



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

May/June 2017 - Volume VI - No 5



In This Issue

News From Our Schools and
Around The District. 2-6
Community Involvement 7

A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
Follow me on Twitter: @abcupt

Reflecting on the 2016-17 School Year

It's difficult to imagine that our school year in the ABC Unified School District will soon come to a close on June 15, 2017. There were many highlights during the 2016-17 school year including the celebration of four secondary schools selected as California Gold Ribbon Schools, the designation of 16 schools as Honor Roll Schools by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence, and the selection of Haskell MS as a CA Schools to Watch/National Model Middle School. All five of our middle schools in ABCUSD are now CA Schools to Watch/National Model Middle Schools. Four out of our four comprehensive high schools (Artesia HS, Cerritos HS, Gahr HS, Whitney HS) are CA Gold Ribbon Schools.

Being selected as State ACSA Superintendent of the Year for 2017 was an enormous honor that I will cherish with great gratitude. I'm privileged to be able to work for ABCUSD and the wonderful school communities we serve. It's clearly the collective work of all the professionals I work with that has resulted in this recognition.

Our District's graduation rate for our four comprehensive high schools is now 98%. In the mid-year report, our attendance rate has been maintained at 97%. The District's expulsion rate is still zero after five years.

The Facilities Ad Hoc Board Advisory Committee has been working diligently to review the facilities needs of the District. Teams from the Committee have visited schools to determine their specific needs. Progress reports have been provided to the Board of Education throughout the year. A consultant has been hired to work with the Committee to develop the final report to the Board.

We've been fortunate to have the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) as the driving force behind many of the supplemental services and programs in the District to address the State's and



(L to R) Dr. Susan Hixson, Dr. Colin Sprigg, Valencia Mayfield, Dr. Mary Sieu, Dr. Rhonda Buss, Dr. Cheryl Bodger, and Toan Nguyen

District priorities. Here is a recap of some of these efforts:

■ We purchased new English language arts materials that are aligned with the California State Standards for all elementary and secondary schools.

■ We increased access to Advanced Placement Courses by providing bridge programs during the summer as well as support during the school year.

■ The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program has been implemented in all middle and high schools. The AVID Program has been expanded to several elementary schools beginning next year.

■ We increased the use of schoolwide positive behavioral support systems across the District including the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program at 19 campuses.

■ The 1st Districtwide College Fair was held with over a thousand students and their families attending.

■ The 2nd College and Career Forum with higher education and industry sectors was convened. The Education Business Round-Table with our local Chamber of Commerce partners was held to better prepare our students for the workforce.

■ The Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Program and activities have been expanded to all 19 elementary schools.

The LCAP is a planning document that has been revised and modified over the past three years. We thank all those involved with providing input towards next year's LCAP at the District and at our local school sites. The LCAP is available on the District's website at: www.abcusd.us.

Finally, congratulations to all our graduates in the Class of 2017! We wish them the best as they begin their postsecondary options. ▀

News From Our Schools and Around The District

ABCUSD's Four New Gold Ribbon Schools



We are very proud of our four CA Gold Ribbon Schools - Carmenita MS, Tetzlaff MS, Ross MS, and Whitney HS!

State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson announced during spring break that Carmenita MS, Ross MS, Tetzlaff MS, and Whitney HS successfully completed the California Gold Ribbon Schools Program application process and are recognized as 2017 California Gold Ribbon Schools! Ross MS was also recognized as a Title I Academic Achieving Award School as well as a Gold Ribbon School. They attended the California School Recognition Program Awards Ceremony on May 15 at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles where they received their banner and plaque. ▶



16 ABC Schools Selected as Honor Roll Schools

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu announced that 16 schools in the ABC Unified School District have been selected by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence to receive the title of 2016 Honor Roll Schools. The Honor Roll is part of a national effort to identify higher performing schools and highlight successful practices that improve outcomes for students. Schools receiving this distinction have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time and reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. For high schools, the Honor Roll recognition also includes measures of college readiness.

The sixteen schools include: Bragg ES, Burbank ES, Carver ES, Cerritos ES, Elliott ES, Gonsalves ES, Kennedy ES, Leal ES, Nixon ES, Carmenita MS, Haskell MS, Ross MS, Tetzlaff MS, Cerritos HS, Gahr HS and Whitney HS.

Dr. Mary Sieu said, "We are so proud to be recognized by education and business leaders in California for our Honor Roll Schools. Our teachers and administrators work tirelessly to keep the focus on high expectations and student achievement. We work to continuously improve our practices. This hard work and dedication is paying off for all our students regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnicity and language barriers.

The California Honor Roll Program is made possible with support from numerous businesses and organizations including AAA, Macy's, Wells Fargo, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, and Chevron Corporation. "The Honor Roll proves that many schools are doing well, even those with high numbers of socioeconomically disadvantaged students" said Jim Lanich, ERP President and CEO. "These schools are clearly doing something right and all schools, no matter what zip code they are in, can achieve this kind of success." ▶

Juarez Elementary School Engineering Showcase Featured Some of ABCUSD's Brightest Minds



Juarez Staff and Students



Ted Talks by 5th Graders



Tiny Houses



Robotics



IMAGINE
What are some solutions? Brainstorm ideas. Choose the best one.

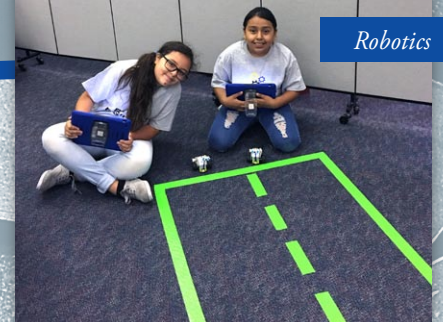
CREATE
Follow your plan and create something. Test it out!



Irrigation and Gardening



Irrigation System



Robotics

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Carmenita Middle School



Carmenita MS Wins as Overall Champions at 40th Annual Middle School Track Meet

ABC HS Students to Travel to South Africa



Two years ago, Dr. Mary Sieu met with Victor Nelson, Executive Director of the Kenneth A. Picerno Foundation, to apply for the Global Sustainability Project Funds. The Foundation is a leader of an active collaboration with Advanced Placement Science Teachers and the Earthwatch Institute. As a result of this collaboration, they provided scholarships and funding for twenty junior year advanced placement students, a teacher, and a scientist to participate in scientific field expeditions in international wildlife reserves.

There were ten students from Gahr HS and ten students from Whitney HS and their AP teachers who have been a part of this Project during the past two years. On May 17, at Whitney HS the students did their presentations of what they learned regarding the politics, ecology, culture, geography, and languages of South Africa.

The students will be traveling to South Africa to participate in a 12 day international research expedition conducted by the Earthwatch Institute in August. They will be at a Rhino Research Program at the Mankwe Wildlife Reserve in South Africa. ▀

Cerritos High School's Teaching Pathway

California is expecting a drastic shortfall of teachers in the near future. In an effort to expand its support of the development of highly qualified, talented teachers, Cerritos High School offers its students a Teacher Pathway program. CHS juniors and seniors learn about educational issues, learning theory, and teaching methodology in their classes and then apply what they learn in real teaching situations.

CHS students volunteer at Sunshine Preschool's Fall Festival, tutor Elliott Elementary students in grades K6 two days a week, and host hands-on workshops for Special Education students at Cerritos High School. In addition, they present lessons to CHS classes and engage in various diverse, educational activities.



CHS students have even more opportunities to develop professional skills as they join the California and national chapters of Educator's Rising (previously Future Teachers of America).

Juniors utilize Project Tomorrow's Youth Teach 2 Learn curriculum, in which students design lessons and teach them to local elementary students. Seniors will earn college credit for two Cerritos College Teacher TRAC classes: Introduction to Teaching and Technology in Education. This powerful program gives CHS students the opportunity to begin their teacher training at CHS, continue at Cerritos College as Teacher TRAC students, and complete their education at CSULB, earning a degree and a teaching credential by the end of four years.

Many Teacher Pathway students at Cerritos High School are planning on bringing their talents back home by applying to ABCUSD as new teachers. Their commitment to the community begins at CHS and extends into future classrooms throughout the district! In return, the district has shown its commitment to the students and to the Teacher Pathway by guaranteeing an interview to anyone who successfully completes the program! ▀

ABC Adult School's Colorful International Day

Mexican Dance



Taiwan and China National Dress



QingHai Singer



Nepalese Singer

Edline Replacement Process

The IT Department is leading a collaborative process to replace Edline which serves as the District's website and the schools' Learning Management System (LMS). Edline provides and interlinks the District's website to our schools' websites and to our teachers' classroom webpages. A change to the District's website impacts all ABC school and teacher classroom websites. This relationship is the reason for a deliberative and collaborative process to replace Edline over time. As a result of the interlink between the District website and ABC classrooms, the IT Department will work in partnership with ABCFT using a mutually agreed upon process to replace Edline. The IT Department will work with ABCFT as part of an advisory group of parents, community members, teachers, students, administration, and District staff to participate in the selection process. A survey will be released the week of June 4th to all constituent groups in an effort to collect feedback regarding our current website and the desires for a future technology. Website Input Survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/CrPhTBdCq0sAXh873>. The District's new Aeries.net Parent Portal project is well underway, and other than the consumption of IT staff time, it does not impact the Edline replacement process. Steps to mitigate current Edline website concerns are being made with all schools and District staff via website maintenance reminders, fresh rounds of Edline training for the schools, and District department website liaisons. ▮

News From Our Schools and Around The District

28th Annual Employee Recognition Dinner

A great evening recognizing colleagues and those retiring.



Community Involvement

STEM Grant

On June 1, the District recognized the secondary teachers and administrators who have been involved in the STEM Grant for the past three years. In addition, Paul Killian, Science Program Specialist presented a special recognition to three community partners who have contributed to the STEM Program in the District. ▶



Honoring Dr. Susan Gomez-Zwiep, Paul Killian, Jo Topps, and George Ray



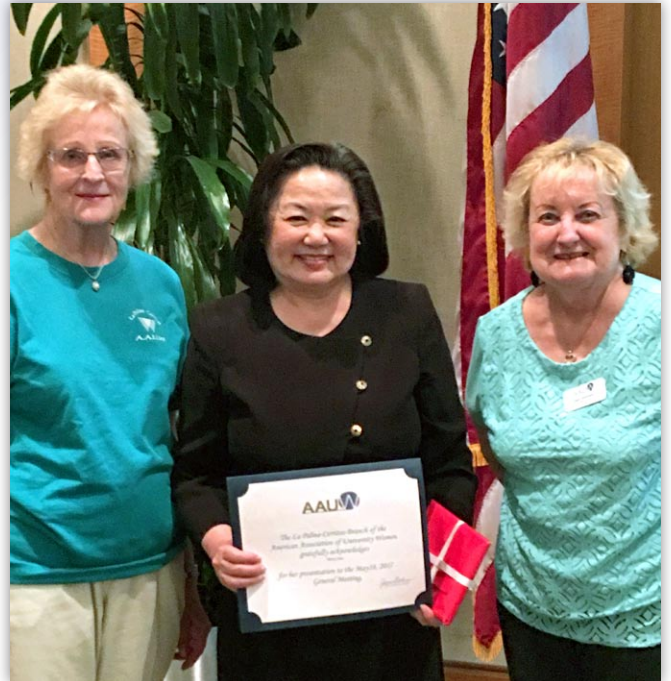
STEM Grant Teachers and Community Partners



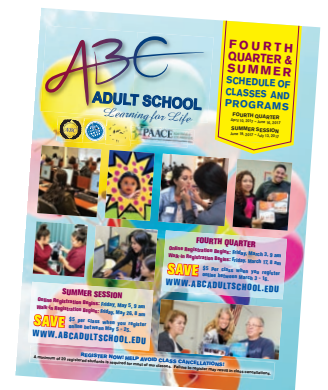
Valencia Mayfield, George Ray, Camille Lewis, Melissa Valentine, Dr. Gina Zietlow, Paul Killian, and Dr. Mary Sieu

Progress Report of ABCUSD...

Dr. Mary Sieu presented to the American Association of University Women-Cerritos/La Palma/Cypress Chapter at the Associations General Meeting on May 18. ▶



ABC Adult School offers great classes!



Check out the Mid-Spring and Summer Catalog at www.abcadulthoodschool.edu



Board Members

Chris Apodaca - President
Soo Yoo - Vice President
Leticia Mendoza - Clerk
Olympia Chen - Member
Lynda Johnson - Member
Maynard Law - 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.