work.

It’s not his paycheck that makes him happy, but the work he does at Fresno Ag Hardware, cleaning and sweeping floors. He also helps Alexis Burton, a classmate at ATP who also participates in the workability program.

“I help her. I take her hand sometimes and help her dust the high and middle shelves,” Jones said.

He has a big smile when he talks about helping Alexis, who is in a wheelchair. It’s clear he enjoys helping others.

“I care about everybody; I care about a lot of people,” he said.

It’s not all work and chores for Jones. Every morning he gets to do work he loves the most: listen to music and dance. Music is his life, Jones said. His day starts with breakfast at the ATP cafeteria. He then heads to the recreation area, where he plays music for all students.

“I play music and they dance. I am like a DJ,” Jones jokes.

After lunch, during recreation and leisure time, he gets to play music for everybody again.

Jones uses the money he earns from his job to pay for his cell phone bill. Thanks to his smartphone, his love for music continues to grow. He loves to watch videos of Taylor Swift, his favorite singer.

Jones is about to finish the program at ATP and is considering a summer option in another center to continue working. Jones said it will be hard to leave ATP, the place where he learned not to be afraid of the oven or the stove. He will miss helping Alexis and is afraid of losing touch with his ATP friends.

“Here they let me sing and dance; I am happy,” Jones said.

Calen Jones has learned a variety of skills that will help him live a more independent life as he nears the end of his time with the district’s Adult Transition Program for students with special needs.

Painting the Town

Families from Burroughs Elementary School join with others from their neighborhood to complete a community participation mural on May 11 at the northeast corner of Cedar and Tulare avenues. The project was facilitated by the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children’s Literature from the Madden Library at Fresno State. Rafael López, an internationally known children’s literature illustrator, artist, and muralist, designed the mural with suggestions from the community. López’s design includes a person reading a book and a figure reaching for the stars to represent life-long learning and the search for excellence in life. López has created over 20 such murals to beautify neighborhoods across the nation. López and community volunteers began graphing, outlining and painting the upper reaches of the mural on May 6. The mural completion day included a dedication of the mural, children’s activities, entertainment and a resource fair.

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Want to learn more about recycling?
Call (559) 621-1111 to book a recycling presentation for your class!
Gyms, Classrooms and a New School Planned for Measure X Funds

The district is moving forward on dozens of Measure X projects, including new classrooms, a makeover at McLane Stadium, career technical education (CTE) facilities and auxiliary gyms for several high schools.

The voters passed Measure X, a $225 million bond measure, in November 2016, enabling the district to continue improvements in all corners of the district in support of high quality facilities for students and staff.

Earlier this spring, the board discussed an updated list of recommended priority projects. The projects include:

- McLane stadium improvements, including synthetic turf (a first for Fresno Unified)
- Air conditioning for cafeterias at 19 schools to replace evaporative cooling
- The new Juan Felipe Herrera Elementary School to balance student enrollment in southeast Fresno
- New campus for Phoenix Secondary Academy at a district-owned site at Peach and Orangewood avenues
- Classrooms, restrooms, play areas and security improvements at Wawona K-8 School to accommodate the dual immersion program
- Demolition work at the Ventura Avenue and Tenth Street site to remove the former juvenile hall buildings
- Softball and baseball field improvements at Bullard, Edison and Sunnyside high schools (projects have been completed at McLane and Roosevelt high schools)
- CTE facilities at Fresno, Hoover, and McLane high schools
- Modernization of the Roosevelt High School cafeteria
- Auxiliary gyms for Edison, Fresno, McLane and Roosevelt high schools
- Work at Starr Elementary School to enhance special education inclusion efforts
- Other district-wide projects include accessibility improvements, installation of security cameras and other safety/security upgrades, and replacement of aging electrical, water, gas and irrigation systems.

Long-range planning was discussed for a variety of other projects for future implementation when resources are available, grouped by high school regions:

- **Bullard region**: Renovation of the South Gym at Bullard High
- **Edison region**: CTE facilities, a performing arts complex, and improvements in the cafeteria for music performance at Edison High; new classrooms and improvements at Addams and Columbia elementary schools
- **Fresno High region**: ROTC building, tennis courts, pool locker room improvements and track and field bleachers at Fresno High; cafeteria modernization and new classrooms and other improvements at Del Mar Elementary School; portable classroom replacement at Homan Elementary School

- **Hoover region**: Theater, library/student union expansion and renovation, improvements in the administration building for support staff consolidation at Hoover High; portable classroom replacement at Wolters Elementary School; office space for Ahwahnee Middle School support staff
- **McLane region**: Theater, tennis courts and art building improvements at McLane High; portable classroom replacement and modernization at Hidalgo and Leavenerworth elementary schools; improvements at Birney and Norseman elementary schools
- **Roosevelt region**: Track and field bleachers at Roosevelt High; improvements at Calwa Elementary School; replace cafeteria at Jackson Elementary School; modernization at Anthony and Balderas elementary schools
- **Sunnyside region**: CTE classrooms and music/performing arts classroom improvements at Sunnyside High; modernization at Storey Elementary School

ROOSEVELT ATHLETICS

Continued from page 1

a new scoreboard will be installed this summer.

The tennis courts were completely redone as well, with a new surface, bleachers, water fountains, fencing, and lighting.

Student athletes have been able to enjoy the new facilities since earlier in the spring, but the May 17 event provided a chance for the entire Roosevelt community to celebrate the improvements.

Roosevelt High School principal Michael Allen takes a plunge into Roosevelt’s new pool during an event May 17 to celebrate the pool, new tennis courts and a varsity baseball field, as well as improvements to the softball field.
Las instalaciones en la Escuela Preparatoria de automóviles. El 17 de mayo, el distrito espaçio de reparación de mantenimiento factura, proporcionando un espacio de pre-taller de soldadura, construcción y manipulación. Primera instalación grande en preparatoria Duncan, modernizando las existentes instalación de CTE en la Escuela Politécnica Rata y el Programa de Transición con inversiones adicionales de capital. Con las inversiones continuas de nuestro personal y padres, el distrito se comprometió a avanzar hacia la edad adulta. No tenemos el libro en otro año escolar y se lanzarán a las actividades de verano. Miles de estudiantes de nuestra ciudad se prepararán su gors y batas antes de dar su próximo gran paso monumental hacia la edad adulta. No hay un verano seguro y agradable!

Felicitaciones por un año escolar productivo

Exámenes SBAC, banquetes de becas, ceremonias de graduación, carnavales de fin de año: ¡es el inicio no oficial de las vacaciones de verano! En solo unos pocos días, los estudiantes de nuestra ciudad cerrarán los libros en otro año escolar y se lanzarán a las actividades de verano. Miles de estudiantes de secundaria se pondrán sus gorras y bata antes de dar su próximo gran paso monumental hacia la edad adulta. No hay un verano seguro y agradable!

Continuación de la página 3
of Design Science? I love that our students begin taking college courses their freshman year. They begin to see that they can persist through challenges in academics and life and thrive. Also, every student receives the support and tools they need to meet their academic goals. Seeing our seniors graduate high school with 45-65 college units, some with associate degrees, is emotional as I know it will open doors for their future goals. The financial savings to our families (two years of college completed at no cost) makes possible the completion of a bachelor’s degree in two to three years.

What does the school do that has led to 100% of seniors for the third year in a row applying for admission to college and being accepted by at least one college or university? The culture on our campus and the personalized support for each student begins their first day on our campus. We do not give up on students, even when the student wants to give up. Every student prepares for and takes the SAT and ACT and understands the value in doing well on those exams. We review each college application and FAFSA form with each student before submission.

What are some of the colleges that this year’s seniors will attend? They had so many options to choose from it was difficult for some to decide: UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, CSU Fresno, CSU Monterey Bay, University of Colorado, Le Tourneau University (Texas), and Grand Canyon University.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? There is joy in seeing the growth students make in so many areas of their lives from freshman year to graduating senior and knowing that their lives and that of their families has been enriched by their experiences and enhanced by where they are headed.

Name one thing most people do not know about you. I used to do a lot of cake decorating, mostly for family and friends. Also, I lived in Australia for a year.

What is your dream vacation? To travel with friends and family to Ecuador to see the plant and animal life around the Galápagos Islands, scuba dive, zip line, hike and read a book or two while relaxing on the beach.