



BUILDING futures

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

P R E P A R I N G C A R E E R R E A D Y G R A D U A T E S

Extended Time in School Boosts Academic Performance

Intensive efforts have paid off to improve the academic outcomes at 40 Fresno Unified elementary schools with the highest poverty and lowest achievement.

Five years after the district launched the Designated Schools initiative, the schools have improved their math performance at nearly double the rate of other district schools. The schools' improvement in English language arts (ELA) has outpaced other district schools as well.

"We are extremely encouraged and pleased that the hard work staff and leaders have done at our Designated Schools has translated into improved academic achievement for some of our

students who struggle the most," said Superintendent Bob Nelson. "We have learned a great deal in this process that we are using to help students in all of our schools."

The encouraging news comes from a recent national case study from Education Resource Strategies, a national non-profit that partnered with Fresno Unified to examine the data from the Designated Schools.

The district began efforts with the highest-poverty Designated Schools in 2013, where average proficiency in math and ELA lagged behind more

See **DESIGNATED SCHOOLS**
Continued on page 11



Homan Elementary School second grade teacher Jimia White helps Dylan Ramirez, with Taheisha Maten-Hollman to the left. Homan is among 40 Designated Schools in the district that are showing greater academic gains than other district schools because of longer schools days and other supports.

Duncan Celebrates New Facilities



Students from left, Tonya Sanchez, Israel Echeverria and Elias Ayala cut the ribbon March 21 during an open house for Duncan Polytechnical High School's new and expanded career technical education facilities.

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

Farbers will Award Second Group of Steve's Scholars

The district and community will recognize the second group of Steve's Scholars – 35 students from seven high schools – at a banquet May 2.

In 2012, Francine and Murray Farber established the Steve's Scholars program as a lasting memorial to their son, who died unexpectedly in 2001 at age 42.

Their goal was to encourage students

at Tehipite Middle School to strive for good grades and attendance, social responsibility and college.

Students from the Class of 2019 represent the second cohort of Steve's Scholars. The students will receive \$1,000 scholarships for each of two years after successfully



See **STEVE'S SCHOLARS**
Continued on page 5

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Meet the 2019 Steve's Scholars (Pages 4 and 5)



Musicians Share their Craft (Page 7)



Superintendent Message in Spanish and Hmong (Page 15)



PARENTS

Parent University Concludes School Year with Big Events

Parent University’s mission is to empower, engage and connect families to support student achievement. Parent University is excited to host several spring and end-of-year events in May and June. Students, parents, families and the community are invited to attend.

The Hmong Residents Academy (in partnership with the Fresno Police Department): This program is offered free to all with the goal of educating Hmong-speaking residents on how the police department works and the services it provides to the public. Two sessions remain: May 1 and May 8 from 6-8 p.m. at Vang Pao Elementary, 4100 E. Heaton Ave.

Fresno Unified Scholarship Banquet: Hosted by Parent University, Fresno Unified student scholarships recipients will be honored May 9 from 6-8 p.m. at The Grand, 1401, Fulton St.

Spring Parent Recognition Celebration: Parents will be recognized for their engagement and participation in Parent University courses for the Spring Cohort. The celebration will be held at the Tower Theater on May 17 from 5-8 p.m.

Summer Learning Splash event: In partnership with the Public Broadcasting System, Parent University will hold its Summer

Learning Splash event on June 1. Save the date, and watch for an announcement about the location and time.

La Universidad Para Padres Organiza Eventos de Fin de Año

La misión de la Universidad Para Padres es fortalecer, participar y conectar a las familias para apoyar el rendimiento académico estudiantil. La Universidad Para Padres está entusiasmada de organizar varios eventos en la primavera y fin de ciclo escolar en mayo y junio. Se invita a Los estudiantes, padres, familias y a la comunidad están invitados a participar.

Academia de Residentes Hmong (en colaboración con el Departamento de la Policía de Fresno): Este programa se ofrece gratis a todos con el objetivo de educar a los residentes de habla hmong sobre cómo trabaja el departamento de policía y los servicios que provee al público. Quedan dos sesiones: el 1ro y el 8 de mayo de 6 a 8 p.m. en la Primaria Vang Pao, 4100 E. Heaton Ave.

Banquete de Becas del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno: Organizado por la Universidad Para Padres, se les hará honor a los estudiantes beneficiados de becas de Fresno Unificado el 9 de mayo de 6 a 8 p.m. en: The Grand, 1401, Fulton St.



Parent University held a parent recognition event Dec. 7. At left, Lawless Elementary School parent Maida Perez is congratulated by, from left, board liaison Brandalyn Hastings and Rowell Elementary School Principal Alice McClintock.

Celebración de Reconocimientos de Primavera Para Padres: Los padres tendrán el reconocimiento por su compromiso y participación en los cursos de Universidad Para Padres del Cohorte de Primavera. La celebración tendrá lugar en: Tower Theater el 17 de mayo de 5 a 8 p.m.

Evento de Aprendizaje de Verano: En colaboración con el Sistema de Radiodifusión Pública, la Universidad Para Padres tendrá su evento de Aprendizaje Temprano el 1ro de junio. Anoten la fecha y esperen el aviso acerca del lugar y la hora.

Parent University Muaj Cov Koob Tsheej Thaum Xaus Ntawm Lub Xyoo

Parent University lub luag hauj lwm yog los muab kev txhawb zog, txuam thiab txuas nrog cov tsev yim neeg rau kev txhawb pab tub kawm ntawv kev kawm tau. Parent University txaus siab los muaj ob peb lub koob tsheej lub caij nplooj hlaw thiab xaus ntawm lub xyoo rau lub Tsib Hlis thiab Rau Hli. Cov tub kawm ntawv, niam txiv, tsev yim neeg thiab neeg zej zog raug caw tuaj koom.

Qhov “Hmong Residents Academy” (kev koom tes nrog rau Fresno Police Department): Qhov kev pab no tau raug qhib dawb dawb rau txhua tus

muaj lub hom phiaj cov qhia cov txawj hais lus Hmoob txog tsev tub ceev xwm lawv kev ua hauj lwm yog li cas thiab tej kev pab lawv muaj rau tsoom pej xeem. Tseem tsuav ob ntu kawm: Tsib Hli tim thiab Tsib Hlis tim 8 thaum 6-8 p.m. hauv Vang Pao Elementary, 4100 E. Heaton Ave.

Fresno Unified Scholarship Banquet: Parent University yog tus ua, Fresno Unified cov tub kawm ntawv tau txais cov nyiaj pab kawm ntawv yuav raug ua kev zoo siab lub Tsib Hlis tim 9 thaum 6-8 p.m. hauv The Grand, 1401, Fulton St.

Lub Caij Nplooj Hlaw Kev Ua Koob Tsheej Lees Paub Niam Txiv: Cov niam txiv yuav raug lees paub rau lawv txuam thiab kev koom tes hauv Parent University cov chav kawm rau Pawg Lub Caij Nplooj Hlaw (Spring Cohort). Lub koob tsheej yuav ua muaj nyob rau hauv Tower Theater rau lub Tsib Hlis tim 17 thaum 5-8 p.m.

Koob tsheej “Summer Learning Splash”: Hauv kev koom tes nrog “Public Broadcasting System”, Parent University yuav muaj lawv qhov koob tsheej “Summer Learning Splash” rau lub Rau Hli tim 1. Ceev tseg hnuv ntawm, thiab xyuas rau ib qho kev tshaj qhia txog qhov chaw thiab lub sij hawm.

Garden Grows Learning at Kirk



From left, Kirk Elementary School students Andrew Pedroza, Francisco Perez, Kashlynn Meunhavong and Damian Espinoza plant garden boxes on March 18 with vegetables and flowers, with assistance from Home Depot in Clovis employees. The students will work on their math, science, and English language arts skills as they care for the garden. Kirk families can take the produce home.



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SUPERINTENDENT'S Message

Travels Prompt Reflections on the Importance of Nurturing Relationships

A few weeks ago, I was honored to travel to New York City as a guest of the Wallace Foundation to participate in their latest work around leadership development and best practices around building a successful principal pipeline. As I traveled, I had the opportunity to meet some wonderful and engaging people, both in and outside of the education realm. I know a significant part of my journey here in this life is about creating connections. Nurturing relationships, daring uncomfortable conversations, and just being "awake" to others, is my greatest joy. People are complex. They can be difficult, almost to the point of impossible, at times. But other times they are beautiful, even glorious in their complexity. These two travel days were a stellar example of exactly that and reminded me of the power of building positive relationships.



Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

We see the benefits of those positive relationships in the essays and personal stories of our latest class of Fresno Unified Scholarship recipients. On May 9 at a special awards banquet, we will celebrate 57 of our district seniors with scholarships totaling \$113,500. This year, we received over 300 student applications, 100 more applications than last year. Thanks to generous donations from employees and community mem-

bers, we were able to award more students scholarships with an additional \$52,000 in scholarship awards over last year. Many of our students' stories, as shared through their applications, spoke of personal challenges and experiences, each uniquely different and compelling. However, there was a common theme throughout their essays – they rose above their circumstances with the support of a caring adult, some of who were directly tied to their educational journey at school. They found their support system and because of it, are now pursuing a post-secondary education, many being the first in their family to do so. Proof once again that nurturing positive relationships is vital to finding success!

With just weeks before graduation season officially begins, we will have the opportunity to celebrate thousands more of our college and career ready graduates as they don their caps and gowns and make that monumental walk across the graduation stage. While graduation is considered a rite of passage, for many in our district, it's not a given. The road is paved with obstacles and struggles both in and out of the classroom. As a district, our board continues to invest in resources to further ease those struggles – investing in students, improving instructional supports for teachers, facilities, social emotional supports, safety and more. Our board's efforts and vision can be seen through the work of this year's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and our budget development process heading into the 2019-20 school year. Fresno Unified is improving academic outcomes for students and investing in added layers of support as we continue to focus on reducing the achievement gap – work that begins

with our youngest students.

In April, a national case study was published by Education Resource Strategies highlighting our board's investment in more instructional time for students. The Fresno Unified Designated Schools model is one of eight national educational success stories featured. The study closely examines the launch of more instructional time for students at 40 low performing elementary schools – along with additional professional learning for our adults. The study goes on to showcase the many academic shifts that have occurred over the last five years, including closing performance gaps. To date, more than half of Designated Schools have improved their math performance ranking compared to other schools in the state. Additionally, every year our Designated Schools have seen student growth in both math and English language arts (ELA). The work and the academic results are detailed in the national case study, which you can view in its entirety on our district website. I encourage you to take time to read and learn more about our board's investments and the academic progress being made as a direct result.

While the end of the school year is on the horizon, the work and commitment to our more than 74,000 students is steadfast. With ongoing support and engagement from our community, we are not just building positive relationships, we are building futures.

See SUPT. MESSAGE
SPANISH AND HMONG
Continued on page 15

Message from Joe Martinez, Fresno EOC Outreach Manager and Safe Place Coordinator Fresno Unified Partners with EOC to Provide Safe Places for Youth

Under the direction of the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC), Safe Place and Sanctuary Support Services lead efforts here in Fresno County to provide Safe Places for youth in crisis. I am pleased to say that Fresno Unified is a vital partner with EOC in this effort, providing Safe Places at more than 106 school sites and district facilities.



Joe Martinez
Fresno EOC outreach
manager and Safe
Place coordinator

The centerpiece of our efforts is Fresno EOC's Sanctuary Youth Shelter, an emergency shelter for runaway, homeless or at-risk youth ages 12-18. While the National Safe Place Network operates in 38 states and more than 1,430 communities through the United States, our local Safe Place Sanctuary is the only self-referral emergency shelter for youth of this age group within a 15,000 square mile radius. Our community's Safe Place Sanctuary is vital to serving the youth of Fresno Unified and our larger community, providing emergency assistance to approximately 300 youth annually.

Fresno Unified campuses are part of a local Safe Place network of 308 Safe Places – businesses, community buildings, city parks, Walmart, Boys and Girls Clubs, convenience stores and Fresno Area Express and Clovis Transit Stageline buses.

Earlier this spring (March 17-23), we once

again highlighted National Safe Place Week, celebrating and recognizing the role local businesses, community organizations, youth service agencies, and volunteers play in the Safe Place program. Together, we are striving for the safety and well-being of our city's youth.

At the Safe Partner Recognition Breakfast March 22, Fresno EOC's Safe Place and Sanctuary Support Services celebrated several outstanding community partners as part of this national effort, including Fresno Unified's Armand Chavez, emergency crisis management response manager. Congratulations, Armand!

We look forward to a continued partnership with Fresno Unified as together we provide immediate help to youth facing abuse, neglect, bullying, serious family struggles, homelessness, and other critical issues.

Non-Discrimination Policy: Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital, pregnancy or parental 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, a list of compliance officers, and Title IX information, go to www.fresnounified.org.



STEVE'S SCHOLARS 2019



Halle Chang
*Design Science
Middle College High
School*
College: CSU
Monterey Bay
Career goal: Policy
analyst or counselor

Quote: "I am the first child to attend college. My primary goal is to receive a higher education to better my life and family. I knew from a young age that it was up to me to succeed and set an example for my sisters."



Rosemary Lor
*Duncan Polytechnical
High School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal: Nursing
Quote: "Five years
from now, I see

myself graduating from CSU Fresno's accredited nursing program ready to take the National Council Licensure Exam for registered nursing."



**Andrew Lex
Phanouvong**
*Duncan Polytechnical
High School*
College: Fresno City
College
Career goal: Auto
technician

Quote: "The best thing about Steve's Scholars is all the good it does to help kids."



Josiah Montijo
*Duncan Polytechnical
High School*
College: Fresno City
College
Career goal:
Computer
programming

Quote: "I see myself being my own boss, or if not, working in a high paying job."



Alan Vang
*Duncan Polytechnical
High School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal:
Software developer
Quote: "What I like

the best about Steve's Scholars is you are required to give back to the community with community service."



Maiyer Vang
*Duncan Polytechnical
High School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal: Nursing
Quote: "Steve's
Scholars is a great

program because it keeps me on track with my schoolwork. Also, I had fun being involved with other students who are in the program."



Nallely Mendoza
Edison High School
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal:
Business management
Quote: "Being part of
the Steve's Scholars

program has definitely made sure I try my best in school. I tried to miss school the least amount possible because I knew it was important. Knowing that it will pay off in the end is what has motivated me these four years."



**Reynaldo
Santiago**
Edison High School
College: Fresno City
College
Career goal: Nursing
Quote: "I loved
helping others."



**Alexander Rivas
Zepeda**
Edison High School
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal: Clinical
psychologist
Quote: "I liked how

[Steve's Scholars advisers] treat you. They treated you like an adult."



Lang Her
McLane High School
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal:
Computer engineering
Quote: "I am just
proud of myself for

coming this far. It is a great scholarship program."



**Lizeth Alejandra
Hernandez
Giron**
McLane High School
College: Fresno City
College
Career goal: Nursing
Quote: "Five years

from now, I see myself graduated from college as a nurse and living in my own home with my own car."



Pa Yeng Lor
McLane High School
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal: Nursing
Quote: "I like
volunteering to help
other people in the

community. It does help me to project my voice and participate in things I never have before."



Chee Nou Thao
McLane High School
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal: P.E.
teacher
Quote: "With Steve's
Scholars, I like how

there's someone that I can always count on and is there for me when I need help."



Ka Vang
McLane High School
College: Undecided
Career goal:
Elementary school
teacher
Quote: "No matter
how hard it gets,

don't ever give up on yourself. Always keep on going and finish strong."



Tshua Hilary Vang
McLane High School
College: Fresno City
College
Career goal:
Undecided/interested
in animal care
Quote: "Always keep

up the hard work in school even if you aren't doing it for anyone. Always do it for yourself."



Jessica Alva
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal: School
social worker
Quote: "What I liked

the most about working with the Steve's Scholars was getting to be involved in the community and mentoring other students."



**Paulina Bernal-
Camacho**
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Sacramento
State University
Career goal: Medical
field

Quote: "My advice to other Steve's Scholars would be to not procrastinate towards any class throughout high school, and always take the opportunity to volunteer."



**David Marcellus
Feathers**
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Fresno City
College
Career goal:
Journalism (video
game critic)

Quote: "I appreciate the people you get to see. Being a mentor for a day is really entertaining and allows you to become more mature."



Laura Frausto
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Fresno City
College
Career goal:
Elementary school
teacher

Quote: "The thing I liked the most about [Steve's Scholars] is due to all the requirements needed...it makes you want to keep doing good in school and work hard for it."



**Esmeralda
Garcia**
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: San
Francisco State
University or Fresno
State University

Career goal: Psychology
Quote: "I can see myself with my life settled down and making my family proud."



Giselle Garcia
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal:
Undecided
Quote: "Steve's

Scholars has helped me keep my grades up and keep...friendships since middle school."



**Citlalli Garcia
Diaz**
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal: High
school Spanish

teacher
Quote: "My career goal is to become a high school Spanish teacher and to promote sophisticated Spanish in California."



**April Natalie
Garcia Martinez**
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal:
Elementary school

teacher
Quote: "What I liked about participating in the Steve's Scholars program is that I was able to get more involved and it has helped me get out of my comfort zone. In fact, it has helped me in figuring out my career goal."



**Yanet Marlen
Garcia Martinez**
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal:
Elementary school

teacher
Quote: "Steve's Scholars gave me the opportunity to volunteer and to become familiar with my future career, and it motivates me to try harder in school."



**Carla Fernanda
Gonzalez**
*Roosevelt High
School*
College: Fresno State
University
Career goal: Fashion
Quote: "This

program not only helped open doors to opportunities, but it let me participate with other grades to help our community become a better one."



STEVE'S SCHOLARS 2019



Long Her
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Helping others
Quote: "What I liked the most about Steve's Scholars is we got to help other people."



Martha Guadalupe Medrano-Esquivel
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Teacher or nurse
Quote: "Steve's Scholars made me try harder in school and I got to meet a lot of nice people who helped on the way to high school."



Cristobal Mijangos-Elorza
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Drug Enforcement Agency agent or SWAT
Quote: "I liked touring the middle school kids around in high school to give them a high school student's perspective of how high school will be."



Gabriela Montes
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Math teacher
Quote: "What I liked about Steve's Scholars was the events they had to gather the students in the program, to connect better."



Priscila Orozco
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Medical assistant
Quote: "Don't let anything distract you and just focus on school and grades."



Ramiro Perez Mojica
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Aerospace engineering
Quote: "What I liked the most is participating in the community service events."



Thai Thao
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno City College
Career goal: Police officer
Quote: "One thing I liked about Steve's Scholars was to be part of a team and help each other."



Cinthia Enetzi Trejo Luna
Roosevelt High School
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Pediatrics or nurse practitioner
Quote: "I see myself in college getting ready to start on medical school and volunteering at hospitals to get prepared for my future, since I want to be something in the medical field."



Yasmin Isabel Antonio
Sunnyside High School
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Undecided
Quote: "Some advice I would give to others is to try hard no matter how difficult it could get later on in life."



Lesly Esperanza Zaragoza
Sunnyside High School
College: Fresno State University
Career goal: Teacher
Quote: "I'm so excited for the next chapter in my life."

STEVE'S SCHOLARS Continued from page 1

meeting all of the requirements for Steve's Scholars since they were in the seventh grade.

"We are thrilled with the second cohort, which is carrying on our plan to help make college a reality for Tehipite students," Murray Farber said.

The Steve's Scholars program affects entire families, not just the students involved.

"We also know that the families of the scholarship winners are seeing their aspirations starting to come true, as their children will have better and more fulfilling lives through greater education," Francine Farber said.

For the Steve's Scholars banquet, the recipients will gather at the Tehipite Middle School auditorium to celebrate with family, their favorite teacher and guests, including members of the Fresno Unified Board of Education, local dignitaries, and school staff members who have worked hard to keep the students on track for six years.

The keynote speaker will be Dr.

Carole Goldsmith, president of Fresno City College. Fresno Unified's Ruth F. Quinto, chief financial officer and deputy superintendent, will also speak.

To achieve a Steve's Scholar scholarship, students had to maintain at least a B average and at least 95% attendance. They were also required to take California's college preparatory courses, known as A through G classes, and complete community service annually.

The 35 recipients amassed 2,977 hours of community service, ranging from 40 hours a student to 200 hours. Of the 62 remaining seniors who started in the second Steve's Scholars cohort, 35 qualified for scholarships.

(To learn more about the Steve's Scholars recipients, see their profiles above and on page 4.)

Steve's Scholars is funded with \$1

million from their son's estate, a gift to the Farbers from his widow, who wishes to remain anonymous. Steve Farber was an energetic Silicon Valley entrepreneur and investor. About a

year after retiring, he was running unopposed for fire commissioner in a small Washington town when he passed away.

With the original gift now invested by the Fresno-based Central Valley Community Foundation, the Farbers hope the Steve's Scholars program will support an even larger number of students for many years to come.

The Farbers, who are in their 80s, launched Steve's Scholars to help "level the playing field" for Tehipite, where the average family annual income is about \$18,000.

An additional Tehipite Steve's Scholars fund set up by the Farbers and contributed to by family and

friends has enabled them to provide special opportunities for students to experience the arts and the world outside Fresno. They have taken trips to colleges, toured the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, and attended plays at the local Roger Rocka Dinner Theater.

The Farbers have also funded "Fifth Grade on Broadway" to provide the more than 6,000 fifth-graders in Fresno Unified with an opportunity to see a professional theater production written to correlate with their fifth grade social studies curriculum on the American Revolution.

They also funded a summer school program to expose elementary school children to playwriting, drama, stagecraft and costuming.

The Farbers were both born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and have been married for 64 years. Before retiring, Murray Farber was a journalist and worked in communications and Francine Farber was a school psychologist and administrator. They moved to Fresno to be close to their daughter, Andrea, and her family, after the death of Steve and another son, Michael, at the age of 35.





CTE SPOTLIGHT

Students Learning Career Skills through Organizations, Competitions

Hundreds of Fresno Unified high school students are not only learning career skills through the courses they take, but through clubs, organizations and competitions.

Forget about hitting a homerun or spiking a volleyball. Touchdown time for these students is perfectly constructed framing, a robot that maneuvers in the fastest time, or pitching an award-winning business plan.

“CTE student organizations play an integral part of the instructional program that diversifies a student’s educational experience,” said Kristen Boroski, career readiness director. “Extending our classroom walls into our community creates unique meaning for our students.

“For some, it’s about networking, service learning, and giving back to the community, while others focus on the role of competition. For all of our students, CTE student organizations are about preparing for the future as they assume roles of leadership in our communities.”

High schools throughout the district offer more than 40 career-related



Clockwise from left, Isaac Gamino, Miguel Casillas and Shawn Nguyen from Hoover High School compete in construction framing at the Career Skills Challenge held at Fresno City College March 14.

organizations that hone skills, connect students with each other and staff, and help them network with working professionals.

Bullard High School: Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Distributive Education Clubs

of America, Mock Trial, CoderGirlz, Coder Club

Cambridge High School: Graphic Club, Yearbook

Duncan Polytechnical High School: HOSA, Robotics, Skills USA

Edison High School: Biomed Club, Programming and Electronics, Gaming Hub, CoderGirlz, Engineering, Robotics, Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), Fashion and Interior Design

Fresno High School: Construction Club, Video Production Club

Hoover High School: Mock Trial, MESA, Public Service Academy/Red Cross

McLane High School: HOSA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Virtual Enterprise, Educators Rising, Film Club

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship: Cyber Patriot, Farming, Agriculture, and Resource Management for Sustainability Leadership (FARMS), FBLA

Roosevelt High School: HOSA, FBLA, Virtual Enterprise, Educators Rising, Film Club

Sunnyside High School: HOSA, FBLA, Urban Art Crew, Sports Photography, Educators Rising, FARMS Leadership

Sunnyside High Wind Symphony Soars at Famed Carnegie Hall



Sunnyside High School's wind symphony plays at Carnegie Hall in New York in March, marking the first time a music group from the district has performed at the renowned venue.

Not many musicians can say they have performed at New York’s Carnegie Hall. But 58 students from Sunnyside High School can already check that off their bucket list.

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

The Sunnyside Wind Symphony performed at the world-renowned concert venue as part of a March 9-14 trip. The ensemble was just one of six high schools invited to perform in the New York Wind Band Festival, hosted by World Projects Corporation this year.

This is the first time any Fresno Unified music group has performed at Carnegie Hall, said Catherine Aujero, visual and performing arts manager for the district. The Sunnyside Wind Symphony performed four selections, including

a world premiere of a commissioned piece written exclusively for the 2019 Sunnyside Wind Symphony.

The arduous application process required submission of a quality recording of the ensemble demonstrating the high level of the program as well as adjudication notes, comments and scores from a recent festival, said Michael J. Angel, director of bands at Sunnyside.

“I don’t know if these kids realize it yet, but Carnegie Hall is just one of those places that has so much history and for them to get to do it at such a young age is really a once in a lifetime opportunity,” Angel said. “One day they’ll realize it, when they’re old and

See **SUNNYSIDE SYMPHONY**
Continued on page 14



Local Musicians Hit the Right Notes at Rowell and Heaton Schools

Violinist Patrick Contreras – now a sought after performer locally and beyond – recently returned to Rowell Elementary School, where his musical talent was encouraged and he discovered his passion for the violin.

And the teacher he credits with inspiring him was there as well, retired educator Gaylene Joe.

“I’m hoping I can spark [the students’] imagination, inspire them,” Contreras

said. “This is where I grew up, went to school. I know some of the challenges they can face.”

Contreras, along with guitarist and pianist Omar Naré (who attended Roosevelt High School) performed for Rowell and Heaton Elementary School students on April 9 and 10 as part of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) Spark! initiative.

The Spark! program strives to build

a prosperous Fresno economy from within by developing career-ready graduates skilled in creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication through a more creative education. Local donors Kurt and Teri Zumwalt funded the concerts by Contreras and Naré.

Kurt Zumwalt, after hearing Contreras and Naré entertain at a function, suggested that having the two perform at schools would inspire students to pursue music. Kurt Zumwalt himself was inspired to play the violin after a school assembly concert.

“Students from Fresno can look at these two artists and see possibility, because they are so similar to so many of our students, not just in Fresno Unified, but throughout the county,” said Aaron Bryan, FCSS program manager for visual and performing arts.

The FCSS selected Rowell for one of the concerts because of the connection to Contreras and because it is part of Fresno’s Any Given Child arts initiative. Heaton was selected because of the work Principal Laura Gemetti and her staff are doing to integrate art.

Joe was on hand thanks to an invitation from Catherine Aujero, visual and performing arts manager for Fresno Unified. Having seen Contreras publicly acknowledge Joe’s influence, she knew it would be a treat for Contreras to have his former teacher in the audience.

Joe downplays her role, saying that

Contreras was already taking violin lessons at home when he joined the Rowell band. She is extremely proud of what he has accomplished.

“It’s wonderful. He did it all on his own,” Joe said.

The musicians performed lively, interactive concerts at the two schools, leaving a lasting impression with the students and inspiring them to strive for excellence, in music and academics.

Both Contreras and Naré have come a long way since their days in Fresno Unified. Both have performed throughout the world.

Contreras, who graduated from Hoover High School, has created his own unique style on the violin, influenced by hip-hop, mariachi, rock, soul, electronic and classical genres. He performs original music and interpretations of Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Santana and others.

Naré attended Roosevelt until his family moved to Texas. He was a teen sensation as a mariachi singer, performing around the country. He calls his style of music today “nuevo mariachi,” with influences of jazz, soul and pop. He and Contreras are frequent collaborators.

Naré said playing for and encouraging the students was extremely rewarding. He praised Fresno Unified for its music programs: “It’s great that in Fresno Unified, every student can have an instrument in their hand.”

Grant will Help District Expand Teacher Residency Program

Fresno Unified will continue to expand its Fresno Teacher Residency Program through a new \$3.2 million grant from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

The residency program began in 2014 to recruit, select, and train highly effective teachers to address the specific needs of Fresno Unified. The program emphasizes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

Those selected for the program take classes taught by Fresno State University professors and district leaders at school site locations. While they are taking education courses, they are also getting hands-on experience in classrooms.

The district pays residents a stipend and guarantees them a teaching position in the district if they fulfill all requirements.

The Fresno Teacher Residency program serves 150 teachers, with 65% coming from underrepresented groups. The district assigns mentors to residents and provides a variety of other supports. Since the program started, 153 residents have completed the program and been placed as teachers.

With the new grant, the district will target increasing credentialed teachers in special education and STEM fields. The district will also focus on increasing the number of



Hector Lopez, a teacher at Sequoia Middle School, earned his credential through the Teacher Residency Program. He is among 153 students to complete the program since it started in 2014.

teachers with Multiple Subject and Bilingual Authorizations credentials. The district learned about the grant in March.

Last November, the district was awarded a \$4.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Teacher Quality Partnership. That grant supports the district’s partnership with Fresno Pacific University.

Fresno Unified’s original Teacher Quality Partnership grant in 2014 was for \$7.9 million in partnership with Fresno State.



Violinist Patrick Contreras helps Rowell Elementary School student Jesus Alaniz-Santiago with the violin at a performance April 9.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Paraeducator Supports Staff and Students with Expertise in Autism

The district's teachers who work with students with autism look often to paraeducator Kim Conley because of her years of experience, knowledge and desire to find solutions. She has worked for the district for 20 years, 15 as a paraeducator. In February, the district honored Conley as an Excellence in Education finalist. Autism support manager Marissa Saldate said about Conley: "Time and time again, Kim rises to the challenge and succeeds. Our students receive nothing but the best from Kim."

How did you come to be an autism paraeducator? I became a paraeducator because I wanted to learn everything I could about autism. I started out working in an autism preschool at Holland [Elementary School] for seven years. Then I would work during the summer for the Bullard High School programs. I really wanted to see how the students would mature. I took my G30 training when it was first offered to us in the district. A job opened at

Fresno City College's Autism Program through Fresno Unified. I would take students to classes at FCC and different jobs. I would teach them job skills and how to ride the FAX bus. They closed the program for autism after eight years. I was offered this amazing job that I have working for the Special Education Department. I am blessed to be working with this team. I have learned so much in the last five years.

What does your job entail? My job entails going to different classes in Fresno Unified. I help make visuals, icons, penny boards, or first/then cards for the classes. I know all the curriculum in the autism and Alternative Language Pathway classes. I love trying to figure out problems and seeing what I can do to help. It kind of is like a puzzle and every piece needs to fit just right. I was trained to teach Crisis Prevention Instruction strategies in the summer. It was an honor to be picked.

What is the most misunderstood

aspect of autism? That autism needs to be fixed. We just need to learn how to bring the best out in each student. They have a gift and we need to help them see that.

What do you enjoy the most about

your job? I love working with behaviors. It is amazing to see how each student reacts to different people.

See **KIM CONLEY**
Continued on page 12



Kim Conley, a paraeducator in the district's autism program, works with Columbia Elementary School fourth-grader Xitlali Bautista. Conley enjoys seeing students grow and respond to different strategies.

Outstanding Storey First Grade Teacher Reads Text Books for Fun

Isabel Mayoral was a social work major until she discovered teaching and knew she had to change her career plans. She has been with Fresno Unified since January 2016 and at Storey Elementary School since August, where she teaches

first grade. She was a finalist for one of the district's Excellence in Education awards in February. She is described as a loving teacher who captivates her students and works extremely hard to design high-quality lessons based on

proven strategies. She has high expectations for students. Literacy coach Melissa Christensen said of Mayoral: "Truly, while visiting her classroom, you have to remind yourself that you are in a first grade classroom rather than a classroom of tiny fourth-graders."

What made you decide to be a teacher? It's actually an interesting story. In college, I was majoring in social work, not education. After moving to Greenville, Texas, I needed to find a job quickly. I had already completed enough college hours to qualify for a substitute job. I immediately applied. I began substituting for the Head Start Program on a regular basis as a short- and long-term substitute. Before I realized what was happening, I developed an intense passion for education. I immensely enjoyed helping students learn a concept or standard while scaffolding their learning in order to help them develop their full potential. I knew I had to change my major. It was one of the best decisions I ever made.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? I enjoy planning lessons and activities that are fun and engaging while still maintaining the rigor needed to meet the challenges of the Common Core State Standards.

What is most challenging about your job? Making parents understand the importance of becoming active participants in their child's education is often a challenge. Extensive research has proven that parent involvement can drastically increase academic achievement. This achievement ultimately paves the way for students to experience success. Convincing parents of the benefits of their active participation in their students' education is a challenge I welcome every year.

What is unique about teaching first-graders? First-grade students are naturally curious and have great imagination

See **ISABEL MAYORAL**
Continued on page 12



Storey Elementary School first grade teacher Isabel Mayoral high fives Joscelyn Martinez Tafoya, left, and Arianna Chico, while Julianne Vang looks on. In back, from left, are Ashley Yang, Cozielynn Xiong and Nebury Moreno.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Easterby Principal is County Educator of the Year Finalist

Pam Taylor, principal at Easterby Elementary School, is one of nine finalists for an Educator of the Year award from the Fresno County Office of the Superintendent.

Fresno Unified Superintendent Bob Nelson surprised Taylor April 1 at a principals meeting with the announcement that she was a finalist. Following site visits and interviews this spring, the Fresno County Office of the Superintendent will announce the winners in three categories Nov. 21 at the Saroyan Theatre. Panel members select finalists from districts throughout Fresno County.

Taylor was an Excellence in Education winner in the administrator category for Fresno Unified Feb. 4.

Taylor began working for Fresno Unified in 2008 and has been at Easterby since 2012. She is recognized for her ability as an effective problem-solver and calming presence, and for her support for her staff and the students at Easterby.



Pam Taylor, principal at Easterby Elementary School, is with Fresno Unified Superintendent Bob Nelson April 1 at a principals meeting. Nelson surprised Taylor with the announcement that she is a finalist for a Fresno County Educator of the Year award. Following site visits and interviews, the Fresno County Office of the Superintendent will announce the winners in three categories Nov. 21 at the Saroyan Theatre.

Instructional Leader Recognized

Katie Russell, an instructional superintendent with the district, was recognized by the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA) and Association of California School Administrators for her significant contributions as an educational leader.



Instructional Superintendent Katie Russell recently won an award from the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators.

Russell received the award on March 15 in Sacramento at CAAASA's annual Statewide Professional Development Summit, a gathering of educators, elected officials and leaders in educational policy, practice and service from throughout the country.

Russell has been with the district for 25 years, including 10 years as an elementary teacher and 11 years as an administrator for elementary and middle schools. In her current role as an instructional superintendent, she supervises leaders of pre-kindergarten through high school with a focus on building the capacity of others and improving student achievement.

In her work with the district, she has been on the cutting edge of building a culture of learning, focused on mastery of the Common Core State Standards. Russell values diversity, educational excellence and equity, and building collaborative relationships with parents, students and the community.

EOC Honors Safety Manager

Armand Chavez, the district's safety manager, was honored March 22 at the Safe Place Partner Recognition Breakfast with an Outstanding Community Partner award.



Armand Chavez, the district's safety officer, was honored recently with a Safe Place partner award.

The recognition came from Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) Sanctuary and Support Services during National Safe Place Week.

Fresno Unified partners with Fresno EOC to provide Safe Places at more than 106 school sites and district facilities. A Safe Place is a safe haven for youth in crisis.

Chavez began working in Fresno Unified in 1993 as a student safety assistant at Yosemite Middle School, moving to Duncan Polytechnical High School in 2003 as the lead campus safety assistant. In 2007, Chavez began working as a safety/security specialist for the newly created Safety Office under now-retired Don Weaver. In 2012, Chavez became manager of the Safety Office, overseeing emergency planning and crisis response.

Chavez is a member and district representative on the Violence Intervention and Community Services Advisory Board through the Fresno Police Department. He is also a board member for Central Valley Crime

Stoppers.

Before working for the district, Chavez worked for a private investigative firm and for Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno.



Important Dates

May 27
June 6

Memorial Day
Last Day of School Year



Building Project Hammers Home Academics for Early Learners

Wearing tiny tool belts and hard hats, 3-year-old students at the Early Learning Center at Duncan Polytechnical High School hammered away earlier this spring building two doghouses.

Through the project in teacher Michelle Maher's morning and afternoon classes, students learned academic and motor skills and served their community.

Maher said the doghouse project, part of their curriculum, taught the students various skills through the process of planning, designing, measuring, building and decorating the doghouses.

The classes donated the two doghouses to the Animal Rescue Center of Fresno, which will give the doghouses away to people adopting dogs.

With their location at Duncan, Maher said Duncan students volunteer frequently with the preschool students. The school's emphasis on career and college pathways – from construction, to nursing, to automotive – introduces the youngest learners to exciting

programs for the future.

The Early Learning Center at Duncan is among 10 sites in the district that offer programs for preschoolers – for students turning 3 by Sept. 1. Along with Duncan, the district offers preschool at Addams, Birney, Calwa, Mayfair, Olmos, Turner, Vinland, Winchell and Wolters elementary schools.

The district also offers pre-kindergarten classes – for students turning 4 by Dec. 2 – at most elementary schools across the district.

How to Enroll

Preschool and pre-kindergarten enrollment for the next school year is ongoing.

Call (559) 457-3416 or (559) 457- 3682 for more information about enrolling students in one of the district's high quality early learning programs.



Francisco A. Yee, a preschool student at the Early Learning Center at Duncan Polytechnical High School, works on a doghouse.

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Fresno High School Students Shop for Free at New Warrior Rack

Clothing and shoe donations have poured into Fresno High School to stock the campus' new Warrior Rack, where every other Thursday at lunch, students can "shop" for two free items.



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

By opening the rack to all students, in a fun atmosphere, students can select free clothes without feeling self-conscious, said Fresno High teacher Jeannine Der Manouel, one of the organizers of the project.

The grand opening was March 14, but the project really started last year ago as the Warrior Closet by Der Manouel and her Restorative Justice class. Der Manouel and her class decided to create the Warrior Rack because not enough students were taking advantage of the free clothing. They decided to make the clothes highly visible by opening up a pop-up boutique with outdoor racks, open to all students.

"We realized we needed to do better," Der Manouel said. "We didn't want

[students] to feel the stigma of asking."

Der Manouel and her students recently won a third place Cesar Chavez Service Award for the Warrior Rack.

"It's a good feeling to know you are part of something good and that you are helping out," said student Briana Delgado, part of the Restorative Justice class.

School and community members help make the rack a success. The Fresno High Alumni Association donated money to buy sturdy racks. Students helped to organize the clothes, including from Der Manouel's Restorative Justice class. The project has also received support from Michele Rodriguez, board liaison for trustee Carol Mills, and students from the Adult Lifestyle Planning Services program, who helped launder some of the donated clothes and place them on hangars as part of learning life skills.

To donate to the Warrior Rack, drop off gently used, laundered clothes in bags at the Fresno High front office.



Fresno High School pumps up the music and strives for a pop-up boutique feel at the Warrior Rack, providing a stigma-free place to get free clothes.

DESIGNATED SCHOOLS Continued from page 1

affluent schools. The approach was to add intervention time for students, increase professional learning (PL) for teachers, and to make sure the additional PL time translated into improved instruction.

Changes for the 40 schools included:

- Extending the school day by 30 minutes
- Training principals and central office administrators to serve as instructional leaders
- Making sure teacher teams had instructional experts to help facilitate meetings, training on new standards and clear protocols on how to use professional learning time

Working with the Fresno Teachers Association, the district developed a plan to compensate teachers at the Designated Schools for 30 extra minutes of instruction daily and to participate in professional learning communities for 80 additional hours per year.

The district first invested in four pilot schools. Based on promising outcomes, the district expanded to a total of 40 schools over three years.

Beyond the longer school days for the 40 campuses, the district also increased access to pre-kindergarten and changed summer school so that struggling students were required to go unless they opted out – an "opt-out" vs. "opt-in" approach.

The district also made significant investments in:

- Training for administrators
- An extra staff member for Designated Schools, with most adding a teacher on special assignment to be an instructional coach and intervention teacher
- Additional administrators in the School Leadership Department to support principals and vice principals
- Rigorous, standards-based curricula

Designated Schools:

Addams, Anthony, Aynesworth, Balderas, Birney, Burroughs, Calwa, Columbia, Del Mar, Easterby, Ericson, Ewing, Fremont, Greenberg, Heaton, Hidalgo, Homan, Jackson, Jefferson, King, Kirk, Lane, Lincoln, Lowell, Mayfair, Muir, Norseman, Olmos, Pyle, Roeding, Rowell, Slater, Vang Pao, Viking, Webster, Williams, Wilson, Winchell, Wishon, and Wolters

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KIM CONLEY

Continued from page 8

Seeing the growth in each student, whether it is small or large, it is amazing to see.

What is the most challenging about your job? I can't be everywhere. I wish I could clone myself to help in all the classrooms at the same time.

If you could choose a different career, what would it be? I love my job and wouldn't want to change anything.

What do you like to do when you are not working? I work three jobs and I have three daughters, and so I am always working.

Name one thing most people do not know about you. I am pretty much an open book.

ISABEL MAYORAL

Continued from page 8

about the world around them. They are eagerly wanting to engage in activities where they can explore and discover new learning. They are not afraid to ask and answer questions. First graders do not shy away from becoming both problem solvers and problem posers as they work their way around a new or existing topic.

What advice would you give to a new teacher? I would advise a new teacher to always plan ahead. Students count on their instructors daily to equip them with the necessary skills needed to be

successful.

Name one thing most people do not know about you. I read college textbooks for fun!

If you could choose a career other than teaching, what would it be? I would become a neuroscientist. I am intrigued about how the brain acquires learning in all settings.

What is your dream vacation? Visiting Oaxaca, Mexico is definitely my top destination place.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I find it comforting to read the Bible and pray.

Design Science Celebrates Award



Design Science Middle College High School students and school and district staff celebrate the campus' designation as a California Distinguished School on April 10. Baird Middle School was also named a Distinguished School. Design Science and Baird were among 162 middle and high schools statewide to earn the distinction for exceptional student performance for two consecutive years or closing the achievement gap between two years.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Birney Elementary Student Learning to be Leader, Despite Challenges

Walking through the halls of Birney Elementary School, it seems that



Joey Sanchez, a fifth-grader at Birney Elementary School, was selected as the Read Across America greeter because of his engaging personality.

everyone wants to greet Joey Sanchez. The high-fives, pats on the shoulders and smiles make it clear that anyone who comes across the fifth-grader is happy to see him.

Joey's popularity and great attitude is despite tumultuous elementary years, including transferring to four different schools in five years because of family moves. But with a big smile, he will tell you that Birney is the place to be.

"They are helpful, always supportive, always telling me I'm doing a good job," Joey said.

As part of the Leadership Club, Joey is learning how to present himself to others, how to help his community and to dream beyond the near future.

He wants to go to college, then play professional basketball.

"Then every point I make and the money I make I want that to go to the

children in need," Joey said, without hesitation.

He knows that to make his dreams come true, he has to start now. By completing extra homework, studying longer and focusing more during class Joey is raising his GPA, striving for 4.0.

His bright personality, innocent face and maturity don't go unnoticed. In February, he was selected as the official school greeter for guests who came to read during the Read Across America event. With a schedule in hand, he directed everyone to their classroom, explaining directions. Responsibilities like greeting are helping him focus on improving his grades.

After meeting Joey, it's hard to imagine that he has gone through difficult times in his life. He spent six years without seeing his father, and family circumstances have not been ideal to flourish socially or academically, but Joey is progressing.

On his last tests, he said, he got all As. His mom, Crystal, older brother Kane and younger brother Carlos are always encouraging him to do better, to excel. But Joey explains that he gets most of his support and encouragement from his sister, Jolie, who he talks to every day, especially when he is going through difficult moments. His sister passed away when she was a baby more than 10 years ago, but has never left his side.

"The best thing you can do to help a struggling student is to spend time with them, be there for them," said Joey, speaking from experience with the staff and classmates at Birney.

He's trying to "pay it forward" for other students too. He meets every "hi" with a smile, and makes a point of talking to students who look sad or don't seem to have friends. It's clear that at his young age, Joey has already learned one of the most important lessons in life – when you help others, you are helping yourself.

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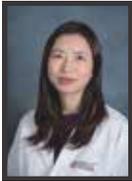
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Middle School Techies Tussle at Tournament of Technology



From left, Colton Verret and Nicholas Mouser from Computech Middle School battle with Keyara Dickson from Sequoia Middle School, as Sequoia teacher Chris Fuge looks on. More than 500 Fresno Unified students engaged in technology-based competitions as part of the 12th annual Middle School Tournament of Technology on April 6 at Hoover High School.



DISTRICT ROUNDUP

McLane High School Hmong Dancers Perform

The McLane Hmong Dance Troupe landed a prestigious gig – the dancers were invited to be the main performers at the opening ceremony for the Hmong National Development Conference in San Jose April 19. The troupe – 27 dancers – performed three sets. The conference is the only one of its kind in the U.S. and the Hmong community’s largest event.



Drum circles have become a popular form of music therapy. Two experienced drummers from the community played alongside the students.

Sixth grade teacher LaKeysha Mattis and kindergarten teacher LaTrenda Williams organized the drum circle as a way to connect students and the community in a fun, peaceful activity. All students were welcome, but teachers specifically invited students who were struggling and could find a therapeutic outlet through the drumming. The school plans to have drum circles the first two Wednesdays of May and June as well.



Kirk Elementary Students Form Drum Circle

Kirk Elementary School students and community members played the djembe drums in a drum circle with family members and others joining them with drums and percussion instruments on April 3. The playing of djembe drums has traditionally signified a gathering of people in peace.

Sunnyside Photography Students Unveil Guerrilla Art Project

More than 100 Sunnyside High School photography students pasted 425 black and white photos of Sunnyside

region faces around campus on April 6, surprising students when they arrived April 8. The images include students, faculty and staff from Sunnyside High, as well as from region elementary and middle schools. While this is the third year of the guerilla art project, for the first time the students have partnered with the Inside Out Project, an international mural movement.

Students invested more than 1,500 hours taking photos, training in mural pasting and executing the mural itself. The mural covered approximately 5,000 square feet of wall and staircase space, and in keeping with this year’s student-driven theme, “We Are Family,” the word “family” was featured among the photos in English, Spanish, Punjabi, Hmong, and more.

SUNNYSIDE SYMPHONY Continued from page 6

gray and they’ll get to tell their family and friends, ‘Yah, I went to New York and performed on that stage.’”

Through the trip, the students had an opportunity to broaden their view of the world. Angel said 90% of the students had never been on an airplane, and 70% of the parent chaperones had not either.

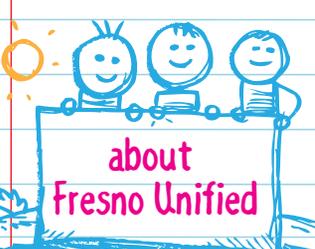
Along with performing, students had a full schedule of sightseeing. They learned about New York’s rich history, and visited the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the 9/11 Memorial Museum and One World

Observatory. Everyone had the opportunity to witness the grandeur of the Manhattan skyline from the Hudson River at night from a dinner/dance on a cruise ship.

The program spent the last 11 months raising funds for the festival for 100 travelers. Fresno Unified was a major sponsor, fully funding scholarships for all performing students. To be eligible for the scholarship, students had to be members of the Sunnyside Wind Symphony in good standing and maintain a C or better in all courses.

Other sponsors were local businesses, and the many Friends of the Wind Symphony, who supported the ensemble at concerts.

Fun FACTS



▶ More than 500 students participated in the Tournament of Technology this year.

▶ This year’s Steve’s Scholars amassed 2,977 hours of community service since they were in seventh grade.

▶ Sequoia Middle School collected 63 boxes of books for the Reading Heart book drive, one of 23 schools participating.



District Joins with Community to Honor Cesar Chavez



Andrea Hernandez and Joseph Ortega from Los Danzantes de Roosevelt School of the Arts perform during the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning on April 11 at Saroyan Theatre. Both have been dancing for more than six years.



SUPT. MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

Viajes hacen reflexionar sobre la importancia de fomentar relaciones

Hace unas semanas, tuve el honor de viajar a la ciudad de Nueva York como invitado de la Fundación Wallace para participar en su trabajo más reciente sobre el desarrollo de liderazgo y las mejores prácticas para construir un camino exitoso de directores. Mientras viajaba, tuve la oportunidad de conocer a algunas personas maravillosas y comprometidas, tanto dentro como fuera del ámbito de la educación. Sé que una parte importante de mi camino aquí en esta vida es crear conexiones. Cultivar relaciones, atravesar conversaciones incomodas, y simplemente estar “despierto” para los demás, es mi mayor alegría. Las personas son complejas. A veces, pueden ser difíciles, casi hasta el punto de ser imposibles. Pero otras veces son hermosas, incluso gloriosas en su complejidad. Estos dos días de viaje fueron un ejemplo estelar de eso exactamente y me recordaron el poder de construir relaciones positivas.

Vemos los beneficios de esas relaciones positivas en los relatos e historias personales de nuestra última clase de beneficiarios de Becas del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno. El 9 de mayo en un banquete de premios especiales, celebraremos a 57 de nuestros estudiantes del último año con becas por un total de \$ 113,500. Este año, recibimos más de 300 solicitudes de estudiantes, 100 solicitudes más que el año pasado. Gracias a las generosas donaciones de empleados y miembros de la comunidad, pudimos otorgar más becas para estudiantes con un adicional de \$52,000 en becas durante el año pasado. Muchas de las historias compartidas de nuestros estudiantes, a través de sus aplicaciones, hablaron de desafíos y experiencias personales, cada una de ellas única y convincente. Sin embargo, hubo un tema común a lo largo de sus relatos- se levantaron por encima de sus circunstancias con el apoyo de un adulto comprensivo, algunos de los cuales estaban directamente relacionados con su trayectoria educativa en la escuela. Encontraron su sistema de apoyo y debido a ello, ahora están cursando una educación postsecundaria, y muchos son los primeros en su familia en hacerlo ¡Comprobado una vez más que fomentar relaciones positivas es vital para encontrar el éxito!

Con solo unas semanas antes de que la temporada de graduación comience oficialmente, tendremos la oportunidad de celebrar a miles de nuestros graduados preparados para la universidad y la carrera mientras se ponen sus gorros y batas y hacen ese paseo monumental a través de la etapa de graduación. Si bien la graduación se considera un rito de iniciación, para muchos en nuestro distrito, no es un hecho. El camino está pavimentado con obstáculos y dificultades tanto dentro como fuera del aula. Como distrito, nuestra junta continúa invirtiendo en recursos para facilitar aún más esas luchas: invertir en los estudiantes, mejorar

el apoyo educativo para maestros, instalaciones, apoyo socioemocional, seguridad y más. El esfuerzo y la visión de nuestra junta directiva se pueden ver a través del trabajo del Plan de Control y Responsabilidad Local (LCAP) de este año y nuestro proceso de desarrollo de presupuesto hacia el año escolar 2019-20. El Distrito Unificado de Fresno está mejorando los resultados académicos para los estudiantes e invirtiendo en niveles adicionales de apoyo a medida que continuamos enfocándonos en reducir la brecha de logros, trabajo que comienza con nuestros estudiantes más pequeños.

En abril, un estudio de caso nacional fue publicado por Estrategias de Recursos de Educación destacando la inversión de nuestra junta en más tiempo de instrucción para los estudiantes. El modelo de Escuelas Designadas Unificadas de Fresno es una de las ocho historias de éxito educativo nacional presentadas. El estudio examina de cerca el lanzamiento de más tiempo de instrucción para los estudiantes en 40 escuelas primarias de bajo rendimiento, junto con un aprendizaje profesional adicional para nuestros adultos. El estudio continúa mostrando los cambios académicos que se han producido en los últimos cinco años, incluido el cierre de las brechas de rendimiento. Hasta la fecha, más de la mitad de las Escuelas Designadas han mejorado su clasificación de rendimiento en matemáticas en comparación con otras escuelas en el estado. Además, cada año nuestras escuelas designadas han visto un crecimiento estudiantil tanto en matemáticas como en artes del lenguaje en inglés (ELA). El trabajo y los resultados académicos se detallan en el estudio de caso nacional, que puede ver en su totalidad en el sitio web de nuestro distrito. Los animo a que dedique tiempo para leer y aprender más sobre las inversiones de nuestra junta y el progreso académico que se está logrando como resultado directo.

Mientras que el fin del año escolar está en el horizonte, el trabajo y el compromiso con nuestros más de 74,000 estudiantes es constante. Con el apoyo continuo y el compromiso de nuestra comunidad, no solo estamos construyendo relaciones positivas, estamos construyendo futuros.

Taug kev qhia txog yam tseem ceeb ntawm tej kev qhia kev sib raug zoo

Ob peb lub lim tiam dhau los, kuv tau kev hwm tau taug kev mus rau New York City tam li ib tug qhua ntawm Wallace Foundation los muab kev koom tes rau lawv qhov hauj lwm txog kev txhim kho kev ntaus thawj thiab tej kev xyaum zoo txog kev tsim muaj thawj xib fwb zoo. Lub sij hawm kuv tau taug kev, kuv tau muaj lub cib fim los ntsib nrog ib txhia neeg muaj koob thiab tau txuam nrog tib neeg, tag nrho sab hauv thiab sab nraum ntawm txoj kev kawm txuj ci. Kuv paub ib feem tseem ceeb ntawm kuv qhov kev ncig teb chaws nov hauv lub neej txog kev sib txuas nrog lwm tus. Qhia txog kev phooj kev ywg, tsis ntshai txog kev sib tham, thiab yuav tsum tau ua tus “cus ciav” rau lwm tus, yog kuv qhov kev zoo siab tshaj plaws. Tib neeg muaj ntau ntau hom. Lawv kuj yuav tsis yooj yim, yuav luag yog qhov

tsis muaj peev xwm ua tau, rau ntau lub sij hawm. Tiam sis dua lwm lub sij hawm lawv kuj zoo heev, txawm kev zoo siab hauv lawv kev tsis yooj yim. Ob hnuv taug kev no yog ib qho piv txwv txog kev ua tau zoo thiab ua rau kuv nco txog lub zog ntawm txoj kev tsim kev sib raug zoo.

Peb pom tej ntxiaj ntsim ntawm cov kev sib raug zoo hauv tej kev sau ntawv thiab tus kheej tej dab neeg ntawm peb lub chav kawm dhau los ntawm Fresno Unified Scholarship cov neeg tau txais. Nyob rau lub Tsib Hlis tim 9 hauv ib pluas hmov muab dej siab, peb yuav ua koob tsheej 57a significant part of my journey here in this life and as superintendent is about creating connection. Nurturing relationships, daring uncomfortable conversations, and just being “awake” to others is my greatest joy. People are complex. They can be difficult, almost to the point of impossible, at times. But other times they are beautiful, even glorious in their complexity. My travel days to and from NYC were a stellar example of exactly that—life is about building better relationships with those we meet along our greater journeys and making the best of those opportunities.

Here within Fresno Unified, the benefits of such relationships are directly seen through the success of our students. That couldn't be more true as we prepare to celebrate our 2019 Fresno Unified Scholarship recipients. This year, tug ntawm peb hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv cov kawm qib kaum ob nrog cov nyiaj pub dawb tag nrho yog \$113,500. Lub xyoo nov, peb tau txais coob tshaj li 300 tub kawm ntawv tau thov, 100 leej tshaj tsab no. Ua tsaug rau cov neeg muaj lub siab dawb siab zoo tau pub dawb los ntawm cov neeg ua hauj lwm thiab cov neeg zej zog, peb muaj peev xwm muab dej siab pub rau coob tus tub kawm ntawv nrog rau ib qhov \$52,000 ntxiv hauv dej siab pub nyiaj tshaj tseb no. Coob tug ntawm peb cov tub kawm ntawv tej dab neeg raws li tau muab los sib qhia los ntawm lawv cov ntawv thov, hais txog tus kheej tej kev nyuaj thiab tej kev tau ua dua los, tej ywb yam zoo tshwj xeeb sib txawv thiab yuam. Txawm li ntawm los, nws muaj ib qho zoo sib xws thooob plaws lawv cov ntawv sau – lawv sawv nres nrog lawv tej teeb meem nrog kev txhawb pab ntawm ib tus neeg laus, ib txhia ntawm nws muaj feem ncaj nraim rau lawv txoj kev mus kawm txuj kawm ci. Lawv nrhiav tau lawv qhov kev txhawb pab thiab yeeb vim tias yog nws, tam sim no tab tom kawm mus rau kawm tiav txuj ci siab, muaj coob tug yog thawj thawj tus nyob rau hauv lawv tsev neeg kawm tau. Pov thawj duab ib zaug ntxiv tias kev qhia txoj kev zoo muaj feem tseem ceeb rau kev nrhiav kev vam meej!

Li ntawm ob peb lim tiam ua ntej lub caij kawm tiav pib, peb yuav muaj lub cib fim los ua koob tsheej lom zem coob tshaj phav phav leej ntawm peb cov kawm tiav mus kawm college thiab npaj txhij ua hauj lwm raws li lawv tau lawv lub kaus mom thiab cev ris tsho thiab ua rau coob tug tau taug nce lub sam thiaj kawm tiav. Thaum lub sij hawm kawm tiav yog suav tias yog ib qhov kev kawm tau zoo, rau coob tug hauv peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv, nws tsis yog ib qho es cia li muab tau. Txoj kev

pua ntau yam thaiv kev thiab ntau yam kev nyuaj tsis hais sab hauv thiab sab nraum ntawm lub chav kawm. Tam li ib lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv, peb pawg neeg thawj coj los nqis peev rau tej kev pab ntxuas ntxiv mus rau tom ntej kom ua rau cov kev nyuaj no yooj yim – nqis peev rau tej tub kawm ntawv, txhim kho tej kev txhawb pab kev qhia ntaub ntawv rau cov xib fwb, tej chaw, tej kev txhawb pab kev haum xeeb, kev nyob nyab xeeb thiab ntau ntxiv. Peb pawg thawj cov qhov kev sib zog thiab lub zeem muag muaj peev xwm pom tau los ntawm lub xyoo no qhov hauj lwm qhov Cheeb Tsam Chaw Kev Npaj Tswj Ris Dej Num (LCAP) thiab peb pob nyiaj xiaj tsim kev ua rau lub xyoo kawm ntawv 2019-20. Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv tab tom txhim kho tej kev kawm tau rau cov tub kawm ntawv thiab nqis peev rau ntau txheej ntawm kev txhawb pab raws li peb ua ntxiv ntxiv mus rau kev ua ntsees txo qhov kev nrug kev kawm tau – hauj lwm uas yog pib nrog peb cov tub kawm ntawv uas yau tshaj plaws mus.

Nyob rau lub Plaub Hlis, ib qho kev kawm thooob teb chaws tau raug tsim muaj los ntawm Cov Tswv Yim Pab Kev Qhia Ntaub Ntawv qhia txog qhov tseem ceeb ntawm peb pawg neeg thawj coj qhov kev nqis peev rau sij qhia ntaub ntawv ntau ntxiv rau cov tub kawm ntawv. Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv tus qauv Tshwj Cov Tsev Kawm Ntawv yog ib tug qauv ntawm yim zaj dab neeg kev kawm tau txuj ci thooob teb chaws muaj. Qhov kev kawm yog ua tib zoo xyuas txog qhov ua ntawm sij hawm qhia ntaub ntawv ntau ntxiv rau cov tub kawm ntawv rau 40 lub tsev kawm ntawv them qis kawm tau qis qis – nrog rau kev kawm dej num rau peb cov neeg laus ntxiv. Qhov kev kawm mus rau kev qhia txog ntau txoj kev hloov kev kawm uas muaj tshwm sim tsib lub xyoos dhau los, xam nrog rau kaw cov kev nrug kev kawm tau. Niaj hnuv no, ntau tshaj li ib nraib ntawm Cov Tsev Kawm Ntawv Tau Tshwj Tseg tau txhim kho lawv qhov kev kawm tau lej tus naj npawb sib piv nrog rau lwm lub tsev kawm ntawv hauv lub xeev. Tshaj ntawm, tej lwb lub xyoo peb Cov Tsev Kawm Ntawv Tau Tshwj Tseg tau pom tub kawm ntawv kawm tau rau tag nrho lej thiab lus Askiv (ELA). Tej kev tshwm sim kev ua hauj lwm thiab kev kawm txuj ci tau qhia ntxaws nyob rau hauv teb chaws qhov kev kawm, uas koj mus saib tau tag nrho hauv peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv lub chaw nruab ntug (website). Kuv nquas hu koj siv sij hawm los mus nyeem thiab kawm txog ntau yam peb pawg thawj coj cov kev nqis peev thiab kev kawm tau txuj ci raug ua tau tam li hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv qhov kev tshwm sim.

Thaum xaus ntawm lub xyoo kawm ntawv nyob ze tim npoo ntuj, hauj lwm thiab kev cog lus rau peb cov tub kawm ntawv coob tshaj li ntawm 74,000 tub kawm ntawv sai kawg li. Nrog rau kev txhawb pab ua ntu zus thiab kev koom tes los ntawm peb lub zej lub zos, tsis yog peb tsim muaj kev sib raug zoo zoo xwb, peb tab tom tsim lub neej tshiab.



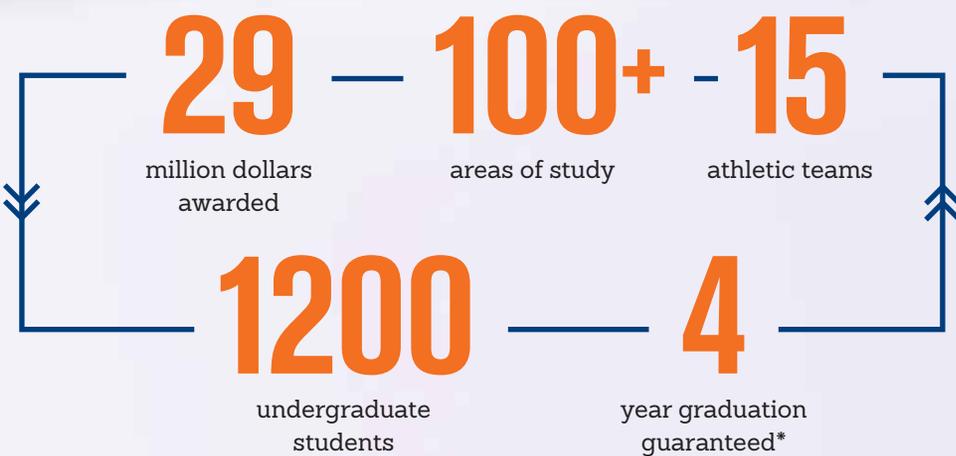
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