



News Release

For Immediate Release

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STAPLES CENTER FOUNDATION HOSTS THE URBAN EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP'S SECOND ANNUAL *HONOR ROLL RECEPTION*

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Attends Event Celebrating Los Angeles Area Public School Teachers

Second Annual Honor Roll Reception
Hosted by STAPLES Center Foundation and Urban Education Partnership
Thursday, June 29, 2006, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
STAPLES Center's Grand Reserve Club

LOS ANGELES (June 15, 2006) —The Urban Education Partnership (the Partnership) today announced that the STAPLES Center Foundation will host the Partnership's second annual *Honor Roll Reception*, a special event in Downtown Los Angeles honoring the extraordinary work of public school teachers in Los Angeles, and the parents and community members who support their work. The event is scheduled for Thursday, June 29, 2006, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the STAPLES Center's Grand Reserve Club, with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in attendance.

"Education is the most pressing issue facing our city and nation," says Peggy Funkhouser, interim CEO of the Urban Education Partnership. "By celebrating the very people at work on the front lines of this great challenge—our city's teachers and the parents and community members who support them—we hope to continue to shine a bright light on the many individuals who are working to further success in urban education."

"The STAPLES Center Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the children who live and learn in the neighborhoods surrounding the arena, along with the public school teachers and parents who play such a vital role in their education," commented Jennifer Lynch of STAPLES Center Foundation. "The Foundation is proud to continue its commitment to the Urban Education Partnership and the thousands of students and educators who benefit from their important work."

This year's honorees include the following:

- **Sue Anderson** is a Humanitas social studies teacher and Humanitas Teachers' Center director at Roosevelt High School in LAUSD. Ms. Anderson started and led the Humanitas program at Roosevelt in 1986, has taught Humanitas' unique interdisciplinary instructional approach to hundreds of teachers throughout LAUSD, and helped make Humanitas one of the most successful early models of small learning communities in the country. The Humanitas network engages more than 400 teachers and affects more than 11,000 students in 26 LAUSD high schools. Humanitas students overall have higher graduation rates, college going rates and California High School Exit Exam pass rates than their peers.
- **Tom Lascher** is an English and social studies teacher and coordinator of the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism (AOHT) at Fremont High School in LAUSD. Mr. Lascher has established a dramatic sense of personalization and community among teachers and students in the Fremont Academy of Hospitality and Tourism. During the tumultuous time of Fremont's transition into "wall-to-wall" small learning communities, Mr. Lascher ensured that the Fremont AOHT remained intact and retained affiliation with the prestigious National Academy Foundation. High School Career Academies in six Los Angeles high schools affect 1,200 students who graduate and go to college at higher rates, and perform better on standardized tests than their peers.
- **Rodney Lee** is a 5th grade teacher at LAUSD's Ivanhoe Elementary School and LAUSD Local District 4 Science and Math Initiative – Target Science coordinator. Mr. Lee's dedication to teaching typifies the 240 science and math teachers in the Target Science network who affect 26,455 students. His passion for learning, scientific curiosity and inventiveness inspires his students. Ivanhoe's 5th graders, about half of whom are taught by Mr. Lee, increased their proficiency in science on the California Standards Test by a remarkable 24 percentile points from 2004 to 2005. Target Science teachers meet monthly to interact with knowledgeable science and math specialists and share strategies to engage students.
- **Tolulope Noah** is a 6th grade language arts and social studies teacher at Markham Middle School in LAUSD. Ms. Noah is an innovative teacher whose willingness to share and grow as an educator helps her students succeed academically. She puts content literacy at the forefront of all her lessons, recognizing the paramount importance of students mastering reading and writing. As a participant in the Partnership's Content Literacy Coaching program, Ms. Noah is one of the teachers who helped boost API scores at Markham by 99 points between 2002 and 2005.

- **Rosemary Sanders** is a government and economics teacher at Sierra Vista High School in Baldwin Park Unified School District. Sierra Vista High School is a comprehensive high school redesigning into small learning communities (SLCs) with the help of Urban Education Partnership. Ms. Sanders is a model of the kind of teaching, commitment and collegiality it takes to support a successful transition from a large high school into small learning communities. Ms. Sanders personalizes classroom learning to make it relevant to students' daily lives and engrosses her students in service learning projects throughout the community. Baldwin Park USD's two comprehensive high schools are transforming into small learning communities to improve education for their combined enrollment of 4,400 students.
- **Montague Charter Academy** is a LAUSD public charter school that draws upon the entire school community to enhance teaching and overcome barriers to student learning. At Montague, where 92% of students are eligible for the free and reduced meals program for low-income families, parents are integrally involved in the school. The active parent center offers classes, workshops, leadership training, wellness information and clinics to parents and the community. Parents are in school at all hours of the day. It starts early in the morning when 80% of kindergarten parents come to school to read with their children before work and goes until evening when parents meet to set school policy and continues on Saturday when parents attend citizenship and other classes.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Urban Education Partnership, which assists thousands of urban teachers in helping students graduate from high school and go on to college; help strengthen families, schools and communities to support high academic achievement; and ensure that children in low-income areas have equal access to a quality education.

Founded in 1984 as the Los Angeles Educational Partnership, the Urban Education Partnership became one of the first education improvement organizations in Los Angeles. The Partnership's mission is to help students in high-need schools improve their academic achievement by partnering with educators, parents and the community. Each year, the Partnership serves more than 2,500 educators and 75,000 students from pre-kindergarten through high school in high-poverty, multicultural communities. For more information, visit www.urbanedpartnership.org.

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