



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

November/December 2016 - Volume VI - No 2



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A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
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Diversity is Our Strength

I'm aware that the outcome of the recent Presidential election has caused deep concern among some students, families, and staff members. The nation maintains a strong tradition for the peaceful transition of power. Please know that as educators, our top priority is to keep our students safe from discrimination and bullying in all of our schools. In ABC Unified School District, diversity is our strength. Our District serves over 21,000 students with 93% representing different ethnic and racial groups. Forty five percent of our students are of Hispanic/Latino backgrounds. Thirty eight percent are of Asian and Pacific Islander backgrounds. Nine percent are African-Americans and seven percent are White/Caucasian. Our students come from different backgrounds, cultures, languages, and religions. Not only do we respect differences but we embrace the diversity in the multiple communities we serve.

Our students all come here to learn and be successful with our guidance. We will maintain our strong protections against any kinds of discrimination, regardless of a student's race, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, or gender identity. As changes in our country unfold, we must remain steadfast in our mission. Now more than ever, we need every member of our school community to reach across and serve as the bridge to support the challenging work ahead of us. Although we can't control what is going on in the larger world around us, we can strengthen our sense of community in ABCUSD.

As we approach the ending of the 2016 year, it is the perfect time to pause and reflect on who we are and to reaffirm our appreciation for one another. Our schools are safe and welcoming places for all students and their families. I remain grateful to be a part of this dynamic school district that embraces diversity. Let's redouble our support for one another and look forward and not backwards.

On Tuesday, November 6 Chris Apodaca was selected as the new Board President, Soo Yoo as Vice President, and Letty Mendoza as Clerk of the Board. Outgoing President Olympia Chen was recognized for her year of service in 2016.

I look forward to the many holiday events in our schools and community. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! ▶



Board Member Maynard Law, Board Member Sophia Tse, Board Member Lynda Johnson, Board Member Olympia Chen, President of the Board Chris Apodaca, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Clerk of the Board Leticia Mendoza, and Vice President of the Board Soo Yoo

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Cerritos High School 'Regiment of Gold'

Cerritos High School "Regiment of Gold" Marching Band has been crowned the 2016 Class 3A State Marching Band Champions! The band also won caption awards in General Effect and Music. The weekend before Thanksgiving, the top bands from all over the state came together to compete in the Western Band Association (WBA) State Marching Band Championships. Once again, the CHS Marching Band has claimed their state title for a fifth time for Cerritos High School and the ABCUSD. Congratulations CHS Regiment of Gold Marching Band! ▶



Gahr High School Graduate Honored

On Thursday, November 10, Edith Obeso, graduate of Gahr HS, was honored at ACSA's Every Student Succeeding Awards Luncheon held at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel in San Diego. Edith Obeso graduated from Gahr HS with the Class of 2016 and is currently attending California State University, Long Beach. She was the winner of ACSA Region XIV Award and selected for the State Award last spring. She was presented with a beautiful plaque, book, and a check for \$1000. Attending the Awards Luncheon with Edith were her mother, brother, and two sisters. Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Susan Hixson, Director of Secondary Schools Dr. Rhonda Buss, Supervisor of Human Resources Dr. Gina Zietlow, and Gahr HS Principal Crechena Wise attended the Awards Luncheon with Edith and her family. ▶



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

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

Gahr High School Marching Gladiators

Congratulations to the Gahr Marching Gladiators on an incredible season performing their 2016 field show production, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." After earning 1st place in Division 4A Semi-Finals, Gahr competed at the California State Band Championship Finals. Gahr High School won 1st place in the Division 4A Finals with a score of 92.500 and received the following caption awards: High Auxiliary, High Visual Performance, High Music Performance, and High General Effect! Gahr junior flutist, Amanda Mendiola, received the Outstanding Soloist Award and earned a \$500 scholarship.

Gahr High School was among 12 schools that advanced to the evening Open Class Finals and the Gahr Marching Gladiators received 1st place with a score of 93.400 and were once again crowned the California State Band Champions!! The Gahr Marching Gladiators earned High Auxiliary, High Visual Performance, High Music Performance, and High General Effect.

This marks the third consecutive year in a row that Gahr High School has had the honor of being named the California State Band Champions. This achievement is the result of the hard work and collective efforts of our students, instructors, alumni, parents, and community. Thank you to our incredible instructional staff whose daily efforts bring out the best in each of our student performers. This would not be possible without the work of our amazing booster parents and their dedication and commitment to our students. ▶



Soroptimist Artesia-Cerritos International Dream It, Be It Conference at Artesia HS, November 17, 2016

Dream It, Be It Conference

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu joined the 2nd Annual Dream It, Be It Conference for Girls sponsored by the Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos at Artesia HS. Over 70 female AHS students participated in this program that provided them with access to professional role models, career education, and the resources to live their dreams. The topics covered included career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, overcoming obstacles to success, and how to move forward after setbacks or failures. Dr. Rhonda Buss opened the conference with an inspiring message. ▶

1st District-wide College Fair

Thousands of our high school students participated in the 1st District-wide College Fair held at Whitney High School. Over 90 colleges and universities participated in the College Fair. Students from Artesia HS, Cerritos HS, Gahr HS, and Tracy HS were provided bus transportation to Whitney HS during the day. Several general information sessions were held in the Multi-Media Arts Facility including those focusing on college applications, financial aid, scholarships, and grant opportunities. The District-wide College Fair is our effort to promote college awareness and readiness for all high school students. The College Fair was open to all high school students in the District. Thank you to all our high schools for helping us coordinate this successful event this year. A special thanks goes to Whitney HS for hosting the College Fair and to Sasha Leonardo, College and Career Coordinator, for helping to coordinate this outstanding event! ▶



Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Board Member Olympia Chen, and Liz Sue, PTSA President WHS



Board Member Maynard Law and Pat Law



Honoring Dr. Gina Zietlow as ACSA's State Secondary Principal of the Year



President of the Board Chris Apodaca, Dr. Susan Hixson, Crechena Wise, Dr. Gina Zietlow, Steven Zietlow, Dr. Mary Sieu, Dr. Rhonda Buss, Board Member Maynard Law, and Pat Law.

District PTA Presidents and Principals Dinner

On Monday, October 24, the ABC District Council hosted their Annual PTA Principals and Presidents Dinner at the Artesia D.E.S. Hall. The theme for the evening was Rounding Up Our Partners. Thanks to all our PTA Presidents for their extraordinary work as well as the \$185,000 contributions during 2015-16 for our school sites. ▶



33rd District PTA Presidents and Administrators Conference

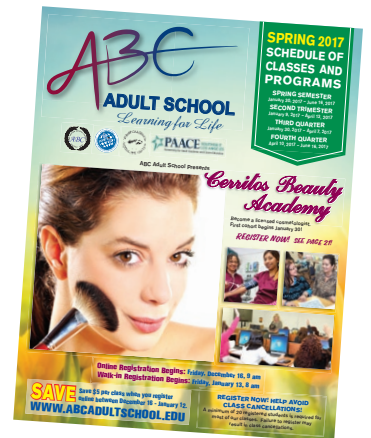
On Thursday morning, November 17, LaQuisha Anderson, ABC PTA District Council President, and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu were invited to speak at the 33rd Presidents and Administrators Conference held at the Grand Event Center in Long Beach. The theme of the Conference was “Together Everyone Achieves More” and they were honored to be spotlighted for the strong collaboration we have in ABCUSD and PTA. They provided a summary of the many activities that our District collaborates on together including the Annual Parent Leadership Conference and Academy, Red Ribbon Week, Presidents and Principals Dinner, and Back to School Night. ▶



Visit our website for ABC USD schools' addresses, contact info, enrollment boundaries and more!
www.abcusd.k12.ca.us



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 Adult School
 offers
 great
 classes!



Check out the Mid-Fall Catalog at
www.abcadulthoodschool.edu

Community Involvement

City of Hawaiian Gardens City Council Meeting

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu along with the Principals of Aloha ES, Furgeson ES, Hawaiian ES, Melbourne ES, Fedde MS, and Artesia HS presented at the City of Hawaiian Gardens City Council Meeting on October 25. Thank you to President Apodaca for opening the presentation. Dr. Sieu provided information on the budget for all the schools in the District and highlighted the school budgets for the six schools that were presenting. The principals provided information about their schools' student achievement on the latest CAASPP results as well as the programs available at the schools to address the areas of improvement. We also provided information on the Reading Plus Program at the four elementary schools. ▶



South Africa Delegates Visit

Welcome to all the educators who visited us in ABC October 19-21, 2016 from South Africa! We wish them the best in their efforts to improve their education. ▶



Send your children to one of the top school districts in California!



ABC Unified School District



ABCUSD's Award Winning Magnet Schools - DISTINCTIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES:

- Aloha Elementary School - Health Medical Academy
- Burbank Elementary School - Visual, Performing and Folk Arts Magnet
- Carver Elementary School - Academy of Communication Arts
- Elliott Elementary School - World Navigators
- Ferguson Elementary - Academy of Communications & Technology
- Leal Elementary School - Visual and Performing Arts
- Niemes Elementary School - Environmental Science & Technology
- Nixon Elementary School - Academy of Multimedia Arts
- Palms Elementary School - Accelerated Learning Academy
- Stowers Elementary School - School of International Studies

- Fedde Middle School - International Studies Academy
- Haskell Middle School - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Academy (STEM)
- Ross Middle School - Academy of Creative and Media Arts
- Tetzlaff Middle School - Accelerated Learning Academy

- Artesia High School - Accelerated Learning Academy
- Gahr High School - STEAM Magnet High School (STEM plus Arts)



Mark your calendar!

**YOU ARE INVITED to
ABCUSD Magnet Schools
Recruitment Fair!**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017 FROM 6 TO 8 PM
ABCUSD District Office • 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703
Learn more about ABCUSD's magnet schools!
Meet representatives from each school!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE DISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL OFFICE:
(562) 926-5566 EXT. 21075 WWW.ABCUSDMAGNETSCHOOLS.COM**

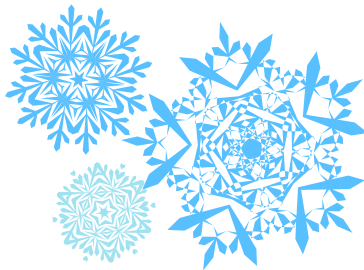


Board Members

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