SCUSD Awarded 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Grants

SCUSD’s Youth Development Support Services learned on Thursday that the district has been awarded $4.1 million in 21\textsuperscript{st} Century grants. SCUSD will receive $2.9 million in 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Community Learning Center funds to support and expand after-school and summer learning programs in elementary schools and community-based settings. The amount represents 23 percent of what was awarded in 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Community Learning Center grants to the entire state.

SCUSD will also receive $1.2 million to support the renewal of the high school after-school programs at C.K. McClatchy, John F. Kennedy, Hiram Johnson and American Legion high schools, with expansion to Sacramento Charter High. The programs will also support the renewal and creation of specific after-school family engagement components. SCUSD is the only awardee in Sacramento County for the high school programs. The district is looking to appeal CDE’s decision to not fund George Washington Carver and West Campus (both sites have existing programs).

See below for purpose of the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century After-School Programs.

“The purpose of the 21st CCLC Program, as described in federal statute, is to provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities that focus on:

1. Improved academic achievement
2. Enrichment services that reinforce and complement the academic program, and
3. Family literacy and related educational development services”

Linked Learning Convening

Statewide advocates for strengthening the connections between K-12 schools, college and the world of work visited Health Professions High School on Wednesday as part of an all-day Capitol-area tour focused on policy development. The Spring 2012 Convening, titled "Building Linked Learning Infrastructure Through Policy," was sponsored by Linked Learning Alliance, a collective of education, workforce and public policy advocates. Those who visited Health Professions included representatives of the California Teachers Association (CTA), California State University (CSU), the James Irvine Foundation and Youth Policy Institute.
Other tour stops included the Capitol, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the California Department of Education. The group also heard a keynote address by Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg.

**Summer Matters Sacramento Summit**

SCUSD was a hosting partner for Wednesday’s Summer Matters Sacramento Summit, held at Sierra Health Foundation. Morning speakers included Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools David Gordon, Jennifer Peck, executive director of the Partnership for Children and Youth, and Superintendent Jonathan Raymond, who spoke of the district’s three main initiatives – Summer of Service, Summer Quest and Summer at City Hall. Zenae Scott, Coordinator for Youth Engagements Services of SCUSD’s Youth Development led a workshop on “Powerful Summer Partnerships Equal Positive Change for Schools.” The summit reinforced the message that SCUSD is at the forefront of summer learning innovations for urban districts.

**Operations**

**Bully Prevention Training for Administrators Begins**

SCUSD’s Integrated Support Services Department launched the first in a series of two-hour trainings for administrators on bullying prevention and intervention on April 24. The training covered key definitions, the impact of bullying behavior, a review of the district’s anti-bullying administrative regulation and best practices to improve school climate and reduce bullying behavior.

The goal is to train administrators every two years on the district’s administrative regulation and best practices. Another goal is to provide administrators information that they can take back to their campus to share with teachers and staff. Training materials include: Case studies, student safety and action plans, progressive discipline strategies, a pre-K through high school reading list, a DVD created by CSUS called “Teacher Awareness and Response” and information on cyber bullying. Additional sessions are scheduled during May and June for those who could not attend.

**Student Taste Testing**

Nutrition Services and the National School Nutrition Association (SNA) enlisted the help of 12 Earl Warren Elementary School fourth- through sixth-graders to taste-test several fruits and vegetables on April 20. Students tasted meloranges (a sweet tasting melon), yellow and orange mini tomatoes, three varieties of lettuces and sweet peppers in a variety of colors. This work is part of SCUSD’s efforts to meet the new USDA guidelines requiring increased orange, red and green produce beginning July 1, 2012.

The kids had very different opinions about the fruits and vegetables but all of them agreed that the melorange was the most popular item tasted, with cantaloupe a close second.

Included in the taste testing, students were provided nutrition education on the values of eating more fruits and vegetables that are red, orange and green varieties -- those they taste tested specifically. To connect with classroom curriculum and the school’s garden, each student also
received potting soil, seeds and a seedling of their choice to start their own garden at home or to use in the school garden.

These types of taste tests are an important step in introducing all students to fruits and veggies they will begin seeing more often on school lunch menus.

**Bus Driver Appreciation Day**

On Tuesday, April 24, the Transportation Department celebrated California’s School Bus Driver Appreciation Day by recognizing all Transportation staff. A total of 204 Certificates of Appreciation and service lapel pins were distributed to all staff for their service to the district. The years of service spanned for employees was one year to 33 years. Transportation recognized 145 school bus drivers for their service and for the number of consecutive years of accident-free service, which ranged from one year to 18 years. Drivers received lapel pins indicating the number of accident-free driving years. Overall, district bus drivers have decreased the number of “preventable accidents” by more than 50 percent this year over last year.

Five retirees were also recognized for their years of service to the department. Chief Business Officer Patty Hagemeyer and representatives from the California Highway Patrol were there to congratulate retiring employees and express appreciation for their contributions to SCUSD. A barbecue lunch was served.

**Administrator Selection Process**

The Sacramento City Unified School District’s Human Resources Services Department is committed to developing and maintaining processes that ensure clear expectations, transparent structures and equitable opportunities for all school sites. In striving to meet this commitment, the Administrator Selection Process seeks to address the lack of equitable opportunities for all school sites. By utilizing a three-tiered process, site communities will have a readily available, qualified applicant pool from which to identify a leader best suited to meet the needs of their particular site.

Postings for principal positions have now closed. There were about 215 applicants for these posted positions. Applicants meeting the minimum qualifications have undergone an initial screening and those identified to move forward were invited to participate in upcoming district-level interviews that began this week with elementary school candidates. Interviews for secondary school and K-8 principals will be held next week.

Following these interviews, those candidates identified to move forward will then be available to engage in the community level process, which will begin later this month.

**Community Engagement**

**Dr. Oz Visits Hiram Johnson**

Emmy Award-winning talk show host Dr. Mehmet Oz and Anthem Blue Cross President Pam Kehaly visited Hiram Johnson High School on Monday to judge a HealthCorps Healthy Breakfast
Challenge. Others at the event included Oz’s wife, Lisa Oz; Sacramento Kings Assistant Coach Bobby Jackson; talk show host Montel Williams; Hiram Johnson Principal Felisberto Cedros; former New York State First Lady Michelle Paige Patterson; and HealthCorps President Michelle Bouchard.

The Healthy Breakfast Challenge involved four teams of students competing to create a quick and healthy breakfast in less than 10 minutes. Competing students were chosen from the HealthCorps after school program at Johnson and from the 9th and 10th grade English classes that wrote Dr. Oz and invited him to visit their school.

HealthCorps’ in-school peer mentoring program is established at three Sacramento high schools: Hiram Johnson, Sacramento Charter and Luther Burbank high schools. Launched in New York City in 2003, HealthCorps is building a health movement and administers its educational program in 53 high schools in 13 states. In 2011, the nonprofit opened a West Coast Office in Sacramento to oversee its expanding national high school network and forge stronger bonds with major supporters in the region. HealthCorps was co-founded by Dr. Oz and Lisa Oz.

**Community Presentation Training**

In preparation of the final milestone of the Welcoming Schools Certificate Process (WSCP), principals, teachers and office staff from Albert Einstein Middle School, Hiram Johnson High School, John F. Kennedy High School and Maple Elementary attended the Community Presentation Training at Serna Center on Tuesday. The training was led by Ron Dwyer-Voss of Pacific Community Solutions. The training focused on:

- Ability to present School Development Improvement Plans (SDIPs) with findings of Community Walk Through (CWT) and Community Quality Review (CQR) to multiple stakeholders in one meeting.
- Familiarity with presentation preparation and delivery tools and techniques that effectively communicate information and create an interactive environment that strengthens relationships among and between the school and its community stakeholders.
- Knowledge of how to use a community meeting to discover and identify local community assets.

Schools will be conducting their community presentations in May and June. Staff from the Family and Community Engagement Office will be present at the school’s community presentation to present the schools their Welcoming Schools banner.

**Geek Squad Summer Academy**

For the second year in a row, SCUSD is partnering with the Magic Johnson Foundation, the Phoenix Park Magic Johnson Community Empowerment Center, Best Buy and the Geek Squad to offer a Geek Squad Summer Academy. Geek Squad Summer Academy is a program designed to inspire kids to get involved with technology. This is accomplished through fun, interactive classes and activities that provide students an opportunity to get hands-on experience with a wide variety of technology. The Summer Academy will be held June 26 and 27 at John Still Middle School and is open to fourth through sixth graders. Last year, the Academy hosted 210 students from throughout Sacramento and this year 240 students are expected to participate. The Summer Academy will be integrated into the SummerMatters@scusd program.