March 23, 2012

Teaching and Learning

**SCUSD Student Leadership Conferences**

About 700 middle and high school students attended SCUSD’s African American Student Leadership Conference Thursday at California State University, Sacramento. Workshops included “Discover the Leader Within,” “Know the Law, Know Your Rights,” and “You Only Live Once.” The day was designed to teach students how to plan for college and careers and to motivate them to work hard. The Iu-Mien Student Conference, titled “comMIENity: Motivate, Inspire and Empower Now!” will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the UC Davis Conference Center. The day will include tours of the university, workshops and live entertainment.

The 2012 Latino Student Leadership Conference will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, in the Student Union of Sacramento State. Speakers include CSUS Professor Francisco Reveles, California Superior Court Judge Emily Vasquez and Edgar Jimenez of the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers.

Operations

**SEIU, District Continue Bargaining Work**

Representatives of the district and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) held a productive bargaining session on Wednesday, March 21 – their second meeting this month.

**School Site Web Templates Unveiled**

The Communications Department reconvened its focus group working on school site websites on Thursday. The group is comprised of parents, volunteers and staff. At the meeting, webmaster Andrea Landis revealed the three customizable templates that schools can pick from for their new websites. The templates received lots of positive feedback and the participants are excited to get started. The next step is to begin training web administrators at each school site.

**Sacramento Emerging Leaders Academy (SELA)**

The first cohort of the Sacramento Emerging Leaders Academy (SELA) is continuing its work with Cindy Loe, former superintendent of schools in Fulton County, Georgia, today and tomorrow at the Pacific Development Center. Thirty-eight educators are taking part in this initial SELA program.
Sacramento Emerging Leaders Academy is a result of the Sacramento High Performing Schools Compact and funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Educators identified as having the potential to be effective principals will be provided with intensive leadership training based on a research-proven curriculum.

**Community Engagement**

**SCUSD, City Awarded CalGRIP Grant**

A grant application from SCUSD and the City of Sacramento for a two-year, $250,000 California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program (CalGRIP) grant has been approved. Money from the grant will be used to fund the Boys and Girls Club’s after-school program Project Learn at three schools (Caroline Wenzel, CB Wire and Bret Harte). Project Learn focuses on high-yield learning activities, which include leisure reading, writing activities, discussions with knowledgeable adults, tutoring and life skills lessons. Funds will also support a program director that will work from City Councilman Jay Schenirer’s office and provide stipends to SCUSD students who participate in the Summer at City Hall program. This grant is great timing as the district’s grant-funded Gang Prevention through Targeted Outreach program, also implemented in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club, will be ending soon.

**Fields First Scheduling Meeting**

To eliminate scheduling conflicts and provide better service to youth leagues, SCUSD is hosting its first annual Fields First Scheduling Meeting on Friday, April 20. This meeting is an opportunity for youth sports representatives to schedule the use of SCUSD fields for summer and fall sports and activities, pending availability. Invitations are being sent and groups are being notified that classification and rate changes are in the works for the 2012-13 school year that will likely affect all field users. In addition, SCUSD’s use of the fields will take priority over outside organizations. Through the Fields First Scheduling Meeting, the district can ensure that all needs are met with consistency and with the protection of public assets foremost in mind.

**Community Quality Review at Susan B. Anthony**

The Office of School, Family & Community Partnerships (SFCP) completed the first Community Quality Review (CQR) at Susan B. Anthony on Wednesday, March 14. The review team consisted of one member from Cambridge Education, one staff member from SFCP and two parents. The review team held discussions with the principal, a group of parents, the school’s leadership team, a group of teachers, community partners, a group of primary grade students and a group of intermediate grade students. The review team explored in their discussions the following four domains, 1) School Environment, Culture & Context for Learning 2) Family Understanding and Engagement 3) Community Partners and Understanding 4) Leadership. From these discussions, like the School Quality Review, the review team will prepare a Community Quality Review report to provide feedback to the school informing them of their areas of strengths and areas of improvement.