



The Partnership Sun

March 2006

Introducing the *Partnership Sun*

Urban Education Partnership is pleased to welcome you to the ***Partnership Sun***, a periodic publication of news and events at the Partnership and important developments in education reform. Urban Education Partnership helps students in high-need schools improve their academic achievement through partnerships with educators, parents and the community. We welcome your comments at jhorwatt@urbanedpartnership.org.

Partnership Selected as First 5 LA Success Story

The Partnership was invited to present its 2005 evaluation data to the state and local First 5 Commissions in November as evidence of the success of First 5 LA's school readiness work. The Partnership's School Readiness initiative reaches children in low-income areas in the northeast San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles. The initiative uses trained school readiness home visitors, plus community-health and social-services resources, to improve children's preparedness for school and remove health and social barriers to learning. Without intervention, the children who received services in 2005 were at serious risk for academic failure. But with the help of the School Readiness initiative, they entered kindergarten this fall prepared to learn — not struggling to catch up throughout their school careers. In addition to First 5 LA, funding for the Partnership's work helping families prepare their children for academic success comes from Citigroup Foundation, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, and Verizon.

S. Mark Taper Foundation Grant Will Support Health Initiative

The S. Mark Taper Foundation has awarded a grant of \$75,000 to the Partnership for a health initiative that will provide critical information and resources to low-income families at the grassroots level. "The S. Mark Taper Foundation's grant helps us equip low-income families with the tools they need to provide a healthy foundation from which their children can learn and grow," said Ellen Pais, Executive Director of the Connected Communities division of the Partnership. The grant will enable the Partnership to hire new health promoters; train them in substantive areas of health, child development and health insurance; and support their work in the community. The initiative provides preventive education and services to families in the northeast San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles in support of the School Readiness initiative and Healthy Start programs in these communities. The S. Mark Taper Foundation, founded in 1989, is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities.

Enthusiastic Stargazers

Over 400 elementary students and parents attended the first annual Partnership Starwatch Party at Drew Middle School in south Los Angeles. Students observed planets through four large telescopes, shot off air rockets, and studied phases of the moon. The Partnership's Science Initiative Target Science teachers in LAUSD Local District 7 led these and other activities.

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95% of preschool children in the initiative reached or surpassed age-appropriate developmental targets last year. Before entering the initiative, more than 30% of the children were functioning far below normal.

—UEP's school readiness program evaluation, 2005

In 2004-05, a total of 906 home visitation, case management and workshop activities were conducted in the School Readiness initiative.

Drew Middle School students were guides for the annual Starwatch event.

Partnership Sun is a publication of the Urban Education Partnership (the Partnership), a non-profit organization that focuses on helping students in high-need schools improve their academic achievement. The Partnership works in collaboration with educators, parents and the community. For further information, please contact Urban Education Partnership.



Academy students achieved higher graduation rates, higher attendance rates and lower dropout rates than their school peers and comparable LAUSD students.

—UEP's *Academy program evaluation, 2005*

“In the Humanitas instructional model, the arts are a natural bridge among the core disciplines — language arts, social studies, math and science.”

—Neil Anstead, *Institute moderator and Humanitas originator*

For more information, please contact epais@urbanedpartnership.org



High School Academies Advisory Board Reconvened

A reinvigorated High School Academies advisory board met in February at the Downtown Magnets High School Academy to talk with teachers, hear from students and tour the school. The board discussed the academies program in the context of LAUSD's move to small learning communities and explored ways it can help with plans for internships and professional development. The board assists the Academy of Finance and Academy of Hospitality and Tourism programs, which reach 1,200 students in five high-need LAUSD high schools. Advisory board members provide mentorships, job shadowing, guest speakers and other enriching opportunities to academy students as well as advice on current industry trends and job requirements. The board plans quarterly meetings. High School Academies help underserved public high school students develop academic competency, as well as industry-related knowledge and skill, through stimulating classes and real-life learning experiences delivered in a small learning community.

LAUSD Teachers Study Art of Cezanne and Pissarro

The Partnership's Humanitas initiative conducted a Teachers' Institute in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in January on the museum's exhibit — *Cezanne and Pissarro: Pioneering Modern Painting 1865-1885*. CSU professors of history and education gave presentations on "Impressionism in the Context of French History" and "Impressionism, Symbolism, and America Literature." Planned by Neil Anstead, Humanitas originator, the institute provided professional development for teachers from a variety of disciplines to help them acquire the content knowledge that will enable them to develop standards-based lessons linked to the museum exhibit. Integration of arts into the curriculum offers opportunities for students who learn in different ways to demonstrate their subject knowledge. Teachers use knowledge they gain from the institute to design hands-on arts experiences for students. LACMA conducted a private tour of the historic exhibit for the institute's 35 participants.

School Readiness Fairs To Be Held in South LA and Sylmar

Community school readiness fairs are planned April 22 at the Salvation Army on Central Avenue in South LA and May 20 at Fenton Avenue Charter School in Sylmar. The South LA fair will celebrate community diversity, featuring ethnic food and cultural exhibits. The Sylmar event will focus on getting parents to start thinking early about college costs.

Recent Grants Support Partnership Work

The Partnership is deeply grateful to organizations that support our work helping young people achieve academic success. In addition to grants described above, the Partnership has received awards from The Ahmanson Foundation, American Express, American Honda, Bank of the West, The Boeing Company, California Endowment, Citigroup Foundation, City National Bank, Credit Suisse First Boston, Joseph Drown Foundation, Girard Foundation, William H. Hannon Foundation, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Hilton Hotels Corporation, McMaster-Carr Supply Company, The Kenneth T. & Eileen L. Norris Foundation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the Louis & Harold Price Foundation, RGK Foundation, Staples Foundation for Learning, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, Stuart Foundation, Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation, Toyota USA, Union Bank of California, University Credit Union, U.S. Department of Education Smaller Learning Communities, J.B. and Emily Van Nuys Charities, and Washington Mutual. We also appreciate support from the Los Angeles Unified School District.