Founder’s Message
By Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO, PUC National

On January 21st, I had the pleasure of sharing my career history and path with the students at the PUC Sylmar Education Complex during the annual PUC Majors and Career event. It was an immensely enjoyable experience. Students were engaged during my presentations and asked excellent questions. I was very touched when I read the students’ thank you notes that Nicole Murphy and Amy Villasenor gathered and distributed to the presenters in the days following the event. I was amazed at how many professionals came to share their expertise and time with the PUC students that day. This is a tribute to the tremendous relationships Nicole Murphy has developed over time and her outstanding outreach, which began many months before the event. In addition, the day itself was impeccably organized and staffed which was noticed and appreciated by all attendees.

The professionals who joined us that day represented a multitude of careers and students were able to learn about professions and industries they may never have been exposed to had it not been for this outstanding event. I am extremely grateful to everybody who supported this important opportunity for the high school students – from Nicole and Amy to the PUC National support staff, to the school administrators, teachers, and staff, to the operations staff.

Just as the career professionals shared their stories that day, I hope everybody who interacts with PUC students, whether seldom or frequently, embraces the opportunity to share information about their college history and careers when the opportunities arise. This need not be a formal presentation such as those that took place at the career event. In the world of education, we speak about teachable moments; opportunities to share brief tidbits about how you arrived where you are, what you do, what you like about your current job, jobs you have had in the past, answer students’ questions, etc. The more information our students are exposed to, the better able they are to make choices that are a fit for them as they move down their paths to college and beyond. Please remember to share!
Thank you to the amazing PUC staff members who helped contribute to the success of this year’s fourth Annual Majors & Careers Event! The event took place at our beautiful PUC Sylmar Education Complex with 989 PUC sophomores and juniors in attendance, 55 presenters from a variety of industries and higher education institutions, 50 chaperones and 25 event staff.

With the goal of exposing students to a variety of career options, allowing them to make informed career and higher education decisions, I believe together we have achieved these goals according to students, presenters and chaperones’ survey responses:

**STUDENTS**

SURVEY QUESTION – What was your favorite session?

- “My favorite session was the session with the district attorney. The DA made his job understandable and very interesting. Good enough that it made me consider law in my future.”
- “My favorite session was Trauma Recovery Therapy. This was mainly about social workers and this was my favorite session because I believe that is my future career.”
- “My favorite was the culinary arts because like the presenter (Louis E.). He explained his journey through out when he was like small and also it made me want to do that when I’m older.”
- “My favorite session was architecture because it inspired me to become one and it comes with a good pay. It also comes with creativity and a lot of work put into the designs created.”
- “My favorite session was environment science session because when the speaker was talking about her career it was interesting. It was my favorite because I thought talking about the environment was boring but wasn’t because her career sounded really fun and interesting.”
- “My favorite session was trade school because this opened me to new ways and opportunities to work and this lets me know there is always an option for a job and that no matter what people can learn.”
- “My favorite session was air force ROTC. The Military is my passion.”
- “My favorite session was LA Trade Tech Manufacturing and Design because there are so many good paying jobs out there.”
PUC Majors & Careers Event 2020 (cont.)

SPEAKERS
SURVEY QUESTION – What was your favorite part about serving as a presenter?
• “I enjoyed the enthusiasm of some of my students that signed up for my presentation and were engaged throughout.”
• “My favorite part about serving as a presenter is meeting students and connecting with them. I enjoy sharing useful information that I never got as a student, and being a resource to them.”
• “Sharing my story, reminded me of why I am doing what I am!
• “Speaking to the students and hope I was able to encourage them to pursue a college education or their dream career.”
• “I felt that the students cared a lot more than last year. They genuinely seemed to follow video. I felt that I reached most of them.”

CHAPERONES
SURVEY QUESTION – What was your favorite part of the event from a chaperone’s perspective?
• “Helping to raise student awareness about variety of possibilities after high school.”
• “The last presentation in the gym was engaging and fun.
• “My favorite part was the wide range of career choices.”
• “I liked that the students were able to learn from adults who have failed, tried again, kept pushing and became successful.”
• “I loved that the students have this opportunity. Students responded very well to the presentations and all said they learned a lot from the presenters. What a cool opportunity!”

STUDENT THANK YOU NOTES
With the goal of developing a gratitude mindset and instilling the importance of taking a pause to write a thank you, for the first time PUC sophomores and juniors completed a post-event thank you note assignment. Students reviewed the components of a thank you note, and wrote notes to their three event presenters. Over 850 thank you notes were submitted on loose-leaf paper, note cards, and typed. PUC Home Office staff read, sorted and delivered the thank you notes to each volunteer presenter.

On behalf of PUC’s College Success Team, thanks again for your time and work. We look forward to making next year’s event even more impactful for our students!
Students at PUC LCHS Explore New Interests through Teacher-Created Seminars

Submitted by Jorge Beas, Principal, PUC Lakeview Charter High School

This year students at PUC LCHS are getting the opportunity to explore new enrichment activities through teacher created seminars. Teachers at PUC LCHS were asked to create their dream enrichment class that they would want to teach. What resulted were over 20 different and unique classes for student to choose from. Each seminar meets twice a week for a total of 12 weeks during advisory time. Seminars are mixed grade levels, which also allows students and teachers, who would not typically interact, an opportunity to get to know one another over a shared interest. “In my opinion, I think that seminars are a good thing because we get to try new and different things every time which is fun and also helps us learn new things” said one student. Over the school year, there will be five different sessions, allowing students the opportunity to take different seminars. Currently students at LCHS are on their third session. Each session has allowed the staff to adjust the process in order both streamline the process and improve the experience for both students and teachers.

What makes the process unique, is that students, regardless of their grade level, are able to rank and take their preferred Seminar. Some of the Seminars that students have had the opportunity to take are Modern Calligraphy, Cooking on a Budget, Guitar Ensemble, Ultimate Frisbee, Computer Programming, and Cosmetic Chemistry. “It was an amazing experience and I think it’s a great way to expose students to different hobbies that might interest them. They could possibly find something they’re super good at and even a possible career choice” said one student. Students have also stated that Seminars give them the opportunity to know what it is like to attend a large high school, where they many have more class offerings. Through seminars, students are able to have choice, while still maintaining the school benefits.

The creation of Seminars has also allowed LCHS the time and place to implement strategic and data driven intervention. For this third session of Seminars, the school created a math intervention seminar in which MAP data was used to provide additional support for students who need it. Additionally, in this session students in 11th grade had the opportunity to select an ACT prep seminar, given virtually through Revolution Prep. Over 50% of Juniors self-selected the ACT prep course. As the year continues, LCHS hopes to continue and improve the Seminars practice.
Dual Enrollment at PUC CALS ECHS

Submitted by Sarai Rodriguez, School & College Counselor Assistant, PUC CALS Early College High School

As current seniors, both Andrew Higareda & Miriam Torres have taken over 30 colleges classes combined. This is thanks to our Dual-Enrollment Program, which is a unique opportunity for high school students to take college classes while earning their High School diploma. Over the past few years, PUC CALS ECHS has partnered with community colleges such as Los Angeles City College & Pasadena Community College, to provide courses to students 9-12th grade. Each semester we offer between one & two classes on campus, where professors from the given colleges come & teach our students. In talking to Andrew & Miriam, they provided insight as to what it is like to be Seniors & have an abundance of college credit already! Here, they would like to share their experience—the good, the bad, & the ugly!

Ms. Rodriguez: How has Dual Enrollment benefited you?
Andrew: It has helped my GPA, increased my knowledge, & it has exposed me to different areas I didn't know I would be interested in. Like when I took a speech class, I never knew I would be interested in it. It has also helped me further my interests, in political science, & it's just a distraction from all the other things that go on in my life.
Miriam: It helped me handle multiple responsibilities, because I was juggling many classes at once & it was a lot on my plate. It also helped me discover what I'm passionate about! It's not even about learning about one specific subject, it's about learning a lot of different things, like learning is addictive to me.

Ms. R: How did you balance dual enrollment & everything else?
A: I never took more than two classes because I felt that three was too much. If I wanted to stay happy, I had to do what kept me happy. Like over the summer of sophomore year, it was good because it was just taking two classes. But the following summer, I took two college classes & my PreCalc class so it was a lot. I found ways to make sure I didn't fall behind on anything. It did show however, in my Speech class where I got my first B, & I was so angry with myself because I didn't study!
M: I honestly do not know! I still ask myself that, I think it's because I'm really driven, like I have to be doing something, if not I get bored! I bought an agenda once to help me, but it didn't last very long. I also just tried to get all my school work done in class so that it didn't pile up at home or even at work during breaks. It just worked out for me, like schedule them on days that I knew I would be able to do them.

Ms. R: What are some obstacles you faced?
A: That if the class felt “easy” because there wasn’t a lot of work, or it was just quick to catch on too, I would start to slack off & it reflected in one of my classes, which required more attention than I initially thought. Also just staying late at night at PCC, getting home at 9 was a lot because I still had to do homework some of those days, or a project.
M: Because I was taking so much at once, it was hard. Especially when I was working & taking two classes at once. It was just stressful. The way I overcame it, is that I started taking online courses. Even though it wasn’t in-person experience, it also allowed me to do everything at once without being too stressed about it. I had to study & read more, & that was an obstacle because I’m still in HS & a lot of the reading was difficult. As well as learning the different writing styles - MLA, APA - that was a little difficult.

Ms. R: What would you advise to a student that will participate in Dual-Enrollment for the first time?
A: It’s all about just doing things in the times you can do them. It’s all about where I am & when I’m there, it’s how I balance it all.
M: In the beginning I felt intimidated & didn’t know what to expect. But once you’re there, it’s not that hard. It’s just being more responsible, more self-learning so it’s like you have to put in the work. You’re sacrificing this because you want something better for yourself, so yes its hard & draining but it’s going to pay off! Like once you see all these opportunities coming your way it's worth it because after you sacrifice your time in the class & the homework its’ just worth it. The content isn’t hard, it’s just managing your time wisely! Take the course with your friends! It helps, it because it motivates you. And you want free periods right!? 
On Monday, February 10th, PUC Community Charter Elementary School (PUC CCES) celebrated its 100th Day of School! Our 100th Day of School celebration is a tradition at PUC CCES. From the very first day of school, classes begin keeping track of the number of days they’ve been in school in anticipation of the 100th day. On the 100th day of school, students and staff are invited to dress up as if they were 100 years old.

Following our morning assembly, we kicked the day off with a celebratory song performed by our Kindergarten students. In addition to their outfits, students and staff engage in fun activities in the classroom throughout the day.

Our students and staff look forward to this fun-filled day, not only because of the awesome outfits, but also because it gives the students and staff an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate everyone’s achievements from the first 100 days of school!
Student-Led Conferences at PUC LCA

Submitted by Max Valadez, Interim Principal, PUC Lakeview Charter Academy

At PUC Schools, we have our Student-Led Conferences where our students show off what they have been learning. They create a portfolio with work from each subject and the student leads the meeting with the family. As a family, they come up with goals that will support the student at home and at school with being successful. At PUC Lakeview Charter Academy, we hold our Student-Led Conferences twice a year: once in the winter and once in the spring. Once the students finish their goals, they turn in the goals sheet to the office. Their portfolios are kept for the three years and they use the same portfolio each year, but with updated classwork. The families enjoy this time between their student and the family, especially because the student leads the conference.
The Great Kindness Challenge at PUC Inspire

Submitted by Omar Urquieta, Principal, PUC Inspire Charter Academy

During the final week of January, PUC Inspire Charter Academy participated in week-long events around being kind to one another. Over 13 million students participated in this event worldwide and we wanted PUC Inspire to be the vanguards of kindness in the San Fernando Valley. The Great Kindness Challenge (GKC) is a proactive and positive bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. The GKC is one week devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible on the PUC Inspire Campus.
FOR PUC EMPLOYEES:

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2020!

Feb.10 - Feb. 28. 2020

Great News –
Same great benefits
with no increase to
employee contributions!

Open Enrollment is the one time during the year when you can make benefit changes without experiencing a qualifying event.

During Open Enrollment, you may add or drop coverage for yourself and your eligible dependents or change health plans.

All changes will be effective from 4/1/2020 through 3/31/2021.

Effective 4/1/2020 we will continue to offer the following:

- **Cigna** - HMO, HSA, EPO and PPO medical plans
- **Cigna** - HMO and PPO dental plans
- **Eyemed** – Vision plan
- **Anthem Blue Cross** – Basic Life & AD&D
- **UNUM** – Short and Long-Term Disability

- **PUC Inspire Charter Academy** 8:30 am - 12 pm
- **PUC eCALS** 8:30 am - 4 pm
- **PUC Lakeview Education Complex** 8 am - 4 pm
- **PUC CALS MS & CALS HS** 8:30 am - 4 pm
- **PUC Sylmar Education Complex** 8 am - 3:30 pm
- **PUC CCES** 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
- **PUC Excel and PUC Milagro** 8:30 am - 4 pm
- **PUC Nueva Esperanza** 12 pm - 4 pm
- **PUC National** 9 am - 12 pm

HR will be coming to your school site!
https://pucschools.org/alumni

Check out our website for support!

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Employee Perks Program

All employees have exclusive access to the Working Advantage discount network, which allows you to save up 60% on ticketed events and online shopping. Through Working Advantage you can save on: Movie Tickets, Theme Parks, Ski Tickets, Broadway Shows, Sporting Events, Hotels and Travel, Health and Fitness, Museums and City Passes, Merchant Gift Certificates, Online Shopping...and much more! To subscribe, you may access the Working Advantage website by clicking here: workingadvantage.com. When opening an individual account you will need the PUC Schools ID #413401740.

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T-Mobile offers exclusive discounts for PUC Schools employees. Click here to visit T-Mobile's promo website. To enroll by phone, contact Advantage Direct at 866-464-8662 and use promotional code 20356TMOFAV.

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FOR SALE

PUC Polo Shirts - $20

PUC Laptop Bag - $40

Items can be purchased throughout the year.

Please contact Human Resources at hr@pucschools.org to place an order.

Please be sure to indicate your shirt size. Polos are available in both men's and women's sizes.