Teaching and Learning

Latino Student Leadership Conference Draws Huge Crowd

More than 750 students from 11 high schools and 10 middle schools attended SCUSD’s Latino Student Leadership Conference held on Tuesday at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). The day, co-sponsored by the College Assistance for Migrants Program (CAMP), featured more than 28 presenters, giving participants a wide array of workshops to expand their awareness about college, career and active-living strategies and resources. Speakers included SCUSD Chief of Human Resources Jess Serna and CSUS professor Dr. Francisco Reveles. Others working with the students included Fern Bacon Middle School counselor Yvette Oceguerra and poet Francisco Alarcon.

Students received t-shirts to commemorate their attendance. Additionally, two students won scholarships through the first-ever Latino Student Leadership Conference Essay Contest. First place ($250) went to Health Professions student Vanessa Soto. The runner-up prize ($100) went to C.K. McClatchy student Ivan Serrano. Their essays, and that of their peers, will be converted by the Youth Engagement Services Unit into a book that will be made available to the public to raise funds for future scholarships.

WASC Review of Hiram Johnson

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visiting committees have been visiting several SCUSD high schools this spring, including C.K. McClatchy, Luther Burbank, Health Professions and, most recently, Hiram Johnson High School. WASC grants six-year, three-year or “limited” accreditations to high schools. Accreditation is necessary for schools to validate student transcripts and class credits, among other advantages.

This week, the team assigned to review Johnson’s accreditation “self-study” made a presentation of findings to the school. Hiram Johnson will be notified later in the year of its accreditation status.

The WASC committee chair, in delivering the report on Hiram Johnson, said: “I have never visited a high school campus that was safer, calmer, cleaner or more orderly.” The “Schoolwide Strengths” cited in the report include:

- Dedicated and caring teachers who are involved in ongoing professional development and are committed to improving the academic achievement of all students.
A strong administrative team has provided the leadership and framework necessary for serious school improvement.

- The district has allocated significant resources to support school improvement and multi-year planning.
- Hiram Johnson maintains a safe, clean and orderly campus through a clearly defined process for handling student behavior issues.
- The school has common assessments, course outlines and pacing guides in various disciplines.

**Operations**

*SCTA Bargaining Update*

Representatives of the district and the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) held a productive bargaining session today. There was progress in negotiations and another session has been scheduled for April 11.

*SCUSD Gears Up Sixth Grade Tdap Campaign*

Health Services is working with the Communications Department to raise awareness about the importance of bringing sixth graders into compliance with state immunization laws before the start of middle school in the fall. As you know, all middle and high school students must show proof of receiving the Tdap – tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough – vaccine before they can enter a classroom in September. Because the law went into effect last year, most teens are already compliant, which is why the focus is on sixth graders (incoming seventh graders). The district recently held three free Tdap/meningococcal clinics to help bring students into compliance.

Elementary and K-8 school principals have been given flyers, newsletter “blurbs,” sample letters to parents and sample Connect-ED phone call scripts to help them raise awareness among non-compliant sixth grade parents.

**Community Engagement**

*Kennedy Reaches Out to Eighth Graders*

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, about 500 eighth graders visited the John F. Kennedy High School campus in a first-ever intensive outreach campaign designed by Principal Chad Sweitzer. The students, from JFK’s feeder schools, were brought to the campus by buses in the morning and were greeted by the Kennedy marching band and cheerleaders. Varsity athletes and government class students led tours of the campus which allowed groups of eighth graders to visit classrooms and make better informed choices about electives. The eighth graders also had an opportunity to schedule classes with JFK counselors. Before leaving, the middle school kids were treated to a rally and lunch. Funding for the buses was provided by Cohort 8 funds. Kudos to Principal Sweitzer and his team!
Community Quality Review at Albert Einstein and Ethel I. Baker

The Office of School, Family & Community Partnerships (SFCP) completed the second Community Quality Review (CQR) at Albert Einstein on Monday and the third CQR at Ethel I. Baker on Thursday. For both CQRs, the review teams engaged in 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. From these discussions, 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 for improvement.

Parents as Partners in Schools

Supported by Target Excellence, the Parents as Partners in Schools (PAPS) program helps parents learn how to help their students be successful in school, how to communicate with school staff and how to understand the school system and structure. Parents at 10 schools are participating in the program this year. On Friday, March 23, parents from Oak Ridge Elementary finished all nine sessions of the program. Upon completion, participants said they learned tools and strategies that will help their families educationally and personally. Parents finishing the program from all 10 sites will be invited to a graduation ceremony on May 29 at Luther Burbank High School.