



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# District Digest

September/October 2017 - Volume VII - No 1



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

## Welcome Back to School!

ABC Unified School District began school on Thursday, August 24, 2017. To the 21,000 students and families in the District, I hope that everyone had a safe and memorable time this summer. It has been a busy summer with a number of maintenance projects focusing on our school renovations. Notwithstanding all of these improvements, we know that an outstanding education starts with a cohesive Board of Education, a high quality staff, and community to support our students. In ABCUSD, we take our greatest pride in our students.

When asked what five things I would love people to know about ABC Unified School District, these would be on the top of my list:

1. We have one of the most diverse school districts in the country. With 93% of our students from different ethnic and socio-cultural backgrounds, we are able to flourish as a high performing school district in the State. Each year, our schools are recognized for the highest honors including National Blue Ribbon, California Gold Ribbon Schools, National Model Middle Schools and Golden Bell Awards.
2. ABC's 16 magnet schools provide specialized thematic programs that are open to all students and families in and outside the District. Magnet schools provide an alternative choice for families interested in specialized areas such as Visual and Performing Arts, STEM Program, International Baccalaureate Program, Dual Language Immersion Program, and Environmental Science to name a few.
3. For over a decade, our District's collaborative labor-management partnership has contributed toward focusing on what's most important—raising student achievement. The dynamic collaboration at all levels of the organization with our labor groups has allowed us to weather the recession together. Our unique labor-management partnership has been showcased throughout the country as a model collaborative framework.
4. ABCUSD serves the diverse communities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, portions of Lakewood, and Norwalk. We have developed strong collaboration with all these cities as well as partnered with many businesses and community organizations to support our students.

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*Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu and Melbourn ES Principal Karina Martir hold a school pennant welcoming another school year*

5. Our Class of 2017 in the ABC Unified School District was awarded \$24.1 million in scholarships and grants. This total represents an increase of about \$8 million since 2014 and a \$900,000 increase from last year.

I look forward to another exciting new school year. I wish to express my appreciation to all the staff, students, parents, and community members who do their part on a daily basis to ensure that our students in ABC learn in a safe and nurturing environment.

To learn more information about our District, please go to the link and subscribe to our bimonthly District Digest.

<http://www.enevsjet.com/districtdigest> ▶

# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## 26 Years of Service in ABCUSD

It is with bittersweet feelings to share that Dr. Susan Hixson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources announced her retirement effective July 31, 2017. Her contributions as a Guidance Administrator at Carmenita MS, Assistant Principal at Ross MS, Principal at Burbank ES, Principal at Haskell MS, Director of Human Resources Office, and most recently as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources cannot be overstated. After 26 years of service in ABCUSD, she was ready to move on to her next chapter of life.

Needless to say, she will be deeply missed but we wish her the very best and thank her for a remarkable career in ABC! ▶



*Dr. Susan Hixson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources retired from ABCUSD on July 31, 2017*

## Nutrition Services Orientation, August 21, 2017



*Manager Maureen Conklin welcomes the ABC Nutrition Services staff.*

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

[www.abcusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.abcusd.k12.ca.us)

# Fedde MS Academy

Fedde Middle School staff welcomes back students with special messages on the first day of school. ▶



## 2017 Benefits Health Fair

On Monday, August 21 ABC hosted the "2017 Benefits Health Fair." There was food sampling, complimentary health screenings, interactive activities, raffle prizes, and much more. The event was well attended by District employees. Thank you to the Fringe Benefits Department! ▶



# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## Melbourne Elementary School



*Melbourne ES Principal Karina Martir showcases all the college pennants throughout the school. It is part of their AVID Program focusing on being college bound.*

## New Teacher Orientation

The New Teacher Orientation on Thursday, August 17, 2017, welcomed the 41 new teachers with support as they joined the ABC Unified Team. ▶



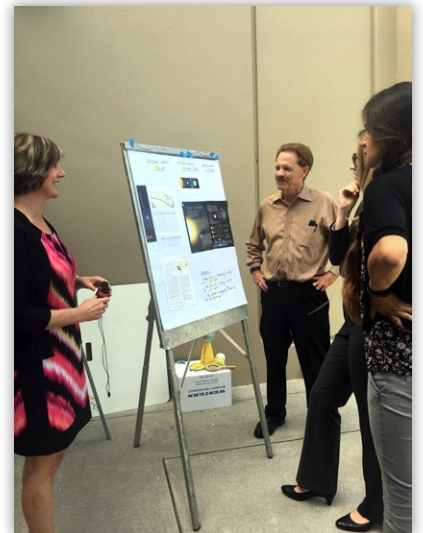
## PAL Advance



*PAL Advance at Cabrillo Lane on August 16, 2017*

# Sharing a Moment in History Viewing the Solar Eclipse

On August 21, 2017, a large number of people from the District Office were fortunate to view the solar eclipse on Monday from 9:45 am - 11:00 am. Thank you to Paul Killian, Science Program Specialist, for providing protective eyewear for those viewing the solar eclipse as well as information regarding the timeline in Southern California. ▶



**ABC**  
**ADULT SCHOOL**  
*Learning for Life*

**ABC Adult School offers great classes!**  
**Check out the Fall Catalog at**  
**[www.abcadulthoodschool.edu](http://www.abcadulthoodschool.edu)**



# Community Involvement

## American Association of University Women



*American Association of University Women Tech Trek STEM Camp for Girls  
Participants - Tobi Balma; Naima Dellawar, Ross MS; Celia Spitzer, Former Board Member; Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu;  
Isabella Amaya Rojas, Fedde MS; Chris Taxier*

## State of the Nation Presentation

State of the Nation Presentation by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, August 10, 2017 at the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce. ►



*Board Member Maynard Law, Dr. Rhonda Buss, Vice President Soo Yoo, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu,  
Board Member Olympia Chen, and Board President Chris Apodaca*

# ABC Education Foundation's Backpack Drive

The Annual ABC Backpack Drive sponsored by the ABC Education Foundation was held at the Rancho Southeast Association Realtors Office in Cerritos on Wednesday, August 23. Many volunteers, from Century 21, the ABC Foundation Board, ABC District staff, and the Cerritos-Artesia Soroptimist assisted in stuffing 700 backpacks. By noon, all the backpacks were delivered to the schools. It was an extraordinary effort to ensure that any student who needed supplies would receive a backpack by the start of school on Thursday, August 24. Cindy Yen Chen coordinated the Backpack Drive. ▀



*Century 21 Volunteers*



*Past Chair Cindy Yen Chen, Past President Mark Ruiz, President Heather Summer, Chairman Joseph Porter III, Treasurer Serena Yuan, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, and Board Vice-President Soo Yoo*



## 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.