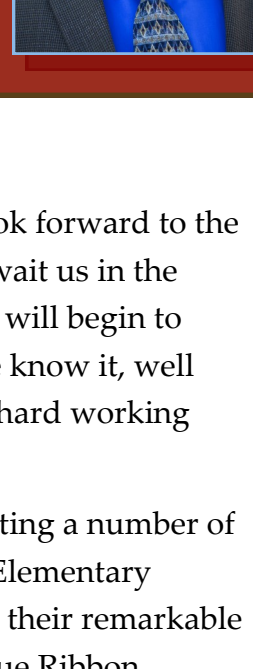




BOARD MEMBER

SCOTT M. SCHMERELSON



Board District 3 Newsletter

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Dear Board District 3 Family and Friends,

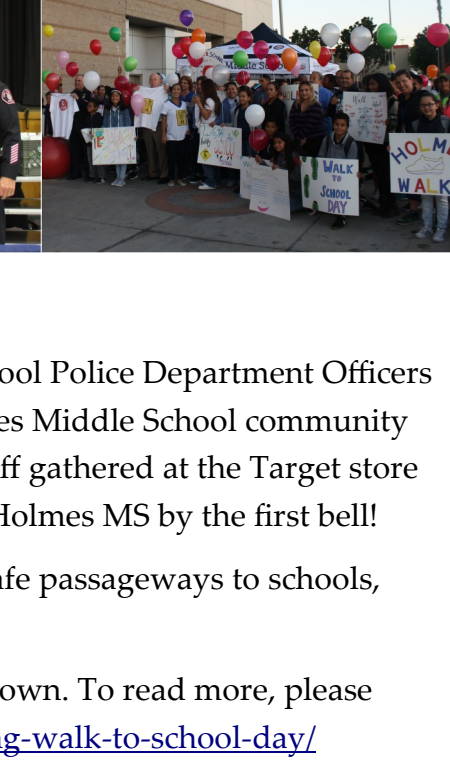
As we usher out the month of October, we can look forward to the seasonal changes and holiday celebrations that await us in the coming months. Even in Los Angeles, some leaves will begin to change to beautiful autumn colors and, before we know it, well deserved vacation breaks will commence for our hard working students and dedicated staff.

In this past month, I have had the pleasure of visiting a number of our outstanding BD 3 schools including Vintage Elementary Math, Science and Technology Magnet School for their remarkable "NASA Night." Vintage was recently named a Blue Ribbon School, a prestigious national award that recognizes schools based on their overall academic excellence and their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. I was proud to welcome Vintage to the October 14 Board of Education Committee of the Whole meeting in order to celebrate the extraordinary efforts of Principal Nancy Williams -Mourao, students, staff, parents, and community members to create stellar programs and support a school climate that earned Vintage's Blue-Ribbon status.

To review the video stream of this Committee of the Whole Meeting, please visit: <https://boe.lausd.net/10-17-17COW>

I am also happy to report that, as part of the District's commitment to graduate every student college-prepared and career ready, LAUSD adopted October as College Awareness Month to promote a college-going culture. During the October Board District 3 Student Advisory Council meeting, student representatives received an in-depth presentation on the topics of accessibility to college and career pathways. Mr. Gary Clark, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at UCLA, spoke to the Council regarding the UC Admissions process, financial aid information, and preparing for the application requirements.

As we look forward to the cooler weather, let's not forget the recent catastrophic fires that struck our state. I urge all my constituents to continue to be prepared for disasters of all kinds. For information to help prepare for and ensure the safety of our families and school communities please visit L.A. Unified School District's Emergency Services Division website at: <https://achieve.lausd.net/pei>



Principal Williams-Mourao receiving Certificate of Recognition with Board Member Schmerelson

As always, I am so proud of our students, staff, parents, and community partners. Hope your Halloween resulted in few tricks and many treats!

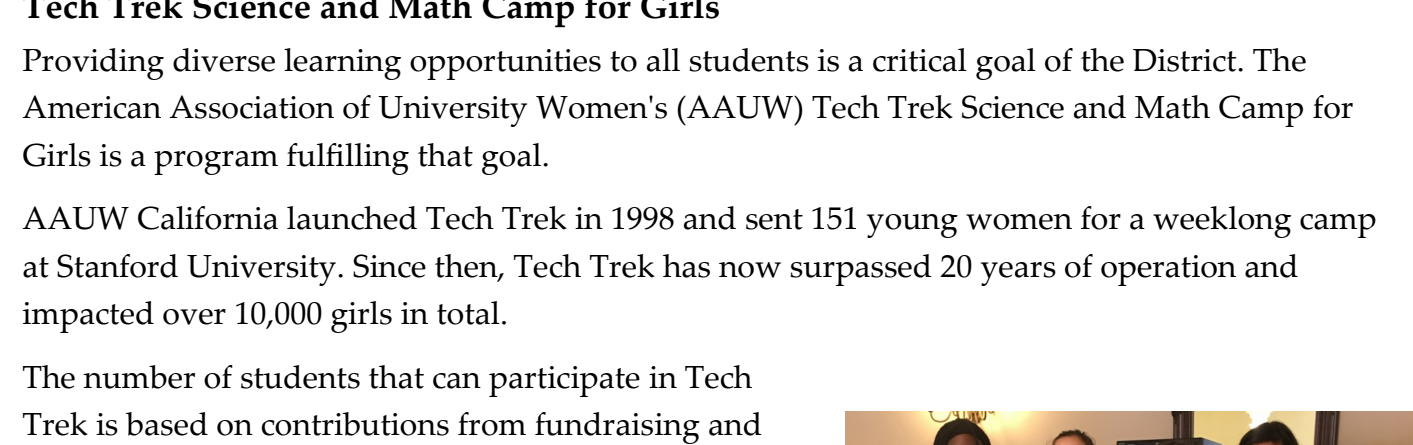
Sincerely,

Scott M. Schmerelson

Scott M. Schmerelson

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree..."
- Emily Brontë

L.A. Unified District-Wide Updates



National Walk to School Day

On October 4th, Chief of School Policy Steven Zipperman, L.A. School Police Department Officers and Board Member Schmerelson joined the Oliver Wendell Holmes Middle School community for National Walk to School Day. Students, parents and school staff gathered at the Target store located on Balboa Boulevard at 7 a.m., and walked as a group to Holmes MS by the first bell! National Walk to School Day was created to bring awareness to safe passageways to schools, and supports the mission of student safety.

Throughout the District, numerous schools hosted events of their own. To read more, please visit: <https://lausddaily.net/2017/10/students-get-a-move-on-during-walk-to-school-day/>

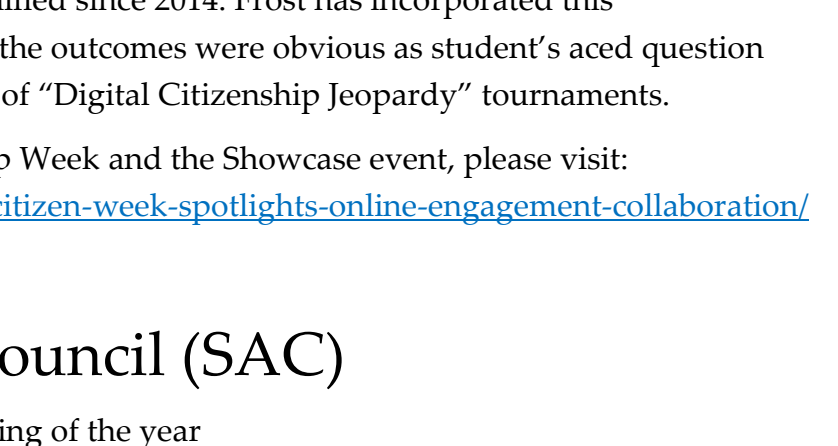
Local District Northeast STEAM Institute

Saturday, October 7 was the inaugural Local District Northeast STEAM Institute for Educators hosted by Roy Romer Middle School. The theme of the institute, was "Empowering Girls and Young Women" in honor of International Day of the Girl on October 11.

The guest keynote speaker, Dr. Sara Kapadia, is the co-founder of the STEAM Journal at Claremont Colleges, an international, peer-reviewed, open-access publication focused on the intersection of art and science. She shared a 45-minute presentation highlighting interdisciplinary approaches in education and discussed the need to prepare students to be digital citizens ready for future endeavors.

Attendees were educators from throughout the Local District who voluntarily participated, taking advantage of an array of learning opportunities led by both educators from LAUSD and guest presenters. Each participant was also given a valuable and practical text from the National Science Teachers Association entitled, *The Case for STEM Education: Challenges and Opportunities*.

Board Member Schmerelson visited and engaged with participants in various breakout sessions throughout the morning. Topics included gender inclusivity, interdisciplinary STEAM lessons, modeling science projects, and utilizing advanced classroom technology.



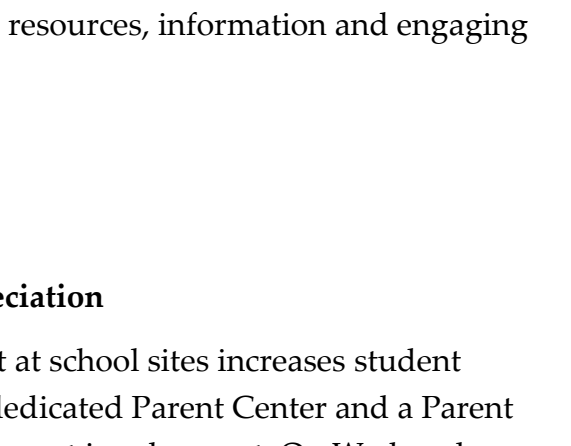
Kudos to Local District Northeast STEAM Coordinator, Heinrich Sartin, who together with LDNE staff, organized this outstanding opportunity for our educators. The Institute will now be an annual event that Board Member Schmerelson looks forward to attending.

Tech Trek Science and Math Camp for Girls

Providing diverse learning opportunities to all students is a critical goal of the District. The American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Tech Trek Science and Math Camp for Girls is a program fulfilling that goal.

AAUW California launched Tech Trek in 1998 and sent 151 young women for a weeklong camp at Stanford University. Since then, Tech Trek has now surpassed 20 years of operation and impacted over 10,000 girls in total.

The number of students that can participate in Tech Trek is based on contributions from fundraising and support from local AAUW chapters. This year, the Camp included over 90 girls from the Southern California area and immersed them in a week long educational STEM experience. Housed in the residential dorms on the University of California, Santa Barbara campus, AAUW members participated as "Dorm Moms," and hosted a range of activities including connecting girls with female leadership in the STEM fields.



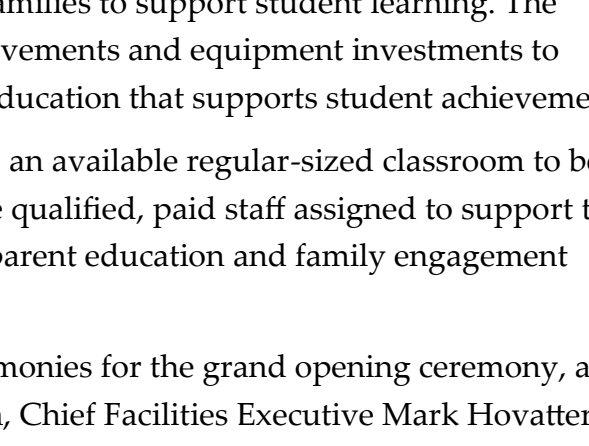
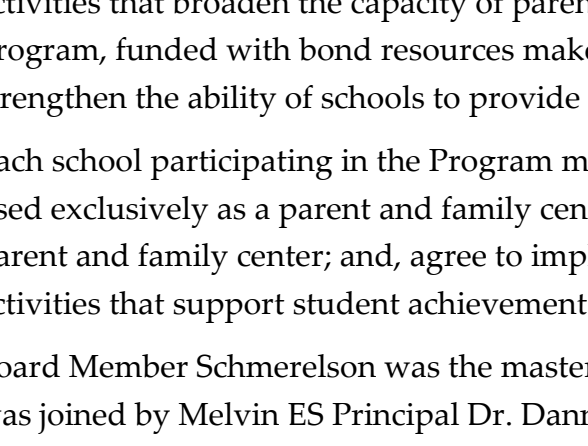
From left to right: Shemika, Amber, Olivia and Andrea attended a luncheon hosted by the San Fernando Valley Chapter of AAUW

This year, our four student campers were Olivia Esparra and Andrea Garcia from Walter Reed MS, and Amber Preston and Shemika Banks from Van Nuys MS. Their priceless experience was mentored and supported by Ginny Hatfield, the Tech Trek Coordinator of the San Fernando Valley Chapter of AAUW, Stacey Moscoe, 6th Grade Counselor at Walter Reed Middle School, and Andrea Schweitzer, 8th Grade Counselor of Van Nuys Middle School.

For more information about the program, please visit: <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/> or contact Ginny Hatfield by e-mail at ginyvaauw@gmail.com.

Digital Citizenship Showcase at Frost Middle School

Frost Middle School hosted a Digital Citizenship Week Showcase on October 17. Digital Citizenship Week promotes students being good digital citizens and is an annual tradition in L.A. Unified. Led by the Instructional Technology Initiative, the District's efforts include teaching students how to engage and use technology safely and appropriately. Some of the topics covered are internet privacy and safety, cyberbullying and digital footprints.



Under the leadership of Principal J. Francisco Ayala, Frost Middle School is the first Middle School to host a Digital Citizenship Week Showcase event and is the District's first middle school to be certified as a "Digital Citizenship School" by Common Sense Education, a nonprofit group that has partnered with L.A. Unified since 2014. Frost has incorporated this organization's into its curriculum and the outcomes were obvious as student's aced question after question during a daylong series of "Digital Citizenship Jeopardy" tournaments.

To read more about Digital Citizenship Week and the Showcase event, please visit: <https://lausddaily.net/2017/10/digital-citizen-week-spotlights-online-engagement-collaboration/>

Student Advisory Council (SAC)

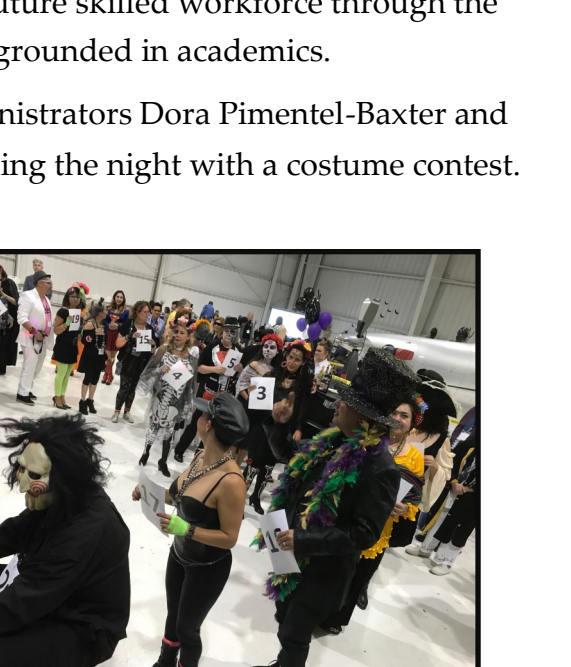
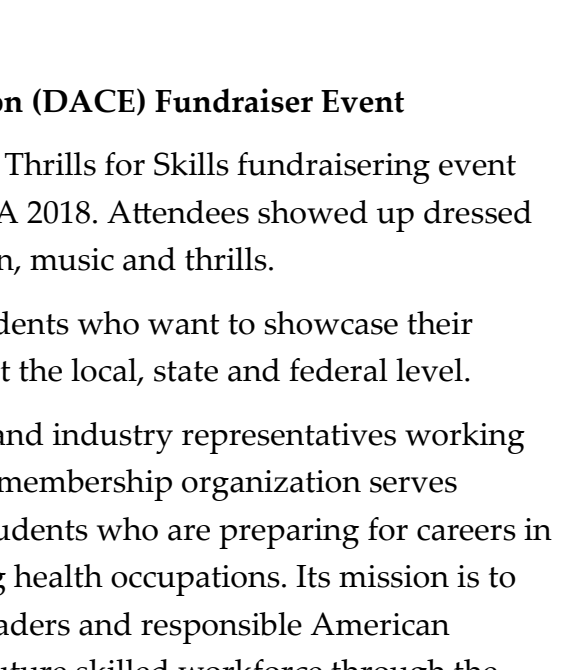
The second Board District 3 SAC meeting of the year was held on October 12 and focused on navigating college choices and preparing for college application procedures.

District staff, presented a useful range of tools and resources available to students. Alison Yoshimoto-Towery, Director of Instructional Operations, Heather Brown, District College Counseling Coordinator, and Janet Johnson, Local District Northwest College Counseling Coordinator, shared a power-point presentation that included a formal walk-through of Naviance, a software program designed to help students find the college or career pathway suitable for their academic goals and interests. This is a new program that the District is providing for students and is currently being rolled out at our schools.

Also reviewed were details of the Senior Packet (a.k.a. the College Packet), which includes information about grants, the UC and CSU application processes, and a checklist of tasks to prepare for college. This packet is available at all school sites and is a valuable resource for our students that was created this year by Superintendent Dr. Michelle King's office.

Mr. Gary Clark Jr., the Director of Undergraduate Admissions from UCLA, shared with students his unique insight into the admissions process of the UC system. He discussed the need for rigor and success in a student's academic profile, but also spoke about alternative pathways to a university, such as the "transfer student" option. He explained to the students that the UC system admits one transfer student for every two first-year admitted students. Although Mr. Clark is Director of Admissions for UCLA, he made it clear that it is important to find the best school that fits the individual student, and advised them all to extensively research program offerings.

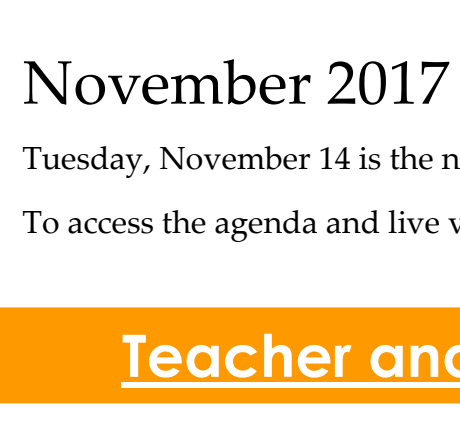
Board Member Schmerelson will continue to bring useful resources, information and engaging discussion to the BD 3 SAC throughout the year.



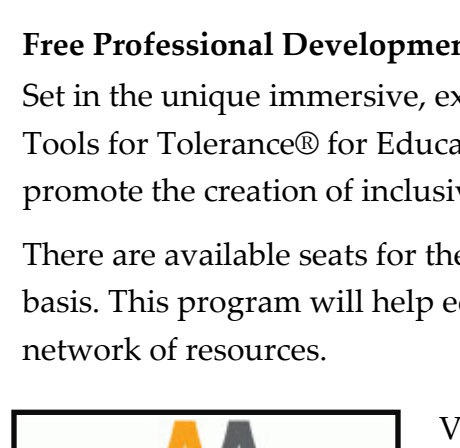
Parent Spotlight

Local District Northwest - Parent Center Director Appreciation

Public education advocates agree that parent engagement at school sites increases student achievement and attendance, and that the existence of a dedicated Parent Center and a Parent Center Director is an important resource for supporting parent involvement. On Wednesday, October 18, Board Member Schmerelson attended one of the four Local District Northwest Parent Center Directors Cabinet Meeting. This Cabinet meeting was led by Parent Educator Coach, Ritma Estupinan, and was hosted by Napa Elementary school. Board Member Schmerelson attended the meeting to provide words of appreciation, commendation, and support.



Parent Center Directors heard from local community groups, participated in professional development, and were familiarized with information and resources to increase parent engagement at their school site.

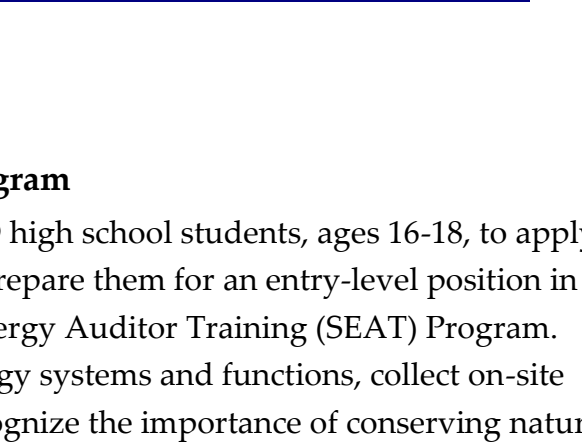
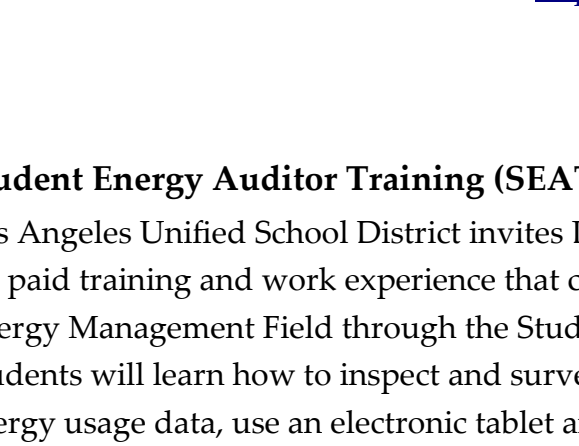


The Parent and Community Engagement unit (PACE) of Local District Northwest is led by PACE Administrator Gonsalo Garay, a former principal passionate about increasing parent involvement. Parent Center Directors play a significant role at each of their schools, and we wish to thank them, and the entire PACE Team, for their tireless dedication to student success.

To learn more about the PACE unit, please visit: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/8528>

Parent Center Upgrade at Melvin Elementary School

Friday, October 27, Board Member Schmerelson joined L.A. Unified officials, parents/guardians, community members and special guests to celebrate the technology and infrastructure upgrades to the Parent Center at Melvin Avenue Elementary School. The project improvements include interior paint, security upgrades, new white boards and bulletin boards, classroom furniture and laptop computers.



The Parent and Family Center Improvement Program makes key facility improvements and equipment investments to enhance a school site's ability to support student learning and activities that broaden the capacity of parents and families to develop and deliver learning. The program, funded with bond resources makes improvements and equipment investments to strengthen the ability of schools to provide parent education that supports student achievement.

Each school participating in the Program must have an available regular-sized classroom to be used exclusively as a parent and family center; have qualified, paid staff assigned to support the parent and family center; and, agree to implement parent education and family engagement activities that support student achievement.

Board Member Schmerelson was the master of ceremonies for the grand opening ceremony, and was joined by Melvin ES Principal Dr. Danny Dixon, Chief Facilities Executive Mark Hovatter, Administrator of Parent and Community Services Dr. Rosalina Lugo, and Local District Northwest Superintendent Joseph Nacorda who shared words of celebration and appreciation for the school.



From left to right: Dr. Lugo, Mr. Nacorda, Board Member Schmerelson, and Dr. Dixon assist in the final red ribbon cutting of the renovated Parent Center



Dr. Dixon asks students if they're excited for the new resource on campus for their parents

Adult Education Spotlight

West Valley Occupational Center's Luncheon with the Principal

West Valley Occupational Center's "Luncheon with the Principal" on Wednesday, October 18, was an outstanding success. Principal Candace Lee was joined by Board Member Schmerelson, Board Member Kelly Goney, a representative from Board Member Nicky Melvoin's office and other District staff.

The Culinary Arts Program was a sensational demonstration of Ms. Susan Holtz's ability to teach her students the elements of providing a fine dining experience. Ms. Holtz's students created an elegant atmosphere from beginning to end as guests were provided to a three-course meal tribute to Julia Child's French style of cooking.

To read further, and learn more about the DACE Programs, please visit: <http://wearedace.org/voce-luncheon-with-the-principal-is-an-outstanding-success/>



Above: PACE Administrator Dora Pimental-Baxter, with Board Member Melvoin's representative, Board Member Goney, Principal Lee, and Board Member Schmerelson

Below: Board Members and Principal Lee stand with Ms. Holtz and her Culinary Arts Program students

Thrills for Skills Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE) Fundraiser Event

On October 27, Board Member Schmerelson attended the Thrills for Skills fundraising event benefiting DACE students who will compete in SkillsUSA 2018. Attendees showed up dressed in their Halloween costumes, enjoying a night of food, fun, music and thrills.

The funds raised during this event will go to support students who want to showcase their career technical skills and compete in SkillsUSA in 2018 at the local, state and federal level.

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. This membership organization serves middle-school, high-school and college/postsecondary students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. Its mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation's future skilled workforce through the development of personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.

DACE Executive Director Joseph Stark, and DACE Administrators Dora Pimental-Baxter and Rosario Galvan, led the successful fundraising event, ending the night with a costume contest.

Mr. Stark and Board Member Schmerelson

Costumed attendees display their creativity for the Costume Contest!

Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education

October 2017 Board of Education Meeting

The last Board of Education meeting occurred on Tuesday, October 10. The meeting Order of Business included the Board Member assignment to the California School Board Association, a discussion of Board Committees, Board meeting schedules and recognition of commendable District programs.

During a Board of Education Report covering the successful Sustainable Environmental Enhancement Developments for Schools (SEEDS) Projects, Principal Norbert Sznajder, and several students, from Jack London High School commended the positive improvements on campus due to the SEEDS Project.

The Board also heard the pleasure of experiencing a demonstration by John F. Kennedy High School SkillsUSA Design students who presented an architectural design proposal for the modernization of the campus' main entrance. The design plan includes trees planted along the sidewalk; a large terrazzo Kennedy Cougler logo inset into the concrete; a raised seating area; sail-shaped shade devices; and a tile wall showcasing Kennedy's unique programs.

To access the stamped order of business and livestream video, please visit: <https://boe.lausd.net/10-10-17RegBd>

Above: LDNW Superintendent Mr. Nacorda, Board Member Schmerelson, Lonsdale HS Students Principal Sznajder, and Director Sandra Gephart

Below: SkillsUSA Design students present their plans to the Board of Education

November 2017 Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, November 14 is the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. To access the agenda and live video stream, please visit: <https://boe.lausd.net/11-14-17RegBdCS>

Teacher and School Resources

Free Professional Development for Educators

Set in the unique immersive, experiential learning environment of the Museum of Tolerance, Tools for Tolerance® for Educators™ programs are designed to advance anti-bias education and promote the creation of inclusive and equitable schools.

There are available seats for the Winter and Spring break sessions that are filled on a rolling basis. This program will help educators teach difficult topics and connect with a broader network of resources.

Visit www.museumoftolerance.com/FreePD for more information. Forward any questions to the Educators@museumoftolerance.com or to Beverly Lemay, Director of Educational Programs, at blemay@museumoftolerance.com.

Walk of Hearts

Board Member Schmerelson, a former middle school Spanish teacher before becoming an administrator, understands that teachers don't get the recognition they deserve. Please take a moment to nominate a teacher or educator for the Walk of Hearts. The selected educators will be honored with a unique heart shaped plaque embedded in the sidewalk (similar to the Hollywood Walk of Fame) around the Westfield Village in Woodland Hills.

Nominations for inductions are now being accepted. Everybody knows a teacher who has changed your life or the life of someone that you know.

WALK OF HEARTS®
A distinguished award given to teachers in recognition of their dedication and the impact they have on a student's life

You can access the Nomination Form at: <http://www.walkofhearts.com/nomination.html>

Student Energy Auditor Training (SEAT) Program

Los Angeles Unified School District invites LAUSD high school students, ages 16-18, to apply for paid training and work experience that could prepare them for an entry-level position in the Energy Management Field through the Student Energy Auditor Training (SEAT) Program. Students will learn how to inspect and survey energy systems and functions, collect on-site energy usage data, use an electronic tablet and recognize the importance of conserving natural resources. Students will receive a stipend for work and must obtain approval from their school counselor for schedule accommodation and early leave. **Application Deadline is November 3.**

Los Angeles Unified School District invites LAUSD high school students, ages 16-18 to apply for paid training and work experience, leading to an entry level position in the Energy Management Field through the Student Energy Auditor Training (SEAT) Program

For more information please visit: <http://home.lausd.net/pdf/SEAT%20Program%202017.pdf>

SUBMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Submit an e-mail to ambrosia.solis@lausd.net with the subject, picture, and a brief write-up, or call (213) 241-8333

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