October 19, 2012

Teaching and Learning

UC Davis Provost, Alumna Discuss College with Burbank Students

UC Davis Provost Ralph J. Hexter spoke to Luther Burbank High School students on Thursday as part of a statewide University of California outreach effort to inspire teens to go to college. Sue Vang (Burbank Class of ’03), an aide to state Senator Loni Hancock, also spoke to students and told of her personal struggles and how a UC education enriched her life.

Principal Networks

SCUSD’s 15 Principal Networks provide an opportunity for our site leaders to collaborate and gain insight from one another relative to a common learning focus. Each Network has a self-selected area of focus, such as implementation of Common Core Standards; academic writing; language acquisition and literacy; Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS); Social and Emotional Learning (SEL); Linked Learning; WASC Accreditation, etc. The first Principal Networks session was held on Wednesday; these groups will meet every third Wednesday of the month. More than 80 percent of Networks met this week and it was a great start to collaboration and sharing best practices.

Principals will also share data within these Networks, allowing them the opportunity to discuss – and receive feedback on -- past and current levels of student achievement and plans for improving achievement. Network participants will also engage in at least two collective Instructional Rounds throughout the year.

Principal Networks allows the District to better understand the needs, goals, programs and direction of the schools in order to provide better guidance and support.

Attendance Works

Representatives of Attendance Works, a national and state initiative that promotes better policy, practice and research around school attendance, met with SCUSD Cabinet members this week to discuss research into SCUSD data on chronic absenteeism. The goal of this organization is to get more districts to track this often overlooked metric and take the right steps to improve attendance.
**Operations**

*Health Services*

The Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Service’s Immunization Assistance Program is offering flu immunization programs at 12 select SCUSD school sites this season. Last week, Washington Elementary School’s clinic immunized 77 students and adults in just over one hour. The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.

*Communications Brings More Schools Online with New Websites*

Communications continues to work with schools that opted into our new website program last spring. To support this new venture, our webmaster offers monthly training workshops and has put together a library of video tutorials for schools to use. We currently have 12 websites launched and many more close to completion. Before the end of the year, we hope to launch 20 websites and allow more schools to opt into the program.

**Community Engagement**

*Drexel University’s Graduate Student Association Partners with SCUSD*

SCUSD has been chosen by the Drexel University Graduate Student Association (GSA) to be the recipient of the group’s civic engagement efforts during the 2012-13 school year. GSA President David Innis will work closely with SCUSD’s Family and Community Engagement Office to identify opportunities in which Drexel students can provide resources for SCUSD’s students. “Those resources could be in the form of mentoring, fundraising, leadership development, professional development or social events for both student bodies,” said Innis. On Saturday, October 20, the GSA will hold its second annual Harvest Festival. The evening of autumn-themed family friendly events will include face painting, pumpkin decorating, harvest t-shirt decorating, food and fun. A raffle will be held with proceeds benefiting SCUSD.

The Sacramento GSA was founded in spring 2009, when the organization was formally recognized by Drexel University’s Sacramento Center for Graduate Studies. Drexel University is a regionally accredited, not-for-profit, private university with a 120-year history of innovation and a vision for tomorrow. Drexel is the nation's 14th largest private university and ranked sixth among national universities in the most recent U.S. News & World Report for schools "making the most promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics and faculty."
**Fresh Produce & Floral Council Donates Salad Bar to Earl Warren**

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday to dedicate a new salad bar at Earl Warren Elementary School made possible by a donation from La Mirada-based Fresh Produce & Floral Council (FPFC), a trade association of growers, brokers and buyers of fresh produce.

The new salad bar continues SCUSD’s efforts to help kids access fresh fruits and vegetables, discover new favorites and develop healthy eating habits that will last their lifetimes. The Fresh Produce & Floral Council is a community of professionals across all sectors of the fresh produce and floral industry that do business in California and the western region.

**Block Party Saturday to Honor ‘Tata’ Floyd**

A block party will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday to celebrate Leataata “Tata” Floyd. Mrs. Floyd’s son, San Diego Chargers wide receiver Malcom Floyd, will attend the celebration along with his brother, Malcolm Floyd, who played for the Houston Oilers. (The brothers share the same name with different spellings.) Malcolm Floyd coaches football and teaches at C.K. McClatchy High School.

Block party festivities will include a barbecue, music and Polynesian dance performances by students and professionals.

**Health Professions Students Share Stories at UC Davis Med Center**

Members of the Health Professions High School Creative Writing Club were honored to be chosen to read selections from their book, “Breath and Bones,” to medical students, doctors and family members as a part of the UC Davis Campus Community Book Project. More than 40 people attended the event last Friday.

“Breath and Bones” is a collection of poetry, personal narratives and short stories written by the HPHS Creative Writing Club in collaboration with 916ink, a non-profit literacy initiative modeled after San Francisco’s successful 826 Valencia founded by award-winning author Dave Eggers.

UC Davis’ Campus Community Book Project was initiated after September 11 to promote dialogue and build community by encouraging diverse members of the campus and surrounding communities to read the same book and attend related events.

**Council of Great City Schools Conference**

Superintendent Raymond attended the annual fall conference of the Council of Great City Schools in Indianapolis this week, and facilitated a session on early childhood titled “Why Early Childhood Education is Your Best Investment for Higher Urban Student Achievement.”
The Council of the Great City Schools is the only national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools. Composed of 67 large city school districts, its mission is to promote the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students through legislation, research and media relations. The organization also provides a network for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information, and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth.