

From: [Chau Bui](#)
To: [Chau Bui](#)
Subject: FW: We are Fresno Unified Newsletter -- October 2, 2023
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October 2, 2023



Fresno Unified School District

WE ARE FRESNO UNIFIED *ACHIEVING our GREATEST Potential!*
A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District



Photo of the Week



CompuTech Middle School celebrates its sixth National Blue Ribbon School award, which ties the most ever awarded to a middle school.
(See more great Fresno Unified photos on [our Flickr](#))

Dates to Know

October 4 at 6:15 p.m.
[Board of Education](#)

October 12
State of Education Gala

Video of the Week



[National Hispanic Heritage Month \(September 15-October 15\)](#)

Greetings!

This e-newsletter has a new name! The Community Zone e-newsletter is now called We are Fresno Unified to reflect our mission to share the good news of Fresno Unified's staff, students and schools, as well as education-related information useful to our community. We are Fresno Unified is emailed after every Fresno Unified Board of Education meeting, generally twice a month.

Celebrating Our Employees, Schools and Students

Manchester and Computech are Blue Ribbon Schools

Manchester GATE Elementary School and Computech Middle School have been named [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) by the U.S. Department of Education. Computech is the only middle school in California to be named a National Blue Ribbon School. It has received the designation six times, tying for the most in the history of the program for middle schools. Manchester GATE is among just 25 elementary schools in California to receive this honor. National Blue Ribbon Schools are selected for overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups on assessments. Congratulations to the staff and students at Manchester and Computech!

Thomas and McLane Teachers are Educators of the Week

Thomas Elementary School kindergarten teacher Taylor King was named NBC24's Educator of the Week September 18 and McLane High School teacher Madelyn Smith was named Educator of the Week September 25. Both were surprised in their classrooms by a news crew, featured in special segments and given a \$124 check to GW School Supply. They will be invited to the Educator of the Week banquet in May and receive a brick with their name on it at Fresno State's education building.

[Taylor King Educator of the Week Segment](#)

[Madelyn Smith Educator of the Week Segment](#)

Trustee Valerie Davis is Finalist for Urban Educator of the Year

Fresno Unified board member Valerie Davis is one of five finalists for the Council of the Great

City Schools's Green-Garner Award. The award recognizes outstanding contributions in urban education leadership and is presented to an urban school superintendent and board member in alternative years. The Green-Garner Award is given each year in memory of Richard R. Green, the first African American chancellor of the New York City school system, and businessman Edward Garner, who served on the Denver school board.

The 2023 winner will be announced at the 34th annual Green-Garner Awards Banquet during the council's [67th annual fall conference](#) October 26 in San Diego.

Along with trustee Davis, the finalists are:

- Marcia Andrews, school board member, The School District of Palm Beach County
- Warren Jones, school board member, Duval County Public Schools,
- Michael O'Neill, school committee member, Boston Public Schools
- Joyce Wilkerson, school board member, The School District of Philadelphia

The winner of the award receives a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a student from their school district.

Fresno High Students Register to Vote and Sign Up to Serve their Community

Fresno High School hosted a high school voter registration event and civic engagement resource fair on September 19 at Warrior Park. Students had the opportunity to register or pre-register to vote. They also could sign up with local organizations for community service and service-learning projects. [High School Voter Registration Weeks](#) were September 18-29.

McLane Cadets Grab their First Top Finish at the Bulldog Challenge

Army Junior ROTC cadets from McLane High School placed first in the boat races at the Bulldog Challenge, where ROTC teams compete in a variety of events. It was the McLane cadets' first top finish in three years of competing in the event. For the boat race, cadets engineer and assemble their boats on their own. The competition was September 16 in Turlock.

Superintendent Board Remarks from September 27, 2023

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks celebrating and recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month. Superintendent shared our schools and teams have been celebrating and learning all month. National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity for all to recognize the contributions made by Hispanic and Latinx Americans and to celebrate their heritage and culture. Hidalgo kicked celebrations off with the Mexican Consulate and Sunnyside's folklorico group has performed for Herrera, Storey, Olmos, and Terronez to name a few. Roosevelt's mariachi band and folklorico group has also been celebrating and performing at schools including Tatarian just last week. Superintendent [shared this video](#) highlighting some of those great celebrations.

- Superintendent Nelson shared his disappointment in yet again having to share that one of our students was hit by a vehicle on her way to school this morning. Superintendent shared his

gratitude that our student will be OK, but the accident was enough to transport her to the hospital this morning. Superintendent share this cannot continue to happen to our kids – our kids DESERVE to be safe as they travel to and from school each day. Keeping our kids safe is a joint effort and we need every driver in Fresno to be safe, attentive, and SLOW around our schools. Superintendent asked parents and families to talk to your teenage drivers to ensure they are being safe and smart around our schools. Superintendent shared as a district that we are investing in safe routes to schools assessments, building public awareness and even bringing curriculum to our classrooms. Superintendent encouraged teachers to please take advantage of the pedestrian safety curriculum being provided by our Curriculum and Instruction Department. Teachers can reach out to Michele Pacheco directly with any questions.

- Superintendent then shared an update on negotiations with FTA. He shared we completed the fact-finding panel on September 7 and have been working to respect that process as we await the fact finder's final report. We expect that report to be sent to FTA and FUSD sometime next week and we look forward to meeting with the teachers' union to work toward solutions using the fact finder's recommendations. If following that conversation with FTA we have not reached a settlement, we will ensure the public is able to see that report and we will communicate next steps clearly with our staff, families and community. Superintendent reassured all that we are continuing to work toward a mutually beneficial agreement and avoid a strike. However, if we are unable to avoid a teacher strike, Superintendent assured all that we are well prepared and that we will be doing everything in our power to ensure our schools stay open, safe and full of learning for our students.

- Superintendent Nelson shared that the development of our Every Child Is A Reader literacy plans in narrative form are in their final stages. The complete Fresno Unified Every Child Is A Reader literacy plan includes districtwide information with all seven regional literacy plans, all following our district-provided literacy framework. The regional plans will include SMART goals, budgets, specific strategies, assessment information, research and more. School site leaders have been collaborating, researching, and deeply analyzing their pre-k through first grade data prior to developing and submitting their SMART goals. Once the plan is finalized, it will be translated into Spanish and Hmong and shared with our community.

- Superintendent then shared that the fall climate and culture survey is now open! This is a chance for our families and staff to tell us what's going well and what we could do better. It's a quick and easy way to make your voice heard. If you're signed up for ParentSquare, just follow the link we send out and answer a few questions. Your feedback is so important to us and helps us to continue improving.

- Superintendent Nelson announced that nominations are now open for this year's Excellence in Education! Please take the time to nominate your colleagues! All employees, including certificated, classified and management are eligible. [Click here to be directed to the nomination form.](#)

- Superintendent shared on Friday, September 29, individual tickets for the State of Education Gala go on sale. You can grab yours on Friday at the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools website at www.foundation4fUSD.org. All proceeds benefit our student scholarships and last year we raised more than \$250,000. Can't wait to see you all there – we've got some great

surprises for you!

- Superintendent shared that students and families are invited to attend the eighth annual Feria de Educación on Saturday, October 14, at Fresno State from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Feria de Educación provides an opportunity for Spanish-speaking families to learn about higher education institutions, college admission requirements, careers and professions, and what is needed to earn a college degree. The event will include workshops, campus tours, Kids Zone, Reading Garden, photo booth, performances by los Danzantes de Aztlán, resource fair and the special appearance of Leo Gonzalez.

- Superintendent Nelson closed his remarks recognizing our Sunnyside region trustee, Valerie Davis, for being selected as a finalist for the Council of the Great City Schools Green-Garner Award! This award is highly selective and the nation's highest urban education honor. The recognition is so well-deserved, and we can't wait to honor Trustee Davis next month. Congratulations Trustee Davis!

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

News from Our District

Tickets on Sale for Gala to Raise Funds for Scholarships

Tickets are now on sale for the State of Education Gala to benefit students, put on by the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools. The dinner is at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 12 at The Manor Estate in Madera. The event supports Fresno Unified Scholarships.

[Buy State of Education Gala Tickets Here](#)

Families invited to Feria de Educación

Students and families are invited to attend the eighth annual Feria de Educación on Saturday, October 14, at Fresno State from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feria de Educación provides an opportunity for Spanish-speaking families to learn about higher education institutions, college admission requirements, careers and professions, and what is needed to earn a college degree. The event will include workshops, campus tours, Kids Zone, Reading Garden, photo booth, performances by los Danzantes de Aztlán, resource fair and the special appearance of Leo Gonzalez.

Schools are encouraged to help make transportation arrangements for students.

[Feria de Educacion Flyer in English](#)

[Feria de Educacion Flyer in Spanish](#)

Important Information about Social Services Benefits

The county Department of Social Services needs the community's help with spreading the word about the county (and state) system changes coming soon. For anyone accessing benefits from our social services, they need to know that the system they've used (MyBenefits CalWIN and DSS PASS) will switch to a new system called BenefitsCal. Any Fresno County family accessing Medi-Cal or Cal-Fresh services from Social Services will need the attached information.

[BenefitsCal Info in English](#)

[BenefitsCal Info in Spanish](#)

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Scholarship Fund**

Volunteer

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