Teaching and Learning

SCUSD Men’s Leadership Academy

To empower young men to become lifelong learners and globally competitive leaders – to be resilient, responsible and respectful men – SCUSD is piloting a Men’s Leadership Academy. The Academy is modeled after a successful program in Long Beach and funded by the California Endowment.

The Academy is a class offered during the school day (and for elective credit) to teens at risk of dropping out. Through service learning and a multi-cultural curriculum, the class aims to provide students with the tools to succeed, including teamwork, problem-solving and resiliency skills. The Academy will focus on bringing together teachers, students, parents and community businesses and partners to provide the encouragement needed for these teens to complete high school and enroll in college.

This work is critically important: The drop-out rate in Sacramento County is 19.7 percent over a four-year period, slightly above the state average of 18.2 percent. The rate is far worse for students of color. In Sacramento County, more than one of every four black or Latino students dropped out of school during the last four years. Also, boys were 35 percent more likely to drop out than girls. To lower the drop-out rate would in essence increase the college entrance rates from our schools.

The targeted audience for the Men’s Leadership Academy is boys in grades 9 – 12 who have multiple risk factors, including low attendance, low academic performance and high suspension rates. The program, underway now at American Legion, is slated for expansion to McClatchy and Kennedy next semester.

Operations

The Met Sacramento Re-Opens

With the renovation of The Met Sacramento completed, students and staff returned to their Southside Park campus on Monday (the school had been temporarily housed on the Sacramento High School campus.) The school had been under construction since the summer on major overhaul that has transformed it into SCUSD’s first certified “green”
school. The renovations include a new science lab, recording studio, art facility, bike storage facility and garden. Green highlights of the work include energy efficient lighting, recycled glass countertops, water-wise plumbing and irrigation and decorating finishes made from salvaged Sacramento High School gym bleachers.

The Met’s renovation is the first SCUSD campus remodeling project to exceed US Green Building Council energy efficiency benchmarks. An official reopening is being planned for next semester. The project was funded through facility bonds.

**SCUSD Schools to be Beautified This Weekend**

SCUSD facilities and maintenance personnel and community volunteers will be spending Saturday morning beautifying SCUSD campuses – a Martin Luther King Jr. weekend tradition. The clean-up is a joint effort between SCUSD and Hands On Sacramento’s annual King Day of Service, which celebrates the life of the civil rights leader through projects that serve the community. SCUSD schools getting spruced up are H.W. Harkness, William Land and Woodbine elementary schools. The effort will include deep cleaning, weed pulling, playground fiber and some painting. All of the activities will be monitored and supervised by district employees. SCUSD is also providing some supplies, along with Hands On Sacramento.

**Community Engagement**

**Connect Center Reaches Out to Kindergarten Families**

SCUSD’s Connect Center is using kindergarten enrollment, which began on Wednesday, as an opportunity to reach out to families in need of health insurance. In December, 2011, all elementary school principals and office managers received a pre-screening tool to include in their kindergarten enrollment packet to give to parents. The Connect Center is the district’s centralized location for health insurance enrollment for students.