

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

State of Education Luncheon Raises \$46,000 for Scholarships

Thanks to the community's support, the 2019 State of Education luncheon on Oct. 14 raised more than \$46,000 for student scholarships -- \$15,000 more than last year's event.

The event is the largest single fundraiser for the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund. Since its inception in 2009, the district has awarded 333 scholarships to deserving students.

More than 400 attended to hear



Superintendent Bob Nelson speak on his vision for Fresno Unified. The luncheon was held at the DoubleTree Hotel downtown.

"Obviously, we want our kids to have high test scores -- I certainly want that for my own children," Nelson said. "But that alone is not enough. I want my kids to be able to function well in the world of tomorrow, to give and receive love and to connect with others"



Michelle Alvarez, a student at Sunnyside High School, sings the national anthem at the State of Education luncheon, a fundraiser for scholarships, on Oct. 14 at the DoubleTree Hotel.

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/stateofeducation2019

See **STATE OF EDUCATION** Continued on page 9

Superintendent Explains his "Why" at State of Education Fundraiser



Superintendent Bob Nelson speaks at the State of Education luncheon Oct. 14.

Superintendent Bob Nelson delivered a heartfelt keynote address during the State of Education luncheon Oct. 14, highlighting his vision for the district, successes and challenges.

His words prompted laughter at times, but for the most part Nelson invited the audience of 400 to join the district in supporting students. He challenged them to discover their "why."

"I want to remind you all how much we're going to need you to lean into this work over the next year," Nelson said. "Without all of your voices, and many more, at the table we will miss this unique opportunity in our hands to collaborate and plan that dream future

for our kids and community and we cannot fail our kids like that.

"It's our time to truly create transformational change for our kids with all of our expertise combined – and that's no joke. So as we dive into this work I ask you, what 'why' is going to keep you showing up for our kids through this difficult work?"

Nelson said his "why" is to "teach, to love, to promote, and to champion our children here in this community."

"I learned from my parents very early on that if you want to be truly happy in this life, if you want to be living your very best life, that it really has nothing to do with a focus on your own life. If

you want to be happy, the surest way to bring that to pass is to focus on connecting with and serving others.

"But not only am I deeply rooted in my why – so is our board, who works tirelessly day in and day out as well on behalf of our students, families and communities," Nelson said, followed by a video of board members talking about why they were serving the district.

Nelson's remarks included highlighting:

Fiscal stability: Moody's Investors

See **SUPERINTENDENT VISION** Continued on page 9

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PARENTS

District Provides Tablets for Students to Use at Home for Learning

The district is in its second year providing no-cost tablets to students to support learning at home.

This school year, the Lenovo tablets are being provided to students in fourth through seventh grades and 12th grade as part of a three-year roll-out. The program is called the eLearning Companion Device initiative – or LCD.

“As a parent, I consider that having access to technology is a great tool, not just for me but also for all parents here in the district. There’s a lot of parents that do not have the means to obtain a tablet and having this initiative is so important...” said Walter Ramirez, a Leavenworth Elementary School parent.

The district launched LCD in October of 2018. With the support of dedicated school sites and staff who partnered with the Information Technology Department, more than 15,000 tablets were distributed to students in pre-kindergarten, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten; first through third grades; and ninth through 11th grades.

Following this year’s distribution, the district will complete the roll-out in the 2020-21 school year by providing tablets to students in fifth and sixth grades.

The goal of LCD is to provide students with the educational resources they need outside the classroom. For example, tablets for the district’s youngest learners were pre-loaded with fun apps to promote early literacy and math skills.

For grades nine through 11, the devices were set up with resources such as Khan Academy, College Board and Springboard to help students prepare for the PSAT and SAT college entrance tests. Students are also able to access digital resources for learning.

This year, the district introduced a new 10-inch Lenovo tablet for middle and high school students joining the program.

Many districts provide a laptop or tablet for students to take home, but they are responsible for bringing the

device to school every day to use in class. Through Fresno Unified’s unique companion device program, student laptops that are used in the classroom stay in the classroom overnight so they can be charged and ready to go. The LCD tablets can be used at home or outside the classroom

“The LCD initiative provides great access to learning for our students,” said Hoover High School Principal Rebecca Wheeler. “Students say they appreciate having a device to themselves, and the devices have the curriculum materials that the students need already loaded, so they can easily access their work outside of class.

“The devices provide access to learning and support outside the normal school day. Students can practice skills, complete online tutorials, and engage in study groups, as well as research post-secondary options and complete college and scholarship applications.”

LCD Tablet Program

Students receiving tablets this school year should have received a letter from the district. For more information:

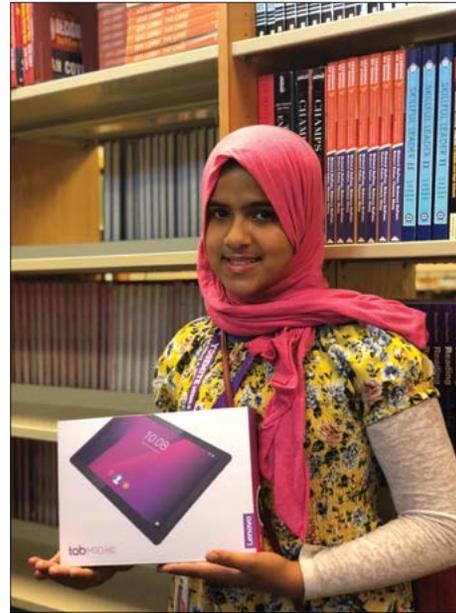
- Call (559) 457-3939
- Email lcd@fresnounified.org
- Visit fresnounified.org under Parents

La Iniciativa de Tabletas LCD Continúa

Este es el segundo año que el distrito provee tabletas a los estudiantes sin costo alguno para apoyar el aprendizaje en el hogar.

Este año escolar, se han proveído las tabletas Lenovo a los estudiantes de cuarto a séptimo grado y a los del 12vo grado como parte del programa disponible por tres años. El programa se le llamó iniciativa de eLearning Companion Device – o LCD.

“Como padre, considero que tener acceso a la tecnología es una gran herramienta, no solamente para mi sino también para todos los padres en el distrito. Hay muchos padres que



Yosemite Middle School seventh grader Azahll Al Shaibi shows off the Lenovo tablet that students get to take home to use through the eLearning Companion Device (LCD) initiative.

no tienen los medios para obtener una tableta y tener esta iniciativa es tan importante...” dijo Walter Ramirez, un padre de la Escuela Primaria Leavenworth.

El distrito lanzó el LCD en octubre del 2018. Con el apoyo de dedicación de las escuelas y el personal que se asoció con el Departamento de Información de Tecnología, más de 15,000 fueron distribuidas a los estudiantes en pre-kindergarten, kindergarten transicional y kindergarten; de primero a tercer grado; y del noveno al 11vo grado.

Después de la distribución de este año, el distrito completará la disponibilidad

en el ciclo escolar 2020-21 a través de proveer tabletas para los estudiantes en quinto y sexto grado.

La meta del LCD es proveer a los estudiantes los recursos educativos que ellos necesitan fuera del salón de clase. Por ejemplo, a las tabletas para los aprendices pequeños del distrito se les preinstalaron aplicaciones divertidas para promover las destrezas de alfabetización y matemáticas.

Para los estudiantes del noveno al onceavo grado, se les instalaron recursos en los dispositivos como Khan Academy, College Board y Springboard para ayudarles a prepararse para los exámenes PSAT y SAT para ingresar a la universidad/colegio (college). También, los estudiantes pueden tener acceso a los recursos de aprendizaje digital.

Este año, el distrito presentó la tableta Lenovo de 10 pulgadas para los estudiantes de secundaria y preparatoria que se unen al programa.

Muchos distritos les proveen a los estudiantes una laptop o tableta para llevarla a casa, pero ellos son responsables de regresar el dispositivo a la escuela todos los días para usarla en la clase. Por medio del programa companion device único en Fresno Unificado, las laptops que los estudiantes usan en clase permanecen ahí durante la noche para que se carguen y que estén lista para usarlas. Las tabletas LCD se pueden usar en casa o fuera del salón

See [UPDATE ON LCD](#)
Continued on page 7

Important Dates

November 4 and 5	CTE: Ticket to the Future
November 5	School Choice Expo/CTE: Ticket to the Future Parent Event
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday
November 25-29	Thanksgiving Break



Fresno Unified School District

BOARD

Claudia Cazares Area 6
President

Claudia.Cazares@fresnounified.org
Liaison: McKenzie Rivera
mckenzie.rivera@fresnounified.org

Carol Mills, J.D. Area 5
Clerk

Carolmillsfisd@comcast.net
Liaison: Michele Rodriguez
Michele.rodriguez@fresnounified.org

Valerie F. Davis Area 3

Valerie.Davis@fresnounified.org

Veva Islas Area 4

veva.islas@fresnounified.org
Liaison: Danielle Claybon
danielle.claybon@fresnounified.org

Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas Area 2

Elizabeth.Jonasson.Rosas@fresnounified.org

Liaison: Brandalyn Hastings

brandalyn.hastings@fresnounified.org

Major Terry Slatic USMC (Retired) Area 7

terry.slatic@fresnounified.org

Liaison: Michelle Asadoorian

michelle.asadoorian@fresnounified.org

Keshia Thomas Area 1

keshia.thomas@fresnounified.org

Liaison: Lauren Lima-Brown

lauren.lima-brown@fresnounified.org

ADMINISTRATION

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Building Futures is a monthly publication of Fresno Unified School District prepared by the Communications Office. To place an ad, contact (559) 457-3733 or email Communications@FresnoUnified.org.

SUPERINTENDENT'S *Message*

We're Putting our Best Foot Forward – And our Community is Noticing

I often speak about the importance of honoring one's true self and doing everything possible to put your best "you" out into the universe every day.

While not always easy, this directly aligns with our work as educators – ensuring we are providing the instruction, support and resources that enable our youth to head out into the world capable of being their best self. It's our responsibility to get it right so they become contributing members of our community, making a difference for others and giving back to the city that elevated them.

At our recent State of Education event on Oct. 14, we shared a video of students from around our district sharing what they wanted to become

when they grew up and why. Students named doctors, professional athletics, retail workers, criminal profilers, veterinarians, artists, mechanics, scientists, police officers, teachers and more. As students shared what inspired them to consider these paths, not one student mentioned SBAC growth, reading by third grade, or a graduate profile – and not because those things aren't incredibly important – but rather because our kids are dreaming beyond a test or classroom assignment. They have bigger dreams and we need to follow their examples. Like our kids, despite challenges, we need to learn to shift our mindset and dream big.

This doesn't mean we turn a blind eye to the struggles we're facing, the areas we need to improve in – but instead of being boxed-in by that negative image we're going to also focus on the ideal image of our system and how it can best serve our students, families and this community. We'll continue

pouring our hearts out every day to better our system, so our kids have choice and agency over the trajectory of their lives, careers, and happiness.

In that effort, our board recently began exploring the possibility of a future bond measure. As is common in the exploration phase, a national company conducted a poll to garner community feedback. The results were positive. In just three short years the public perception of our district has risen 13 percentage points! Forty-five percent of folks shared that their perception of Fresno Unified is "excellent or good" in contrast to only 32% sharing that sentiment in 2016. In that same time-span the negative perception of our district has shrunk from 18% to 11% and since 2010 that negative perception has been slashed by more than half! Our board, staff, teachers, and students work so hard every day to

**See SUPT. MESSAGE
SPANISH AND HMONG
Continued on page 15**



Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Message from Elizabeth J. Dooley, President/CEO, Educational Employees Credit Union

EECU is Committed to the Employees and Students of Fresno Unified

Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU) was founded by teachers and school administrators and we have always maintained close ties with the education community. Every student who wants to go to college should have the opportunity to do so, and the availability of scholarships

is one way to help alleviate some of the worry about how they will pay for their education. Many students rely on scholarships, grants and financial aid to help reduce the financial burden on their families and to avoid amassing a large amount of student loan debt.

The sticker price of a college education can be daunting. According to data reported to U.S. News & World Report in an annual survey, the average cost of tuition and fees for the 2019-20 school year was \$41,426 at private colleges, \$11,260 for state residents at public colleges, and \$27,120 for out-of-state students at state schools. The dream of a college education is fading for many students because they cannot afford the cost.

EECU provides financial and other types of support to many activities and events that raise money for scholarships for graduating Fresno Unified students pursuing post-secondary education. We also contribute to many other school districts, activities and organizations throughout the central San Joaquin Valley that fund scholarships for students. Supporting scholarship programs is an important part of our credit union's commitment to give

back to the communities we serve.

In addition to providing financial support to numerous scholarship funds, our board of directors established the EECU Student Grant Program in 2003. Today, we annually award \$100,000 in grants to students to help them pay for school-related expenses. To date, we have awarded more than \$1.3 million in grants. We also have a grant program for the spouses and dependents of our employees who are pursuing higher education, and a tuition reimbursement program for our employees.

A wise person once said, "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." At EECU, we want to help make the dream of a college education a reality for every student who wants it. Supporting scholarship programs underscores EECU's commitment to student academic achievement and success.



Elizabeth J. Dooley
President/CEO
Educational Employees
Credit Union

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.



LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Sixth graders from Cooper Academy went to outdoor school at Wonder Valley Ranch Oct. 16-18. They were among an expected 4,675 sixth graders who will explore the world beyond Fresno at outdoor school during this academic year. The trips are part of the district's emphasis on the board-adopted Goal 2: All students will participate in the arts, athletics and activities. Although the sixth-grade outdoor school trip is the pinnacle of experiences for elementary students, beginning in transitional kindergarten, students have the opportunity to go to the zoo, the planetarium, museums, the San Joaquin River and other destinations that broaden their worlds.

By the end of the last school year, students had taken 498 enrichment trips, with an average participating rate of 96%. Of the 42,820 elementary students enrolled in the district in 2018-19, more than 40,000 experienced an outdoor destination.





LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Cooper Academy sixth graders spent three days at outdoor school at Wonder Valley Ranch in the eastern Fresno County foothills. Activities included riding horses; enjoying the pond, trampoline and game pavilion; nature crafts; rocketry; zoology and earth science lessons; archery; and the ropes course.



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





Malloch Elementary Celebrates Kindness with New Outdoor Space

Malloch Elementary School has created a Kindness Garden in what used to be a sunny cemented area of the school.



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

The school celebrated the new space Sept. 24 with an opening ceremony that included student speakers and “A Song of Peace” by the school choir. The song was also performed in sign language.

The Kindness Garden features benches

and rows of 24 bright outdoor umbrellas in the same colors as the Character Counts pillars.

Rocks, painted by students with colorful designs and words like “peace” and “joy,” decorate the base of the umbrellas and around the holes where the umbrella poles come through the benches.

The space is now a shady refuge where students can gather to talk or work on assignments.

Students are in charge of putting the umbrellas up and down each day.

“It’s pretty cool because they have all the umbrellas and it’s not hot so you can just sit with your friends,” said sixth grader Lucy Marashia.

The garden has been several years in the making. Principal Michiko English said when she arrived at Malloch three years ago she realized that adding umbrellas would enhance the space for students and visiting parents.

Naming the area the Kindness Garden reflects the school’s desire to not just focus on kindness during Malloch’s annual kindness initiative at the beginning of the school year, but to practice kindness all year round.

The kindness theme has been incorporated in the rocks that decorate the area. They were painted, like the fish in the Linda Kranz book “Only One You,” which students read during the school’s annual kindness kick-off two years ago.

Personalized Videos being Used to Explain Test Scores to Parents

Parents Fresno Unified is one of four California school districts selected to participate in a pilot program using videos to explain state test results to parents.

The videos provide parents with the results of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), the state tests that students took last spring.

In the past, parents received a letter in the mail along with a printout on how their child performed academically. The state has turned those printed reports into interactive videos designed to better engage parents.

These new videos are easier to understand and are designed specifically around a child’s results, including targeted recommendations for areas of needed improvement. They became available Oct. 17.

For parents who are EduText subscribers, the videos were delivered via text message. The videos are also available

through parents’ ATLAS portals.

The personally designed videos come in families’ home languages and even feature closed captioning.

CAASPP includes the following tests:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts (ELA) and math in grades three through eight and grade 11
- California Alternate Assessments for ELA and math in grades three through eight and grade 11
- California Science Test in grades five, eight and once in high school
- California Alternate Assessment for Science Field Test in grades five, eight and once in high school
- California Spanish Assessment for Spanish language arts in grades three through eight and high school (optional)

If parents have questions, they should call their school sites or Fresno Unified’s Information Technology help desk at (559) 457-2600.



Students gather under the shade of new umbrellas that make up Malloch Elementary School’s Kindness Garden. The school held an opening ceremony for the garden on Sept. 24.

District Using New Tests to Help Students during the School Year

The district is using a new assessment for math and reading as part of development of an aligned assessment system, i-Ready, that will assist teachers in more quickly identifying areas where students are struggling and finding success.

While students will still participate in state testing, i-Ready serves as a criterion-based diagnostic assessment that also indicates the “why” behind the student’s performance and what steps need to be taken to close learning gaps.

The tests were given for the first time in August and will be given again in November and March. The i-Ready assessment and suite of tools is being used at 95 school sites, replacing a variety of tests given according to grade level.

i-Ready is an adaptive assessment,

meaning the questions can change from student to student based on their responses, and gauge students’ depth of understanding and growth. i-Ready is not typical achievement tests where a student’s aptitude can result in a perfect score.

Since the start of school, more than 50,000 first through 10th graders have taken the assessment, helping establish academic goals based on what students know and where they might have gaps. The new assessment tool then provides online lessons and interventions that bridge shortfalls in real time while also engaging parents in ways to support their student’s academic success.

The assessment makes it possible for teachers to deploy student support and give an earlier opportunity to address academic shortfalls as well as acceleration needs.



Fresno Unified is a pilot district for a new video that explains state test score results to parents.



Successful Simon Owl Mascot Visits Schools to Promote Attendance

A new owl mascot has been making the rounds of Fresno Unified elementary schools at arrival and dismissal times to remind students of the importance of coming to school every day.

Successful Simon has visited more than 60 schools since the start of the new academic year, high-fiving, fist-pumping and hugging students. It's the district's latest tool to promote daily attendance and being on time, and that good attendance is directly connected to school success and graduation.

"When we promote daily attendance and arriving on time at school, wonderful things can happen: a student will never miss an important lesson, they will not be behind on assignments and they will also learn the meaning of responsibility. Successful Simon is a great way to get that message across," said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

Vangie Carrillo, a technician for the Student Attendance Review Board, said students and parents love Successful Simon, and have fun taking pictures with him. Simon brings excitement to both the beginning and end of the school day, wherever he goes.

She said parents love that Simon is dressed in a graduation cap and gown.

"Successful Simon hears parents explaining to their child, 'See, you can graduate and wear that cap and gown too, but you have to go to school every day and do your homework,'" Carrillo said.

Carrillo said the idea for Successful Simon was a team effort by staff in the Prevent and Intervention Department.

"We came together and thought, what can we do this year to draw awareness that it's important to be successful?" Carrillo said. "A mascot was brought to

the table. But one thing about a mascot -- it is more than a costume. It's the most visible representative of a school site or department. It creates

instant memories and we are creating a mindset in students to be in school every day for success."



Second grader Alanna Hammick meets Successful Simon at Powers-Ginsburg Elementary School. Successful Simon is a new mascot encouraging good attendance.

UPDATE ON LCD Continued from page 2

de clase.

"La iniciativa LCD provee gran acceso al aprendizaje para nuestros estudiantes," dijo Rebecca Wheeler, directora de la Preparatoria Hoover. "Los estudiantes dicen que están agradecidos de tener un dispositivo para ellos mismos y los mismos tienen los materiales del plan de estudio instalado el cual los estudiantes necesitan, para poder tener acceso fácil a su trabajo fuera del salón de clase.

"El dispositivo provee acceso al aprendizaje y apoyo fuera de un día normal de clase. Los estudiantes pueden practicar habilidades, completar tutoría en línea y participar en estudio de grupos, así como también opciones de investigación de post secundaria y completar las solicitudes para la universidad/ colegio y becas."

LCD Tablet Dej Num Pib Mus Lawm Tom Ntej

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tab tom nyob rau lub xyoo ob npaj muaj tsis raug nqi rau cov tub kawm ntawv los mus muab kev txhawb pab txoj kev kawm nyob hauv vaj hauv tsev.

Lub xyoo kawm ntawv no, Lenovo

tablets tau raug npaj muaj rau cov tub kawm ntawv hauv qib plaub txog xya thiab qib 12 raws li xyoo thij peb tau muaj los. Qhov kev kawm yog hu tias eLearning Companion Device initiative – los yog hu ua LCD.

"Tam li ib tug niam txiv, kuv pom zoo muaj kev nkag tau rau "technology" yog ib twj zoo tshaj plaws, tsis yog rau kuv xwb tiam sis kuj yog rau txhua tus niam txiv hauv peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv. Nws muaj coob tug niam txiv uas tsis muaj tej yam zoo li no yuav tau ib lub "tablet" thiab muaj qhov kev txhawb no tseem ceeb tshaj plaws li..." Walter Ramirez, ib tug niam txiv ntawm Leavenworth Elementary School tau hais.

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tau muaj LCD hauv lub Kaum Hli ntawm 2018. Nrog kev txhawb ntawm cov tsev kawm ntawv thiab cov neeg khiav dej num nws tau muab kev koom tes nrog "Information Technology Department", coob tshaj li 15,000 lub tablets tau raug muab faib rau cov tub kawm ntawv hauv pre-kindergarten, transitional kindergarten thiab kindergarten; qib ib txog qib peb; thiab qib cuaj txog qib kaum ib.

Sib law liag lub xyoo no kev faib, hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv yuav ua tiav tawm rau lub xyoo kawm ntawv 2020-21 los ntawm npaj muaj cov

"tablets" rau cov tub kawm ntawv hauv qib tsib thiab qib rau.

Lub hom phiaj ntawm LCD yog los npaj cov tub kawm ntawv nrog tej chaw muab kev pab kawm txuj ci lawv muaj kev xav au sab nraum lub chaw kawm. Piv txwv, cov "tablets" rau hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv cov neeg kawm yau tshaj plaws twb tso cov "apps" lom lom zem los muab kev txhawb pab kev kawm thaum ntxov thiab tej kev txawj lej.

Rau cov qib 9 txog 11, cov twj tau raug muab teem tseg nrog tej chaw muab kev pab xws li Khan Academy, College Board thiab Springboard los muab kev pab cov tub kawm ntawv npaj rau PSAT thiab SAT college cov kev xeem nkag. Cov tub kawm ntawv los kuj muaj peev xwm nkag tau rau tej chaw muab kev pab "digital" rau kev kawm.

Lub xyoo no, hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tau nthuav qhia ib lub 10-inch Lenovo tablet tshiab rau cov tub kawm ntawv theem nrab thiab siab koom nrog qhov kev kawm.

Ntau lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tau npaj muaj ib lub "laptop" los yog "tablet" rau cov tub kawm ntawv coj mus tsev, tiam sis lawv muaj kev ris dej num rau cov lub twj mus kawm ntawv txhua hnuv los siv hauv chaw kawm. Xav tias Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm

Ntawv qhov twj kawm tshwj xeeb, tub kawm ntawv cov "laptops" uas raug siv hauv chaw kawm nyob twj ywm hauv chaw kawm tsaus ntu kom lawv muaj peev xwm tshaj (charged) thiab npaj txhij siv. Lub LCD tablets muaj peev xwm raug siv nyob rau hauv tsev los yog sab nraum lub chaw kawm

"Qhov dej num LCD npaj muaj kev nkag tau zoo tshaj plaws rau kev kawm rau peb cov tub kawm ntawv," Hoover High School Thawj Xib Fwb Rebecca Wheeler tau hais li. "Cov tub kawm ntawv lawv txaus siab heev tau lub twj rau lawv tus kheej, thiab cov twj muaj cov ntaub ntawv qhia ntawv uas cov tub kawm ntawv muaj kev xav tau twb muab ntim tag rau, yog li lawv muaj peev xwm nkag tau yooj yim lawv li hauj lwm sab nraum ntawm lub chaw kawm.

"Cov twj npaj muaj kev nkag tau rau kev kawm thiab kev txhawb pab sab nraum kev kawm li ib txwm txhua hnuv. Cov tub kawm ntaw muaj peev xwm xyaum tej kev txawj, ua tiav nyob rau hauv "online" kev pab qhia kom to taub, thiab txuam kev kawm hauv tej pab pawg, thiab kev tshawb nrhiav cov kev xaiv kawm qib siab thiab ua tiav college thiab cov ntawv thov nyiaj pub."



PREPARING COLLEGE AND CAREER READY GRADUATES

Community Garden at Chukchansi Park Hits Home Run with Students

Fresno Unified students are learning career skills through a new community garden recently unveiled at Chukchansi Park, home of the Fresno Grizzlies baseball team.

The project is part of the district's ongoing efforts to create quality work-based learning experiences for students. The partnership with the Fresno Grizzlies on the garden provides a way to have multiple schools involved.

The Fresno Grizzlies highlighted the new garden, located behind the center field fence, at an event Oct. 11. The sustainable garden will give students a chance to learn about urban agriculture and growing fruits and vegetables.

Last spring, Hoover High School construction students built nine raised garden beds using donated supplies.

Students from Edison, Hoover, Roosevelt and Sunnyside high schools will maintain the garden, learning about automated drip control irrigation and how it saves water and increases yield.

The garden is expected to produce its first harvest this fall. The beds have

been planted with a variety of cool season vegetables and herbs.

Roosevelt culinary students will create showcase dishes from the garden bounty with the assistance of Grizzlies head chef Jason Westerfield. The dishes will be served when baseball season starts up in the spring.

Overseeing the project is Melissa Rodriguez, career technology education coordinator at Hoover; Jason Hannold, Grizzlies director of corporate partnerships; and Charlie Harris, chairperson of the district's agriculture industry sub-committee. Project sponsor is GAR Tootelian Inc.

"This is a great way to promote agriculture within the city limits, right in the heart of downtown. The collaboration with the Grizzlies and supporting industry advisers shows our students how a community can come together to provide for its citizens," Rodriguez said.

"The project here at the GARDen is a true farm to fork experience that can be recreated in the homes of our students or any member of the urban Fresno area."



From left, Sunnyside High School students Luis Tejada and Leopoldo Vasquez-Martinez and Hoover High School students Arianna Ahumada and Tzu-Yun Lee plant vegetables in a new community garden at Chukchansi Park on Oct. 11. Students from Edison, Hoover, Roosevelt and Sunnyside high schools will maintain the garden and learn about urban agriculture as part of a partnership with the Grizzlies baseball team and GAR Tootelian Inc



Culinary students from Roosevelt High School will work with the Chukchansi Park chef to create dishes using items grown from a new community garden at the baseball park.

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Sanctuary and Support Services

Sanctuary Youth Shelter

24-Hour emergency housing, counseling & support for youth ages 12-18

1-800-820-4968 (4YOU)

Sanctuary Drop-In Center

Youth and young adults up to age 24 can stop by to get resources or just relax

(559) 475-8157 call/text
1046 T Street, Fresno
Monday - Saturday 10 am - 2 pm



All Fresno Unified schools, Fresno and Clovis city buses and select local businesses are Safe Place sites. Safe Place sites provide youth an access point for immediate help and resources to resolve difficult or threatening situations.

November is National Runaway Prevention Month
www.FresnoEOC.org/Sanctuary



STATE OF EDUCATION Continued from page 1

in meaningful ways."

The event featured art and handmade items from students in general and special education and career technology education as part of a silent auction. The items raised \$1,545 for the scholarship fund.

The luncheon also featured the chamber orchestra from Sunnyside High School and Sunnyside's Michelle Alvarez singing the national anthem. Greeters from the Men's and Women's Alliance helped guests find their seats.

The Junior ROTC from Duncan Polytechnical High School provided the color guard for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Excellence in Education winners Kirsten Lee from Eaton Elementary School, Esmeralda Ruiz from Sequoia Middle School, Tamela Ryatt from Sunnyside High School and Pam Taylor from Easterby Elementary School assisted with the program.

Gold sponsors of the event were Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; Darden Architects; Educational Employees Credit Union; Fresno Housing Authority; HAW '56; and SIM-PBK.

Cal Viva Health and Fresno State were Silver sponsors. Bronze sponsors were Association of California Administrators (ACSA) Consolidated Region 9; Centro La Familia; Fresno County Superintendent of Schools; Fresno Pacific University; MeTEOR Education; State Center Community

College District; TAM+OZ Architects; and the Welty Center.

With representatives from key sponsors in attendance, as well as education, government and business leaders, the State of Education luncheon was an opportunity for Nelson to talk about the district's progress and future.

At the event, the district's Goal 2 team presented a check for \$10,000 for the scholarship fund, proceeds from the Goal 2 golf tournament in August. The Goal 2 team dedicated the 2019 tournament to long-time district administrator Holland Locker, who passed away Jan. 25.

ACSA presented a check for \$4,000, also raising money for the scholarship fund with a golf tournament in April.

State of Education Sponsors

Gold Sponsors: Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; Darden Architects; Educational Employees Credit Union; Fresno Housing Authority; HAW '56; and SIM-PBK

Silver Sponsors: Cal Viva Health and Fresno State

Bronze Sponsors: Association of California Administrators Consolidated Region 9; Centro La Familia; Fresno County Superintendent of Schools; Fresno Pacific University; MeTEOR Education; State Center Community College District; TAM+OZ Architects; and the Welty Center

SUPERINTENDENT VISION Continued from page 1

Service has affirmed the district's solid aa-3 credit rating this past summer, noting the district's historically positive financial performance supported by stable fiscal policies.

Facilities: The district is continuously improving facilities and building new ones, including synthetic turf at McLane Stadium, tearing down the old juvenile hall to make room for a state-of-the-art alternative education campus, and a new elementary school for southeast Fresno named for U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera, who is from Fresno.

Test scores: Fewer than half of students have reached proficiency, but test scores are climbing: for the fourth year in a row the district achieved significant growth in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics -- 10.5% growth in ELA and 11.7% growth in math. Fresno Unified is the only major urban school district nationally demonstrating that type of growth across all student groups and across all grade levels in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.

Graduation rates, completion of classes for college entrance and student aid form completion: Graduation rates are improving and exceeding both the county and state rates; the senior A-G course



Fresno Unified's Goal 2 team contributed \$10,000 to the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund and was recognized Oct. 14 at the State of Education luncheon, the district's biggest single fundraiser for the scholarship fund. From left are Brett Mar, Leticia deSantiago, Lisa Nichols, Mike Jones, Breanne Paguio, Catherine Aujero, Joe Di Filippo, Superintendent Bob Nelson, Bryan Wells, Trisha O'Neill, and Pat Riddlesprigger.

completion for college entrance and Free Application for Federal Student Aid submissions are at their highest rates in district history.

Employee relations: "We are living in an unprecedented time of collaboration in our district. For the first time in the history of Fresno Unified we have protracted labor peace and our teachers can fully focus on students and not be distracted by labor strife for the next three years," Nelson said.

Investment in special education: The district worked closely with the Council of the Great City Schools last year to conduct a special education review. From the council's in-depth report,

the district is investing more than \$13 million in new fiscal resources to implement improvements and build on strengths, including a Strategic Action Plan, increasing stakeholder voice, and adopting a budget to increase staffing to address class sizes, caseloads, and ensuring health service staff every day at every school.

African American students: The Office of African American Academic Acceleration (A4) in partnership with Springboard Collaborative provided an intense five-week summer elementary literacy program, resulting in a combined reading growth of almost four months. The program will expand to after school in seven elementary

schools in the spring. Because of the A4 team's work with the Department of Prevention and Intervention, more African American students are enrolled in advanced placement courses and new disciplinary practices developed with EPOCH Education are being implemented at 20 different sites, limiting suspension days and offering a menu of different intervention options for sites.

Career technical education (CTE): CTE pathways are booming, with 44% of all seventh-12th grade students enrolled in a CTE course last year. At least 88% of those CTE courses were A-G approved, more than 2,000 industry certifications were earned, and students enrolled in dual enrollment (college credit) courses rose by 66% from 2017-18 to the 2018-19 school year with 95% of those students passing their college credit courses.

Nelson said the district is embarking on a strategic planning process over the next year to set new goals and establish a mission and vision "that paints a picture of the ideal system for our kids and we're going to need all your voices to do this well."

District teams will be engaging the community through meetings and focus groups.

"We are literally raising the next generation of leaders in Fresno. So to that end, we are embarking on an inclusive process of gathering community feedback," Nelson said.



School Board Considers New Bond Measure for Facilities, Upgrades

The Fresno Unified Board of Education is considering placing a school bond measure on the ballot in 2020, with an independent community survey indicating strong support.

The board discussed the results of the survey Oct. 2 at a regular board meeting. The survey of 764 likely November 2020 voters was conducted by FM3 Research Aug. 21-28.

The new bond measure, if the board decides to move forward, would support continued school facility improvements. The survey indicated there was support for either a \$240 million bond or a \$160 million bond.

Results of the survey included:

- Voters' perception of the district is more positive than in the 2010 and 2016 surveys

- There is significant awareness of the need for funding for schools
- Voters see value in investing in school repairs/upgrades
- Voters are concerned about school campus security
- Attracting and retaining qualified teachers is an extremely important area of investment to voters
- There is support for a bond measure across all trustee areas

The survey showed that 45% of participants rated the district as excellent/good compared to 35% in 2010 and 32% in 2016. More voters are concerned now than in 2010 or 2016 about gangs and youth violence, and – as in 2016 – a majority of those surveyed regard the quality of local schools as a highly serious problem.

Eighty-seven percent of those surveyed said they were more concerned about the security of school campuses than in the past.

Specific to a bond measure, 46% surveyed said they were “definitely yes” and 20% said they were “probably yes” on a \$240 million bond measure. Fifty-six percent said they were “definitely yes” on a \$160 million bond measure and 14% said they were “probably yes.”

A \$160 million bond is estimated to maintain the tax rate of \$188.86 per \$100,000 of assessed value. A \$240

million bond would result in a 10% increase in the tax rate.

In November 2016, voters overwhelmingly approved Measure X, which is expected to provide \$225 million in funding for school improvements. The district has completed dozens of Measure X projects, including new classrooms, a makeover at McLane Stadium, and career technical education (CTE) facilities.

All of Measure X funds will be committed by 2021, with about \$200 million in projects that still need funding.



Students, staff, board members and community partners celebrate the completion of expanded career technical education facilities at Duncan Polytechnical High School on March 21. The expansion was funded by the 2010 Measure Q school bond. The district is considering a new school bond measure for the 2020 ballot.

Fresno Unified is getting social!



Tag us and share posts!
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Want to learn more about recycling?
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Fresno Unified Launches 2020 Census Webpage

The 2020 Census will count every person living in the United States. The count is mandated by the Constitution and is conducted by the U.S. Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other resources based on the census data.

As part of the district's efforts to promote and encourage students, parents/guardians and employees to participate in the 2020 Census, the district is pleased to announce a new dedicated webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/FUSD2020Census>.

The site aims to provide helpful resources as well as highlight district efforts and activities in preparation for the April 2020 Census.

For information regarding the district's census efforts, please contact Constituent Services at (559) 457-3736.



Be Counted in the 2020 Census!

What is the Census?

The census is an important opportunity for all U.S. residents to be counted in their communities. The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted once every 10 years.

Beginning March 2020, every household is encouraged to complete a census form (either online, mail or phone). Your participation and responses are protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Constitution.

We need you and your community counted! **With your help we can ensure an accurate and complete count for all.**



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Webster Student Striving to Improve

Amarii Bush is just a normal looking sixth grader, but when he speaks, his maturity level is way beyond his school age.

His principal at Webster Elementary School, Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara, describes him as a natural leader. While Amarii has not always had perfect behavior, he is blossoming into a conflict solver.

Amarii said that given the opportunity to talk with a student in trouble in the office, "I can lead them out of that situation. You can't change a person, but you can lead them in the right direction."

Amarii has learned from his own experiences. He said that as he prepares to transition to middle school, he is focused on improving his grades, and leaving the distracting talking in class and bad behavior behind.

His family is used to being surprised by Amarii. After an ultrasound, his parents were told he was going to be a girl. Now this young man with a bright smile and hypnotizing eyes is getting serious about school.

He is considering a career in the

construction industry and wants to be a student at Computech Middle School. For that, he needs to improve his grades and has taken a special approach to achieve that.

"I had my teacher seat me by a girl that is very quiet and is up to date in all of her work, and good grades. Now I am not talking as much. I'm getting good grades -- A's and B's and a C in science that I am working to improve," Amarii said.

He explained how sometimes you can pick up good things from people you didn't expect to be friends with.

Controlling his actions has been a big change as well. Once a bully and a victim of bullying, Amarii knows how to deal with anger issues.

"The purpose of a bully is just to make you feel bad about yourself, to make you not want to come to school. You don't need to fight back because fighting back is giving them an aggressive mode that keeps them in a mood to keep doing it. They enjoy that. Ignore them and go tell a principal, a teacher or a parent," said Amarii,



Amarii Bush is a sixth grader at Webster Elementary School who aspires to attend Computech Middle School.

speaking in a calm tone of voice that reflects how he has learned to ask for help.

This confidence is what makes Amarii a natural leader, and his new peaceful approach is what makes him a very mature 11-year-old and able to act as even adults might not be able to.

Peaceful Demonstration at Balderas



Students at Balderas Elementary School gather on Sept. 20 to celebrate World Peace Day. Students wore white and held signs promoting peace.



DISTRICT ROUNDUP



Civil Rights Activist Speaks with Students

The Rev. James Lawson held an interactive dialogue, “Non Violence and Peacemaking: The Journey and Promise for Youth,” with students from Edison, Fresno, McLane and Sunnyside high schools on Oct. 10 at Sunnyside. The students learned about Lawson in Restorative Justice elective courses on their campuses. Students presented Lawson with a gift to acknowledge his inspiring work as an

advocate for non-violent conflict resolution. Lawson’s visit was presented by Fresno Unified’s Restorative Practices Office in partnership with Fresno State University. James Morris Lawson Jr. is an American activist and leading theoretician and tactician of nonviolence within the Civil Rights Movement.



Helsinki Delegation Tours Fresno Schools

Fresno Unified teams had the

opportunity to share what the district has learned about creating high quality digital learning for students and learn from a Helsinki delegation of educators and representatives from Microsoft on Oct. 9. The Helsinki team toured Scandinavian Middle School, Easterby Elementary School and Duncan Polytechnical High School to see first-hand how digital learning is being implemented. Fresno Unified and the Helsinki group discussed sharing ongoing work on learning analytics, teaching, assessing skills and other aspects of digital learning.

Volunteers Work on Projects at Hidalgo Elementary School

Students, parents, staff and community members painted murals, picked up trash, and planted flowers at Hidalgo Elementary School on Oct. 12 as part of a Beautification Day. The goal was to strengthen school-community relationships and partnerships, promote

a culture of learning and celebrate education together. One of the beautification projects included starting three school murals that will portray the school mascot, inspiring quotes and an example of diversity.



Students Exhibit Art at Women’s Conference

More than 35 art pieces created by students from six schools across the district were displayed Sept. 17 in the foyer during the Central California Women’s Conference. Students from McLane High School’s ArtVenture Academy served as docents.

Students from all High School Regions will Exhibit Art



Visitors view pieces from Edison region students’ Oct. 3 ArtHop show, “I am Resilient,” part of the districtwide Relevant Engagement through Art and Literacy initiative. Students will exhibit monthly at the M Street Arts Complex.

Elementary and high school students from the Edison region exhibited art pieces in an “I am Resilient” show as part of ArtHop on Oct. 3, the first in a series of exhibits from various regions of the district.

The student exhibits are in the M Street Arts Complex, where the district has doubled the space it leases. On Nov. 7, a show will feature work from Bullard region students, followed by Dec. 5, Roosevelt region; Feb. 6, Hoover region; March 5, McLane region; April 2, Sunnyside region; and May 7, Fresno High region, along with a retrospective

of all regions.

The students are part of the districtwide arts initiative, Relevant Engagement through Art and Literacy (REAL), which has grown to 55 teachers in all grades this year. Future topics will include Agents of Change and the centennial of women’s suffrage.

For the “I am Resilient” show, students used writing and art to create original and thought-provoking work on personal resiliency. The exhibit included art from King, Kirk and Manchester GATE elementary schools and Edison High School.



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<p>Kristen Stockamp, MD <i>Board Certified Family Medicine</i></p>  <p>CMP Copeland 7145 N. Chestnut Ave. #101 Fresno (559) 299-1178</p>	



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

District Health Services Director Works to Expand Care for Students



Jane Banks, director of Health Services for the district, works with Rodrigo Gonzalez Lopez in Addicott Elementary School's sensory room.

In her 14 months as director of health services for Fresno Unified, Jane Banks has relished being able to make a broad impact on the health of children and serve as a passionate spokesperson for health initiatives. The district is at the forefront of educating parents about the dangers of vaping, is increasing the number of health professionals serving students and has a new mobile health unit that will expand services to students by at least 30 percent.

Prior to joining the district in September 2018, Banks was a pediatric registered nurse and in nursing management at Valley Children's Hospital for nearly 10 years. She is the daughter of immigrants from the Philippines who did not have the opportunity to graduate from high school or go to college.

What made you pursue school health services? My absolute passion for students and our community. I love that I can make a little difference for our

staff, students and families at Fresno Unified. I always wanted to be a pediatric nurse because I love working with kids. Leadership gave me the opportunity to make a greater impact for our community.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? I love collaborating with my school nurses, different departments, staff, community leaders and students. Working with students for various events is also my favorite – sports physicals, serving on CTE health pathway panel, mock interviews for students, etc.

What is the biggest challenge in your job? I enjoy challenges because it helps us grow. My biggest challenge is making sure that our 74,000+ students receive the health care that they need so that they can be HEALTHY career and college ready graduates.

What are some of your goals to support healthy students?

Empowering and professionally developing our school nurses, LVNs and trained health care assistants. Developing sustainable programs in our district that help our students stay healthy. Programs: new health mobile, FLUency free thermometer program, school-based health centers, free sports physicals, health events, etc. Most of all, bringing access to healthcare to our students.

What are some of the barriers to student health? Access to care. When students are not feeling well, they miss valuable instruction time and parents have to miss work.

How is student health and academic achievement connected? Healthy kids learn best! When students feel their best, they can perform better in class. This leads to successful educational

See **JANE BANKS**
Continued on page 14

Edison Teacher with Muscular Dystrophy Reaches Angels Landing

Edison High School teacher Shue Vang had been unable to hike for 20 years as his limbs grew progressively weaker from muscular dystrophy. But this past fall, he conquered one of the most celebrated hikes in the United States.

With the assistance of a team of volunteers from the F5 Challenge organization, Vang reached the top of Angels Landing in Zion National Park on Sept. 28.

The Angels Landing trail gains 1,488 feet in elevation and is 5.4 miles roundtrip. To reach the summit – at 5,790 feet – hikers must navigate a steep, narrow ridge with severe drop-offs using a chain handrail. Through this section, volunteers carried Vang on their back, leaving his wheelchair behind.

In sharing about his adventure with his colleagues at Edison, Vang wrote:

“All in all, my experience brought me back to teaching and inspiring our students every day. As educators, let us work together, lend a hand to one

another, and improve each other for the benefit of our students. Many of our students have mountains that they need help climbing. Many look up to us as role models, as a father or mother, as an aunt or uncle. While we inspire our students let us also realize our own hopes and dreams. We too may need inspiration, our why we teach, why we do what we do for students.”

Vang teaches biology, chemistry and Green Energy Academy classes. He has taught at Edison for six years, his entire career.

“I love it here. The staff, the students, and everyone at this school makes it a family atmosphere,” Vang said.

Vang is passionate about his job, but because of his muscular dystrophy has been unable to enjoy other things he loves, including hiking. Vang was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy when he was 16 and growing up in Lompoc.

Then he was contacted by F5 Challenge, an adventure group connected to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. F5

stands for faith, fellowship, fitness, fortitude and fun. The group had learned about Vang through his sister, Tara Vang, who was a speaker for an F5 event.

F5 said they wanted to help Vang climb Angels Landing. Members

began training with 100- to 150-pound packs, knowing they would have to carry Vang at some point. A team of 32 helped Vang in some way make the

See **SHUE VANG**
Continued on page 14



From left, Tara Vang, Ivonne Balz Zechmann, Johnny Ahn, Shue Vang, Shion Shironishi, Silaine Marques and Alex Bezman as they hike the Angels Landing trail in Zion National Park. A team of 32 from the F5 Challenge Christian adventure organization helped Shue Vang – who has muscular dystrophy – get to the top.



JANE BANKS

Continued from page 13

outcomes and bright futures.

If you could choose a different career, what would it be? Nothing! I absolutely love the impact I can make for the health of our students in our community.

Name one thing most people don't know about you. I am the first in my family to obtain an RN and bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing. I started my college career at Fresno City College. I have a third-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. I have

also practiced in Muay Thai, MMA and Polynesian dancing. My husband [Cornell Banks] is an Edison High alumnus. He played football for Fresno State and the NFL – Rams.

What do you like to do when you are not working? Spreading love and compassion! Volunteering with my husband and my 6- and 8-year-old sons. We serve at the Fresno Rescue Mission to bring smiles and meals to hurting and homeless people in our own backyard, and also support veterans.

What is your dream vacation? Maldives or Tahiti, but any beach will do.

SHUE VANG

Continued from page 13

journey.

“I made it to the top and just realized the power of the human spirit and how greatly magnified is that power when we help each other,” Vang said. “Making it to the top of the mountain was not the highlight of my trip, but the teamwork that it took to get me there.”

Vang said he was inspired by his own students – many of whom have severe struggles of their own – to do what he thought was impossible. He said his adventure is an example of what can be accomplished with the help of others.

“I hope others are inspired to achieve their dreams, even if it means asking others for help,” Vang wrote to his colleagues at Edison. “We all are meant to help and just encourage one another.”

Fresno Unified Awarded Grant to Help Residents Become Citizens

The district is among 41 organizations from across the United States – and the only school district – to receive a grant from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that will help residents become citizens.

The district's adult school will use the \$250,000 grant to continue to work with partners and San Joaquin College of Law to serve students and clients with comprehensive naturalization services for the next two years. The district received a similar grant in 2012, 2014 and 2017.

The grant was part of \$10 million in grants to 41 organizations in 24 states to help prepare lawful permanent residents for naturalization.

The fiscal year 2019 grants, which run through September 2021, promote prospective citizens' assimilation into American civic life

by funding educational programs designed to increase their knowledge of English, U.S. history and civics.

Organizations that receive grants under this funding opportunity can only use grant funds to provide services to immigrants who have been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence.

The Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program has awarded approximately \$92 million through 434 competitive grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 39 states and the District of Columbia since it began in 2009. Now in its 11th year, the program has helped more than 245,000 lawful permanent residents prepare for citizenship.



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NOVEMBER MUSIC EVENTS

STUDENT RECITAL – November 6 • 7:30PM • OAB Auditorium

WIND ENSEMBLE BENEFIT CONCERT: HELP THE BAND GO TO CARNEGIE IN 2020!

November 20 • 7:30PM • Theatre

RAMS JAMS FEATURING CHARLIE ROBBINS & VICTOR CORRAL OF ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGE

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State Center Community College District



**SUPT. MESSAGE****Continued from page 3**

shift the narrative to one of positivity and possibility. While it's hard to measure culture change, here we are with our most important audience outside of students, our community and parents, rating us with the highest level of positivity in recent history. We are humbled by this vote of confidence, but what is most important is how this shift impacts student learning, student engagement and their future possibilities.

Last month's State of Education event, the largest fundraising event of the year for the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund, raised approximately \$46,000. And through the support of donors, supporters, cheerleaders, believers and contributors like you, we again can provide financial support to dozens of our graduates – students who aspire to change the world in their own remarkable and meaningful way. Thank you for your ongoing support of Fresno Unified as we continue to put our best self forward each day on behalf of our 74,000 students and their dreams.

Estamos Dando lo Mejor de Nosotros, y Nuestra Comunidad se está Dando Cuenta

A menudo hablo de la importancia de honrar a uno mismo y de hacer todo lo posible para sacar lo mejor de "ti" al universo todos los días. Aunque no siempre es fácil, esto se alinea directamente con nuestro trabajo como educadores, lo que garantiza que proporcionamos la instrucción, el apoyo y los recursos que permiten a nuestros jóvenes salir al mundo capaces de ser lo mejor de sí mismos. Es nuestra responsabilidad hacer las cosas bien para que se conviertan en miembros contribuyentes de nuestra comunidad, que marquen la diferencia para los demás y contribuyan a la ciudad que los elevó.

En nuestro reciente evento del Estado de la Educación el 14 de octubre, compartimos un video de estudiantes de todo nuestro distrito compartiendo en qué querían convertirse cuando crecieran y por qué. Los estudiantes nombraron médicos, atletismo profesional, trabajadores minoristas, perfiladores criminales, veterinarios, artistas, mecánicos, científicos, oficiales de policía, maestros y más. A medida que los estudiantes compartieron lo que los inspiró a considerar estos caminos, ningún estudiante mencionó el crecimiento de SBAC, la lectura para el tercer grado o un perfil de posgrado, y no porque esas cosas no sean increíblemente importantes, sino porque nuestros hijos sueñan más allá

de un examen o asignación de aula. Tienen sueños más grandes y necesitamos seguir sus ejemplos. Al igual que nuestros hijos, a pesar de los desafíos, necesitamos aprender a cambiar nuestra mentalidad y soñar en grande.

Esto no significa que hagamos la vista gorda a las luchas que enfrentamos, las áreas en las que necesitamos mejorar, pero en lugar de quedar encajonados por esa imagen negativa, también nos centraremos en la imagen ideal de nuestro sistema y cómo puede servir mejor a nuestros estudiantes, familias y esta comunidad. Continuaremos derramando nuestros corazones todos los días para mejorar nuestro sistema, para que nuestros hijos tengan opciones y agencia sobre la trayectoria de sus vidas, carreras y felicidad.

En ese esfuerzo, nuestra junta directiva recientemente comenzó a explorar la posibilidad de una futura medida de bonos. Como es común en la fase de exploración, una empresa nacional realizó una encuesta para obtener comentarios de la comunidad. Los resultados fueron positivos. ¡En solo tres cortos años, la percepción pública de nuestro distrito ha aumentado 13 puntos porcentuales! Cuarenta y cinco por ciento de las personas compartieron que su percepción del distrito de Fresno es "excelente o buena" en contraste con solo el 32% que compartió ese sentimiento en el 2016. En ese mismo período de tiempo, la percepción negativa de nuestro distrito se ha reducido del 18% al 11% y ¡Desde 2010, esa percepción negativa se ha reducido en más de la mitad! Nuestra junta directiva, el personal, los maestros y los estudiantes trabajan muy duro todos los días para cambiar la narrativa a una de positividad y posibilidad. Si bien es difícil medir el cambio cultural, aquí estamos con nuestra audiencia más importante fuera de los estudiantes, nuestra comunidad y los padres, calificándonos con el nivel más alto de positividad en la historia reciente. Este voto de confianza nos honra, pero lo más importante es cómo este cambio impacta el aprendizaje de los estudiantes, el compromiso de los estudiantes y sus posibilidades futuras.

El evento del Estado de Educación del mes pasado, el mayor evento de recaudación de fondos del año para el Fondo de Becas del distrito escolar de Fresno, recaudó aproximadamente \$46,000. Y a través del apoyo de donantes, simpaticantes, animadoras, creyentes y contribuyentes como usted, nuevamente podemos brindar apoyo financiero a docenas de nuestros graduados, estudiantes que aspiran a cambiar el mundo de una manera notable y significativa. Gracias por su continuo apoyo al Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno mien-

tras continuamos dando lo mejor de nosotros cada día en nombre de nuestros 74,000 estudiantes y sus sueños.

Peb tab tom ua peb Qhov Zoo Tshaj Plaws Rau Tom Ntej – Thiab peb lub Zej Zog tab tom Paub Txog

Kuv hom kheev hais txog qhov tseem ceeb ntawm kev hwm ib tug tus kheej tiag tiag thiab ua txhua tsav txhua yam li ua tau rau koj qhov kev ua zoo tshaj plaws tawm mus rau hauv lub qab ntuj khwb txhua hnub. Tiam sis nws tsis yooj yim, qhov no dhos ncaj nraim nrog peb qhov hauj lwm tam li cov tub txawg – ua kom paub tseeb tias peb npaj muaj kev qhia ntaub ntawv, kev txhawb pab thiab tej chaw muab kev pab uas ua rau peb cov me nyuam hluas tawm mus rau lub ntiaj teb muaj peev xwm ua tau lawv qhov zoo tshaj plaws. Nws yog peb kev ris dej num los ua kom yog kom lawv dhau los ua neeg muab kev txhawb peb lub zej lub zos, ua tau ib qho kev txawv txav rau lwm tus thiab rov los pab lub nroog ua tau muab kev txhawb lawv.

Nyob rau peb koob tsheej "State of Education" dhau los no rau lub Kaum Hli tim 14, peb tau muab ib qho yeeb yaj kiab los tso saib ntawm peb cov tub kawm ntawv thoob plaws peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv muab qhia seb lawv xav tau los ua dab tsi thaum lawv loj hlob los thiab yog vim li cas. Cov tub kawm ntawv hais txog ua kws kho mob, ua kis las, neeg muag khoom, cov neeg saib neeg txhaum cai, kws kho tsiaj, kws kos duab, kws kho tshab, kws tshawb fawb, ua tub ceev xwm, xib fwb qhia ntawv thiab ntau ntau yam. Thaum cov tub kawm ntawv tau muab los sib qhia yam ua rau lawv kub siab los taug txoj kev no tsis muaj ib tug hais txog kev loj hlob ntawm SBAC, txawj nyeem ntawv thaum txog qib peb, los yog ib tug kawm tiav – thiab tsis yog tias tej yam li no nws tsis tseem ceeb – tiam yeeb vim peb cov me nyuam yaus muaj qhov kev npau suav mus deb tshaj li qhov kev xeem ntawv los yog cov dej num ua nyob rau hauv chav kawm. Lawv muaj tus npau suav loj tshaj thiab peb yuav tsum taug lawv tus qauv. Zoo tib yam li peb cov me nyuam yaus, txawm muaj qhov kev nyuaj, peb yuav tsum tau kawm los hloov peb lub hlwb thiab npauv suav loj.

Qhov no tsis tau txhais tias peb muab ib tug dig muag los nriaj qhov teeb meem peb raug, tej suam uas peb xav tau kev txhim kho – tiam sis hloov qhov raug kaw rau hauv ib lub thawv los ntawm daim duab tsis zoo peb tab tom ua ntsi ntsees rau qhov duab tsis zoo ntawm peb qhov kev ua thiab yuav ua li cas thiaj li pab tau peb cov tub kawm ntawv zoo dua qub, cov tsev yim neeg thiab lub zej zog no. Peb tseem yuav nchuav

peb lub siab los pab txhua txhua hnub kho kom peb qhov kev ua zoo dua qub, kom peb tej me nyuam yaus muaj txoj kev xaiv koom haum rau txoj kev khiav mus los ntawm lawv lub neej nyob, dej num ua, thiab kev zoo siab.

Rau lub zog ntawm, peb pawg thawj koj pib ntsuam xyuas tsis ntev los no rau ib qho "bond measure" tom ntej no. Raws li kev ib txwm ua kev ntsuam xyuas, ib lub "national company" (tuam txhab) ua ib qho kuv ntsuas lub zej zog tej tswv yim. Cov kev tshwm sim kuj yog ib qho zoo. Nyob rau peb lub xyoos luv luv pej xeem txoj kev xav ntawm peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tau nce 13 feem pua qhab nia! Plaub caug-tsib feem pua ntawm cov pej xeem qhia tias lawv txoj kev xav ntawm Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv yog "zoo heev los yog zoo" hauv kev txawv txav tsuas yog li 32% qhia tias kev xav hauv xyoo 2016. Nyob rau tib lub sij hawm ntawm kev xav tsis zoo ntawm peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv nqis los ntawm 18% rau 11% thiab txij thaum xyoo 2010 ua kev xav tsis zoo tau txo los ntawm ntau tshaj ib nrab! Peb pawg thawj koj, cov neeg khiav dej num, cov xib fwb, thiab cov tub kawm ntawv sib zog ua hauj lwm txhua hnub los hloov zaj lus piav rau ib qho ua tau zoo thiab muaj peev xwm. Thaum nws nyuaj nyuaj los muab kev ntsuas kev hloov kab lis kev cai, nov peb nrog rau peb cov neeg tuaj saib tseem ceeb tshaj sab nraum ntawm cov tub kawm ntawv, peb lub zej lub zos thiab tej niam txiv, ntaus nqi peb nrog theem siab kawg nkaus ntawm keeb kwm zoo tsis ntev los no. Peb txo hwj chim los ntawm qhov kev pov suab no ntawm kev ntseeg siab, tiam sis qhov tseem ceeb tshaj plaws yog seb qhov kev hloov no muaj kev cuam tshuam tub kawm ntawv kev kawm li cas, txuam tub kawm ntawv thiab lawv lub neej ua tau tom ntej.

Lub hlis dhau los "State of Education" lub koob tsheej, lub koob tsheej nrhiav nyiaj loj tshaj plaws ntawm lub xyoo rau Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund, nriav tau kww lam li ntawm \$46,000. Thiab los ntawm kev txhawb pab ntawm cov neeg pub, cov neeg txhawb pab, cheerleaders, cov neeg ntseeg siab thiab cov neeg muab kev pab li koj, ib zaug ntxiv peb muaj peev xwm npaj tau nyiaj txiag txhawb pab coob coob tug ntawm peb cov kawm tiav – cov tub kawm ntawv nws txhawb nqa qhov kev hloov lub ntiaj teb hauv lawv tus kheej zoo kawg nkaus thiab muaj nuj nqis. Ua tsaug rau koj kev txhawb pab ua ntu zus ntawm Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv raws li peb ua peb qhov zoo tshaj plaws txuas ntxiv rau txhua hnub sawv cev ntawm peb 74,000 tub kawm ntawv thiab lawv qhov kev npau suav.



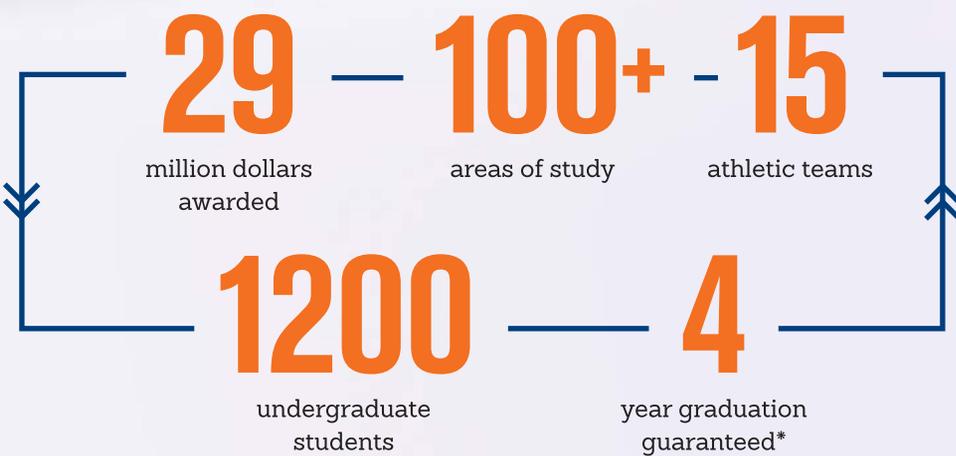
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