Culturally Responsive Leadership

SCUSD central office and site administrators began a series of professional development sessions focused on Culturally Proficient Leadership on Tuesday. The sessions, facilitated by Dr. Randall Lindsey, professor emeritus from California State University, Los Angeles, builds on the district’s previous equity work and is designed to increase site and district leaders’ awareness, knowledge and skill in creating culturally responsive school environments where students from diverse cultural backgrounds can thrive. Through self-reflection and analyses of their personal cultural proficiency journeys, district and site leaders learn how to engage staff, students and families in the vital work of shaping school culture and environments to be responsive to the diverse communities served. This work is another measure SCUSD is taking to ensure that all students reach the goals outlined in Pillar I (Career- and College-Ready Students) of SCUSD’s Strategic Plan 2010-14: Putting Children First.

Data Inquiry Presentation at Council of Great City Schools Conference

At this week’s Council for Great City Schools Annual Fall Conference in Boston, MA, Superintendent Raymond and Chief Academic Officer Olivine Roberts led a panel discussion with a national group of educators titled: Using a Data Inquiry Approach to Transform Learning & Teaching. The presentation focused on the adoption of the Harvard Data Wise methodology, which we refer to as Data Inquiry, as a key lever for change across the district. This process is integrated throughout our major initiatives such as Common Planning Time (CPT) and the adoption of the Common Core Standards, and has positively impacted both teacher and student learning.

Operations

Teachers Union Reform Network Conference

Chief Human Resources Officer Jess Serna, SCTA Bargaining Chairperson David Fischer and Rich Mullins, CTA Regional Staff, are attending the Teachers Union Reform Network (TURN) Conference in Long Beach this week. TURN is a network of National Education Association (NEA) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT) local chapters.
Leaders of TURN locals assemble three times per year to discuss and explore issues related to education reform and the role of teacher unions in advancing the cause of public education. Presenters at the conference included Kenneth Futernick, director of WestEd's School Turnaround Center, and Jo Anderson, senior advisor to U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan. The focus of the conference was Teacher Effectiveness, and included various models for improving teacher evaluation systems. The conference marks another step forward in the district’s collaboration with SCTA on this issue and others.

**New School Resource Officer Sergeant**

SRO Sgt. Charles Husted is moving on to a new assignment with Sacramento Police Department’s Internal Affairs Division after working with SCUSD and the SRO program for several years. Husted did a great job as the SRO sergeant and we all wish him well in his new endeavors. Sgt. Chris Taylor will be coming on board as our new SRO sergeant. Sgt. Taylor brings many years of experience to SCUSD. His most recent assignment was as the Police Department’s representative with the Planning Commission and as the head of the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Program. Additionally, Chris has worked as a patrol supervisor. Please join me in welcoming Chris!

**Community Engagement**

**Camellia Park Community Garden Ribbon-Cutting**

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday to open a new community garden in Camellia Park next to Camellia Basic School. Board President Gustavo Arroyo, City Councilman Kevin McCarty and SCUSD’s Center for Green Schools Fellow Farah McDill will officiate at the event. The community garden will be available for use by the school as an outdoor science lab and by neighbors. Following the ribbon-cutting, Camellia Basic’s PTA hosts the school’s annual Harvest Carnival, which will feature giveaways by the Sacramento Kings, a Safetyville booth and Sacramento Fire Department’s Fire Engine No. 10.

**Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project Conference**

Several representatives of SCUSD sites and central office departments are attending the Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project national conference in Reno this week. About 175 PTVHP participants and partners from a dozen states are meeting to exchange ideas, share experiences and learn about such topics as media outreach, forming partnerships and fundraising. A national model for family and community engagement, PTVHP has been recognized by Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government as a “Bright Idea,” an award that recognizes promising government programs and partnerships.