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Urban Education Partnership, Inglewood USD Collaborate to Create Small Learning Communities

***Plans will include the development of a five-year reform and
redesign plan for the district's high schools***

(LOS ANGELES) —The Inglewood Unified School District and the Urban Education Partnership will use a \$125,000 grant from the state of California and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to transform the district's secondary level schools into dynamic learning environments that better support and assist students in maintaining the tremendous academic success enjoyed at the elementary level.

With the grant, the Inglewood USD-Partnership collaboration is exploring the creation of small learning communities within the district's four high schools. Plans will include the development of a five-year reform and redesign plan for the district's high schools. Inglewood USD, which serves the City of Inglewood and Ladera Heights, is among 13 California school districts to win grants this summer totaling \$2.27 million. The grants stem from the High School Pupil Success Act signed into law by Gov. Davis last year. The law is intended to spur improved high school student achievement by supporting the development of district-community partnerships, public engagement, school transformation and systemic district reform.

Partnerships funded under the act amount to an official pledge between a local school district and community organizations, businesses and parents to engage in reforming and redesigning the functions of the high school. Only one other state, Maine, has pursued such a statewide effort to reform its high schools.

"We foresee our collaboration with Inglewood Unified as a vehicle for success for district schools," said Urban Education Partnership President and CEO Susan Way-Smith. "We have had success creating small learning communities at large high schools and Inglewood USD's commitment to creating such communities fits perfectly with the Partnership's goals."

"Inglewood Unified School District is looking forward to its collaboration with its co-lead the Urban Education Partnership in implementing the grant award from the High School Pupil Success Act," said IUSD Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Crowe. "We will be endeavoring through the implementation of this grant award, made possible by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to connect families and community organizations as partners in our urban reform efforts to transform our low performing schools."

Community Health Councils, Inc. has committed its full support through the development of a five-year strategic plan to increase high school achievement and has earmarked \$19,639 in in-kind services to insure its success. In addition, The Museum of Tolerance has designed a series of customized educational programs related to tolerance, service learning, media literacy, cultural proficiency, and youth violence. These programs will engage students, principals, parents, and local law enforcement agencies in forming partnerships with Inglewood Unified School District.

Urban Education Partnership is a not-for-profit organization which works to help students in high-need schools improve their academic achievement by partnering with educators, parents and the community.

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