



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

January/February 2018 - Volume VII - No 3



ABC Unified Superintendent Selected as Finalist for 2018 National Superintendent of the Year®

By Dr. Rhonda Buss, Director of Secondary Schools and ACSA Region XIV President

Dr. Mary Sieu has blazed a trail as the first female and first Asian Superintendent of the ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD), located in Cerritos, California. She is continuing to blaze trails by being named an American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Finalist for The National Superintendent of the Year®. Her vision of, “Demographics do not determine destiny,” has become a reality for many students in ABCUSD and is now earning national attention. Dr. Sieu personally understands the demographic challenges that are faced when climbing the mountains of life; and discovered at an early age that school was a safe haven for her as a young girl. Dr. Sieu is the daughter of an immigrant family from mainland China, who did not speak English, and lived in the back of a laundry where her family worked. However, this young girl with a tenacious spirit would dedicate her life to making a difference in the lives of others and helping them to understand that anything is possible. Now, as Dr. Sieu steps on the national stage, she has blazed another trail for ABCUSD as a finalist for The National Superintendent of the Year®.

The four finalists for the National Superintendent of the Year® are: Wendy Robinson, Fort Wayne Community Schools, Ft Wayne, Indiana; Mary Sieu, ABC Unified School District, Cerritos, California; David Schuler, Township High School District 214, Arlington Heights, Illinois; and Mike Winstead, Maryville City Schools, Maryville, Tennessee.

“The superintendents we are honoring represent the face of public education,” said Daniel A. Domenech, executive director, AASA. “This program celebrates the accomplishments by the education thought leaders we’re honoring. We also celebrate the tremendous strides public education is making in our communities. We are grateful to VALIC and First Student for supporting our program.”

Dr. Mary Sieu, along with the other finalists for National Superintendent of the Year® had an opportunity to meet the national education community January 10-13 through interviews during a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

In order to be recognized as a The National Superintendent of the Year® finalist, Dr. Sieu’s applications were measured using the following criteria:

- Leadership for learning – creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in the school system.
- Communication – strength in both personal and organizational communication.
- Professionalism – constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team.
- Community involvement – active participation in local community activities and an understanding of regional, national and international issues.

Finalists for the 2018 National Superintendent of the Year



David Schuler, IL; Dr. Mary Sieu, CA; Dan Domenech, AASA Executive Director; Wendy Robinson, IN; and Mike Winstead, TN

A \$10,000 college scholarship will be presented in the name of the National Superintendent of the Year® to a student in the high school from which the superintendent graduated, or a school currently served by the District. ▶

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News From Our Schools and Around The District

Bragg ES - Golden Bell Recognition



The ABC Board of Education honors Bragg ES Principal Annette Janeway for winning a Golden Bell Award by the California School Boards Association for their "Building Bridges Program."

Fedde MS History Day Project

For this year's History Day competition, the following 7th graders selected the Iran Hostage Crisis as their topic. Teammates, Kevin Bracamontes, Jaciel Lira, and Armaan Ahmed titled their project "The Conflict That Rewrote History." While researching their topic, they focused on the Carter presidency and wondered if Jimmy Carter had won a second term whether he could have negotiated peace in the Middle East.

They dreamed of being able to ask the former president what he thought and carefully composed a letter and sent it to Jimmy Carter. Two months later, the boys were surprised to receive a personal response from Jimmy Carter. The former president, in a handwritten message, answered all the boys' questions and closed with well wishes and his signature. President Carter's answers will be used in the Scholars' History Day documentary, which will premiere at History Day L.A. on March 17, 2018. ▶

California School Dashboard Report

The California Department of Education (CDE) has released the Fall 2017 California School Dashboard (Dashboard). The Dashboard is available at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/> and it includes multiple reports on academic performance, school conditions and climate, and academic engagement. Each report displays three years of data, if available, for each state indicator. It also includes the local indicator data applicable under each priority area. The link below shows data used for the Fall 2017 Dashboard: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/statuschangedataf2017.pdf> ▶

Retirement of Don Miller



The Maintenance, Operations, & Transportation Department held a special luncheon to honor retiring Bus Driver Don Miller who has served the District for 35 years. Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu had the great pleasure of riding the bus with him during his route and saw the amazing impact he had with our students throughout the District. Needless to say, he will be missed. ▶

Visit our website for ABC USD schools' addresses, contact info, enrollment boundaries and more!

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

Gahr HS held their 2nd Annual Engineering is Elementary Program



Engineering is Elementary at Gahr HS

On Tuesday, December 19, Gahr HS held their 2nd Annual Engineering is Elementary Program for over 200 elementary students. This event showcased the importance of engineering concepts in everyday life by Gahr HS students. It was a wonderful event that also included engineers in the field speaking with the students. Gahr HS will also be hosting a similar event in the beginning of the year with middle school students. ▶

CyberTIP Reporting

On December 15, 2017, ABC students were provided a new email safety feature called CyberTIP Reporting. The feature is part of a suite of safety services provided to our District by Gaggle. CyberTIP Reporting is easily accessed within our students' email contact lists and makes the reporting of a safety issue via email accessible to all ABC students that use District technology. Students' CyberTIP emails are not anonymous. All CyberTIP emails are first routed to the Gaggle Human Monitoring Center, reviewed, and then forwarded to ABC administrators when deemed a legitimate concern. ▶

Tetzlaff Middle School - SpringBoard National Demonstration School Renewal

It is official! Congratulations to the entire Tetzlaff Middle School community on being recognized as a SpringBoard National Demonstration School by College Board again for the next three years! ▶

Fedde Middle School – Schools to Watch/National Model Middle School

Congratulations to the Fedde Middle School community for being redesignated as a Schools to Watch/National Model Middle School! Fedde Middle School will be honored in Sacramento on March 1-3, 2018, and in Washington D.C. on June 30, 2018. ▶

School Social Workers and Mental Health Professionals Meeting

The ABC Social Workers and Mental Health Professionals Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 12 in the Board Room. All the full-time social workers and mental health professionals covering all our schools attended. A dinner was provided for them in celebration of the holiday season. Thank you to Tina Porter, District Social Worker, and Kendall Fujioka, Coordinator of Pupil Support Services, for coordinating this event. ▶



District Social Workers and Wellness Coordinators

News From Our Schools and Around The District

New Board Members Installed at the Reorganization Meeting



Board Members Maynard Law, newly elected Ernie Nishii, Chris Apodaca, Sophia Tse, newly elected Dr. Olga Rios, Soo Yoo, Leticia Mendoza, and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu

AdHoc Board Advisory Committee-Facilities Update

On January 31, 2018, the Board of Education held a Special Board Meeting on the Facilities Master Plan. This was a result of a report presented by the AdHoc Board Advisory Committee-Facilities comprised of community members after 18 months of study. There were five major recommendations from the AdHoc Board Advisory Committee-Facilities. The District will be undergoing the following steps concurrently: 1) Retain a Financial Advisor to conduct a feasibility study; Retain a public relations consultant to communicate the Facilities Master Plan; Review the increase of developer fees; Use one time revenue to fund some of the projects; 2) Retain a Facility Consultant or Architect to evaluate the District's eligibility of State School Construction/Modernization Grants; 3) Retain a demographer to conduct and study past and future enrollment trends for the Board to consider in future reorganization plans; 4) Review and evaluate the Deferred Maintenance and the Routine, Restrict Maintenance Budgets; and 5) Update the Technology Master Plan to present to the Board by December 2018. The Facilities Master Plan is available on the District's website for review and comments from the public. ►

California English Learner Roadmap

Last summer, the California State Board of Education unanimously adopted a new policy for English Learners, the California English Learner Roadmap: Educational Programs and Services for English Learners. This policy supersedes the 1998 English learner policy, which was based on Proposition 227. The vision of this policy is that English learners fully and meaningful access and participate in a 21st century education from early childhood through grade twelve that results in their attaining high levels of English proficiency, mastery of grade level standards, and opportunities to develop proficiency in multiple languages. Four principles support the vision and provide the foundation to the California English Learner Roadmap: Assets-Oriented and Needs-Responsive Schools; Intellectual Quality of Instruction and Meaningful Access; System Conditions to Support Effectiveness; and Alignment and Articulation within and across Systems. These four principles will serve to guide us in developing strategies and plans to better serve our English learner students. To learn more about this policy visit: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/rm/elroadmappolicy.asp> ►

Teacher Induction Program

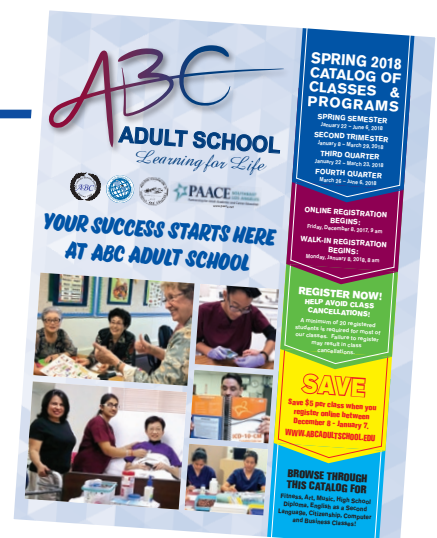
Congratulations to the 12 teachers who completed the two years Teacher Induction Program in ABC! Great job! ▶



The ABC Board of Education honored teachers in the Teacher Induction Program



ABC Adult School offers great classes!
Check out the Spring Catalog at
www.abcadulthood.edu



Community Involvement

Cerritos - Artesia Rotary Club Holiday Luncheon



The Cerritos-Artesia Rotary Club held their Annual Holiday Luncheon supporting the Tracy Teen Parent Program

Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce Holiday Luncheon

The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce held their Holiday Luncheon at the Sheraton Cerritos on December 7. The Chamber Members contributed a mountain of gifts for the ABC Head Start Program students and their families. Lora Ballard, Interim Coordinator of the Head Start Program, spoke on behalf of the Head Start Program and thanked all those who contributed toys, clothes, and books for the 180 Head Start students in our District. ▶



Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce Holiday Donations to the District's Head Start Program

6th Annual ABC Education Foundation Donor/Grantee Awards Night

On January 30, 2018, over \$37,000 was awarded as mini-grants to teachers across the District. The funds were raised by donations from community groups and organizations. ▶



Sheri Bathurst of Kaiser Permanente honored as a Silver donor



Ken Kraus of the Los Cerritos Center honored as Donor of the Year



Wittmann ES received a mini-grant in the amount of \$1,900 for their Robotics/Drone Racing Team



ABC Education Foundation Board of Directors



Gahr HS received six mini-grants totaling over \$10,000 from the Foundation



Board Members

Soo Yoo - President
Leticia Mendoza - Vice President
Dr. Olga Rios - Clerk
Chris Apodaca - Member
Maynard Law - Member
Ernie Nishii - Member
Sophia Tse - Member

Superintendent

Dr. Mary Sieu



ABC Unified School District's **District Digest** is published
bimonthly by the Superintendent's Office.

Call 562-926-5566 to join the District's email list.