



# THE AEA REPORT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
(Highlighting events from October to December)



## MISSION

Strive to ensure equitable access and learning opportunities to close achievement disparities for historically underserved students.

*Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental.*

W.E.B. Dubois, *The Freedom to Learn*

## THE GIFTED NETWORK

The Gifted Network for African American/Black Students and Families (GNAASF) hosted over four hundred students and families on December 1, 2018, at Palms Middle School. The Network is designed to engage students and their families in enrichment programs/activities while also developing parents' awareness of District and community resources to support their Gifted/Highly Gifted child.



The theme of this meeting was "Full STEAM Ahead: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math for Gifted and Highly Gifted African American/Black Students." The keynote speaker for the meeting was L.A. Unified's Superintendent, Mr. Austin Beutner. In addition, students and families received

inspirational words by Board Member Dr. George McKenna, Board Vice President Nick Melvoin, AEA Administrator Dr. Robert Whitman, AEA Director Andre Spicer, and LD West Superintendent Cheryl Hildreth.



There was something for everyone who attended this meeting. Parents engaged in a book study on *Gifted and Advanced Black Students in School: An Anthology of Critical Works* by Dr. Donna Ford. Students had the opportunity to experience several interactive workshops: the STEAM Mobile, the Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI) Playground, STEM Pointillism Art, Digital Citizenship, Gaming Design, Digital Media and Video Design. Each participant left with a deeper understanding of STEAM and the pathways available in L.A. Unified to

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further develop their interest in STEAM related careers.

For more information on upcoming events for the Gifted Network, visit <https://achieve.lausd.net/aea>.



## AEMP: Fall Literacy Institute

The Academic English Mastery Program’s (AEMP) Fall Literacy Institute took place on Saturday, November 3, 2018, at Taft Charter High School.

One hundred and fifty educators, comprising eighty instructional leadership teams from AEMP elementary, middle, and high schools met to analyze the results from their school’s beginning of the year (BOY) administration of the Language Assessment Scales (LAS) Links Assessment. Each team was provided with reports of their students’ overall proficiency levels in English and also the disaggregated data by skill area in the four language domains— Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. Leadership teams identified areas of students’ strengths and areas of growth that will empower them to provide targeted language instruction in all content areas.

After reflecting on instructional practices that impacted students’ performance on the assessment, participants self-selected breakout sessions around each of the language domains assessed on LAS Links. During the workshops, educators worked to identify and unpack focus standards, determine



learning progressions, and explore lessons that are culturally and linguistically responsive.

In addition, every participant received a copy of John Hattie’s *The Teacher Clarity Playbook*. The ideas presented in the book will be used to support the professional learning communities at each school and to increase collective teacher efficacy, thereby, positively impacting student achievement.

## AMAE/AEMP Latino Heritage Month Art Contest Celebration

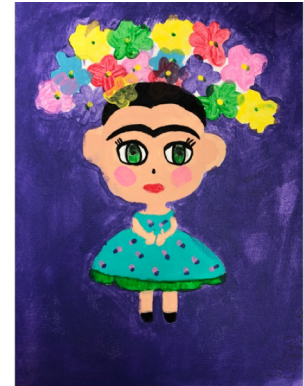
To honor Latino Heritage Month, the Academic English Mastery Program (AEMP), in partnership with the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE), sponsored an art contest for LAUSD AEMP schools.

Winners of this art contest were honored at the 2018 AMAE Winter Celebration on December 6, 2018, at the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Museum in Los Angeles. They also received prizes to further inspire their talents and creativity.

### Kindergarten-1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Nevada ES



### 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Barrett ES



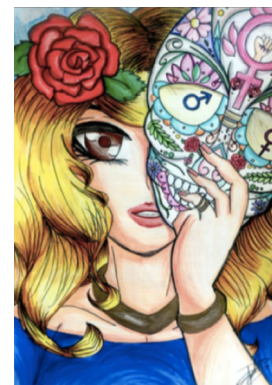
### 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rio Vista ES



### Middle School: Wright MS



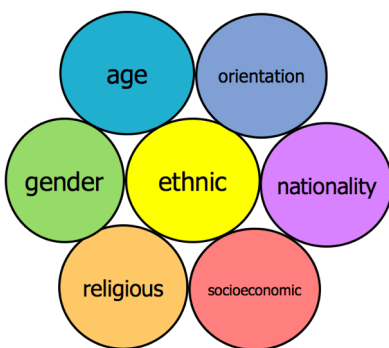
### High School: RFK NOW Academy



## AEMP: Fall Equal Access Series

This two-day professional development series was held on Saturday, September 29 and October 13, 2018. It was open, districtwide, to all L.A. Unified teachers, for the opportunity to learn about how to better serve Standard English Learners (SELs). More specifically, this annual professional development was designed to help educators: 1) define concretely what is cultural responsiveness and why it is necessary, 2) build knowledge and create a context for addressing the needs of underserved students, and 3) promote effective instructional strategies that validate and affirm students.

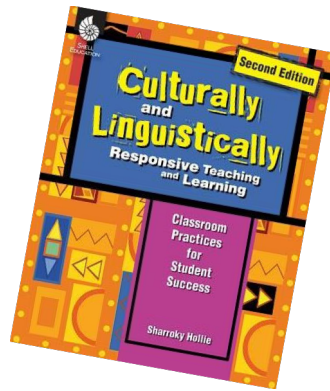
Dr. Sharroky Hollie, Executive Director of The Center for Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning (CCRTL), was the presenter for both days to an audience of more than 150 L.A. Unified educators.



Rings of Culture

The professional development had a strong focus on culture. Participants had opportunities to reflect upon themselves in relation to their rings of culture, their teaching methodologies, their identity, and much more. These activities

challenged participants to think about their own personal journey to responsiveness. Particular attention was given to the intersection of one’s mindset and skillset as key components of the practice of being culturally and linguistically responsive. Further discussion delved into issues of diversity, equity, bias, and the core areas of instruction.



Each participant walked away with a wealth of knowledge that challenged their belief system and motivated them to reflect on new ways to think about their instruction. They also received Dr. Hollie’s book, *Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning*, which provides strategies, tips, and research to support teacher and student learning.

### The Equity Lens

Visit the AEA website for professional literature and current articles around equity in education.

<https://achieve.lausd.net/aea>

## LAUSD-UCLA Collaborative

Andre Spicer, Access, Equity, and Acceleration Director, continues to bring administrators, counselors and coordinators together from the 28 Collaborative schools to increase the number of African American students who are competitively eligible for college admission. On December 6, 2018, school teams met at UCLA to ensure access for all students in computer classes. Particular attention was directed toward equity and access to computer science courses and career pathways. Schools analyzed data and strategized ways to increase interest and enrollment in this field. The District’s Instructional Technology Initiative department provided models of support for schools in this area. Principal Rudy Mendoza and a team from Banning High School shared promising practices relative to academic counseling, master scheduling, Advanced Placement enrollment, and the programs, services and support available to students. This common practice of sharing promising practices has allowed school teams to further network with other schools and support student achievement.



## Brown Bag Equity Speaker Series

On Friday, December 7, 2018, the AEA Unit launched the first session of Dialogues in Equity to encourage courageous conversations within and across LAUSD departments as a means of building and strengthening supports for students.

Painter, muralist and social activist Fabian Debora spoke to an audience of over 40 educational leaders from several departments within L.A. Unified's Central Office. Hosted in collaboration by the Division of Instruction, Educational Equity Compliance Office, and Procurement Services Division, many attended this session and listened as Mr. Debora shared experiences from his childhood to adulthood. He expressed the challenges and victories of his experiences and relationships at home, at school, and in his community—many of which mirror the academic and social emotional challenges of many students within the district.

It is conversations such as this which further fuel the efforts of the AEA Unit as we strive to help break down barriers and support leaders and students, regardless of their circumstances.

More information about future events coming soon!



## Professional Development

### Secondary Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Pedagogy: Part 2 - Skillset Development

Part two of the CLRP Professional Development is now available!



<https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln>

Please visit MyPLN and search any of the following keywords to access the video and assessment: *CLRP PD Skillset*, *CLRP*, *Skillset*. The video can also be accessed on the AEA website at <https://achieve.lausd.net/aea>.

Please reference MEM-5788.8 – School-Site Professional Development Priorities and Banked Time Tuesdays for Middle and High Schools (2018-2019) – for employee expectations and certification information.

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## Upcoming Events



### ACADEMIC ENGLISH MASTERY PROGRAM

**CLR Mathematics Fellowship**

2/9, 2/23, 3/2, 3/30 @

Bret Harte Preparatory MS

**CLR Winter Institute**

3/23 @ Lawson Academy



### UCLA-LAUSD COLLABORATIVE MEETING

2/15 @ UCLA

**UCLA-LAUSD Collaborative Coordinators and Counselors Meeting**

3/28



### GIFTED NETWORK FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

**GATE Parent Conference**

3/9 @ RFK Community Schools