June 1, 2012

**Teaching and Learning**

*SCUSD Invited to Participate in National Summer Learning Summit*

SCUSD was one of a few districts and key partners invited to participate in the national launch of the Healthy Summers Campaign in Baltimore this week. The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) and lead partner, United Way Worldwide, with funding from the Walmart Foundation, convened the Healthy Summers Summit to bring together leaders of summer learning and children's health programs to address the special challenges that summer presents.

The summit generated greater awareness about summer health and nutrition risks and solutions and promoted collaboration among diverse players in the education field to address summer learning loss in a coordinated way. Participants, including SCUSD’s Zenae Scott, shared experiences and ideas across fields and formed the foundation for the Healthy Summers Campaign. (SCUSD’s participation was sponsored by the hosts.)

The Healthy Summers Campaign seeks to reduce childhood obesity and malnutrition in summer, connect the issues of health and learning, advocate for improved policies and provide guidance and support to summer programs. Another goal is to work with families on effective support for their children and youth.

**Operations**

*Tentative Agreement Reached with SCTA*

After long hours at the bargaining table and many frank discussions, a tentative two-year agreement has been reached with the Sacramento City Teachers Association. The agreement provides a viable contingency plan to help address the estimated $15 million in mid-year trigger cuts that would result from voters failing to approve Governor Brown’s tax initiative on the November ballot. The agreement also addresses escalating structural budget issues that threaten the long-term financial health of the district. It can be reviewed on the district’s website at [http://www.scusd.edu/post/scta-tentative-agreement](http://www.scusd.edu/post/scta-tentative-agreement).

The agreement now goes to SCTA membership for ratification. Voting begins today and will continue through next Thursday. If it is ratified, the agreement will move to the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) and then to the SCUSD Board of Education for final approval. Meanwhile, discussions are continuing with SCUSD’s other labor partners.
SCUSD Featured in Documentary on State’s School Soda Ban

A crew of French documentary filmmakers visited Rosemont High School on Thursday and interviewed teens about the forces that influence what they eat and drink. The visit was coordinated by SCUSD’s Nutrition Services and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy (CCPHA). The documentary is about California’s lead role in getting sodas out of schools. In a note to Nutrition Services, Harold Goldstein, executive director of CCPHA, reported that students interviewed “have an understanding of the importance of healthy food that they would not have had even five years ago. Your food program clearly plays a role in that.”

Community Engagement

American Indian Youth Leadership Conference and Graduation

SCUSD’s Youth Development Department and the American Indian Education Program held an American Indian Youth Leadership Conference and Graduation/Promotion on Friday, May 25, at the Serna Center. Seventy seventh to 12th grade students from across the district and 59 adults – family members, chaperones, SCUSD staff and volunteers – participated. The event featured educational, culturally interactive workshops and nutritious refreshments throughout the day. In addition, students were recognized and honored by their community for promoting out of their schools, (sixth and eighth graders) or graduating from high school. Students were recognized with a certificate, sage, an abalone shell and handmade jewelry from a community member. They were also honored with a song by the Wokini drum group.

Councilman Schenirer Donates to Men’s Leadership Academy

City Councilman Jay Schenirer and Sacramento Police Chief Rick Braziel visited the Men’s Leadership Academy class at American Legion High School on Tuesday morning, and Schenirer presented Principal Stan Echols with a check for $5,000. Modeled after a successful program in Long Beach, the Academy is a class offered during the school day (and for elective credit) to at-risk teens at American Legion, C.K. McClatchy and John F. Kennedy high schools. Through community service projects and a multi-cultural curriculum, the class aims to provide students with the skills to succeed, including teamwork, leadership, problem-solving and resiliency. Other funders of the program include The California Endowment, which donated $40,000, and Sierra Health Foundation, which recently committed an additional $25,000. The community’s investment in the program will allow SCUSD to expand the Men’s Leadership Academy and allow more students to take part in the classes.

The Men’s Leadership Academy provides young men with successful role models and introduces them to the range of jobs awaiting those who are continuing their education beyond high school. On Thursday, Academy students toured UC Berkeley on a field trip. For most of the kids, the trip marked their first visit to a university campus. Men’s Leadership Academy programming will continue during the summer.

Sacramento Area Youth Speaks Conference

About 100 SCUSD students participated in the fourth annual Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS) Conference, titled “Writes of Passage: Continuing the Legacy.” SAYS is a program within
the UC Davis School of Education CRESS Center that fosters creative approaches to the literary arts. Specifically, students work with poet mentors to write and perform original pieces at poetry “slams,” or competitions. The culminating conference featured inspirational speakers, workshops on self-discovery, art and culture and writing sessions. All students received resources about college as well as culturally relevant literacy tools. Students from American Legion, John F. Kennedy and Luther Burbank high schools participated in the SAYS Slam final exhibition.

Parents as Partners Graduation

The Department of School, Family and Community Partnerships hosted the Parents as Partners in Schools graduation at Luther Burbank High School on Tuesday. The following elementary schools participated in the Parents as Partners in Schools workshop series: Oak Ridge, Maple, Golden Empire, Sutterville, James Marshall, CP Huntington, Joseph Bonnheim and Mark Hopkins. Parents from Rosa Parks and Will C. Wood middle schools also participated. There were 100 parents eligible to graduate, and 75 participated in the graduation.

Rosa Parks Concert

Efforts to build and grow a music program at Rosa Parks Middle School, one of seven SCUSD Superintendent’s Priority Schools, paid off on Thursday when students participated in a concert performance that featured choral and orchestral music. The chorus performed such numbers as Stevie Wonder’s "Isn't She Lovely," Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" and Bill Withers’ "Lean on Me." The chorus was followed by the orchestra. Rosa Parks was the site of the California Alliance for Arts Education’s kick off campaign to “Bring Back the Arts” earlier this year. The Alliance’s Executive Director Joe Landon, who attended Thursday’s show, called it a “revelation,” saying: “To return six months later and sense the change, like when you put seeds in the ground and come back a month later and see these plants that weren't there before, suddenly thriving...for me this is as deep as it gets.”

Arts Education and Summer Resources Fair

The Sacramento Council of PTAs sponsored an Arts Education and Summer Resources Fair on Wednesday at Fairytale Town in Land Park. Teachers, staff, parent leaders and students attended to learn about available resources from such partner groups as Very Special Arts, Mad Science, Girl Scouts, Sacramento Theater Company, Sojourner Truth Art Museum and more.