MISSION
Strive to ensure equitable access and learning opportunities to close achievement disparities for historically underserved students.

Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental.
W.E.B. Dubois, The Freedom to Learn

AEMP Parent & Community Partnerships
The AEMP Parent and Community Representatives began this year with a tribute to Latinx Heritage Month through rich storytelling inspired by Every Child a Super Reader, 7 Strengths to Open a World of Possible by Pam Allen and Ernest Morrell. The AEMP Parent Representatives were given culturally responsive literature and resources that encourage building literacy skills and explore Latinx cultural diversity.

This year, the Academic English Mastery Program is partnering with L.A. Unified’s Health Education Services to facilitate quarterly meetings that will target Culturally and Linguistically Responsive practices and socio-emotional learning strategies that parents can practice with their children at home. Our goal is to increase parent and community engagement while providing tools that build on children’s ability to think independently and confidently.

Latino Heritage Month Contest Winners

Grades K-1
Maria Aroyo, Lizarraga ES

Grades 2-3
Katelyn Hernandez, Euclid ES

Grades 4-5
Andrea Argueta, Wadsworth ES

Middle School
Dilma Tovar, Audubon MS

High School
Jose Palacios, Crenshaw HS

IN THIS ISSUE
AEMP Parent and Community Representative Meetings
Latino Heritage Month Contest Winners
Gifted Network
CLR Fall Institute
AEMP Written Word/Multimedia Contest
Classroom Walkthroughs
Equity Speaker Series
Happy Retirement!

The winners of this year’s contest were honored at the 2019 AMAE (Association of Mexican American Educators) Winter Celebration on December 12, 2019, at a cultural landmark in Buena Vista. Winners also received prizes to further inspire their talents, creativity and study of topics related to Latino history and heritage.
The Gifted Network for African American Students and Families (GNAASF) conducted its second quarterly meeting at Palms Middle School on Saturday, December 7, 2019. The meeting’s theme was “21st Century Careers for Young, Gifted and Black Students – Exploring Boundless Opportunities.” During this meeting, gifted/highly gifted students and their parents had the opportunity to learn more about 21st Century career options by participating in interactive workshops.

Ten different interactive workshops were offered covering the following topics: animation, digital citizenship, engineering, video production, computer science, psychology, law enforcement, aviation and visual arts.

Students and their family members commented that they loved the engaging speakers and interactive workshops. One parent left stating, “I loved the workshops because they helped my child expand his understanding of other careers.”

The day began with inspiring words from Local District South Superintendent Michael Romero, Access, Equity and Acceleration Administrator Andre Spicer and event keynote Elmer Roldan, Executive Director of Communities in Schools of Los Angeles. Families were informed about the innovative and strategic ways that academic achievement for African American students is being supported throughout the district. Mr. Roldan shared his inspiring life story and encouraged students to continually strive for excellence in pursuit of their dreams.

The Academic English Mastery Program’s two-day Fall Institute was a part of its professional development series “Literacy is the Power Tool for Equity.” This institute highlighted a collaborative analysis of student learning based on beginning of year Language Assessment Scales (LAS) Links results by school teams. Teachers focused on the creation of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) for diverse students, based on multiple data points that influence attendance, behavior, and learning. David Banks, President/CEO of The Eagle Academy Foundation, was the event’s keynote speaker. He challenged educators to be responsive to the social-emotional and academic needs of students.

Every school within L.A. Unified is invited to participate.

For additional information, visit the AEMP website: https://achieve.lausd.net/AEMP
AEMP Classroom Walkthroughs
The Academic English Mastery Program has thirteen Standard English Learner/Language Instructional Coaches who provide academic support in Culturally and Linguistically Responsive (CLR) teaching through professional development, coaching cycles, demonstration lessons, and small group instruction at elementary, middle, and high school sites throughout each local district.

During the fall semester, each SEL Coach, along with their Local District SEL Coordinator and site administrator, hosted a CLR Walkthrough to gain feedback on their site’s implementation of CLR Pedagogy. Kandice McLurkin, former Administrative Coordinator of AEMP, and members of the central office team participated in this event.

Using a digital walkthrough tool, teams visited classrooms for five to seven minutes. They focused on specific CLR instructional practices based on the school’s areas of implementation and growth. Upon the completion of each walk, the team debriefed by providing the school with observable data and feedback in the form of “Glows and Grows.” The data captured was then analyzed to determine next steps. Together, the SEL Local District Coordinator, AEMP administrator, site administrator, and SEL Coach established SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely) Goals for the upcoming semester.

A second round of visitations is scheduled for the Spring 2020 semester to gain targeted and specific feedback on each school’s progress toward meeting their established SMART Goals.

Fall 2019 – AEMP school walkthroughs:
- Ambler Avenue ES
- Analee Avenue ES
- Audubon MS
- Bethune MS
- Boys Acad. Leadership Academy
- Bret Harte MS
- Charles Barrett ES
- Crenshaw HS
- Heliotrope Avenue ES
- Holmes Avenue ES
- Knox ES
- Lizarraga ES
- Los Angeles Academy MS
- Manchester Avenue ES
- Martin Luther King, Jr. ES
- Nevada Avenue ES
- Obama Global Prep. Academy
- Purche Avenue ES
- Raymond Ave ES
- Rio Vista ES
- San Miguel ES
- Second Street ES
- Seventy-Fourth Street ES
- Sunny Brae Avenue ES
- YES Academy

Brown Bag Equity Speaker Series
The Access, Equity and Acceleration Unit launched another year of the “Brown Bag Equity Speaker Series: Dialogues in Equity” event on Friday, October 25, 2019. This event is intended to encourage courageous conversations within and across L.A. Unified departments as a means of building and strengthening supports for students. Last school year, a wide array of speakers challenged our thinking on issues of equity as it relates to our work with students and schools. We heard from Fabian Debora (Social Activist), Daniel Walker (Professor and Filmmaker), and Sylvia Mendez (Civil Rights Activist) just to name a few.

This year, award-winning author, bilingual podcast host, international keynote speaker, educator, and founder of LA’s Prom Closet, Natalie Torres-Haddad, kicked off the series. She spoke about her work on financial literacy and the importance of advocating for young people and empowering them to persevere beyond their circumstances.

To honor Black History Month, Dr. Terrence J. Roberts, one of the “Little Rock Nine,” will join us on Friday, February 14, 2020. We look forward to seeing you there.
Happy Retirement!

Kandice McLurkin recently retired from the position of Administrative Coordinator for L.A. Unified’s Academic English Mastery Program (AEMP), a national model for Standard English Learners (SEL). Kandice was a former elementary principal at a program improvement school in the historic Los Angeles community of West Adams that consistently made double-digit gains on California’s Academic Performance Index (API) for all student groups. Her school was especially successful with serving African American students, evidenced by growth on the API.

With more than thirty-nine years of experience in the role of instructional leader, Kandice is also the president of the Council of Black Administrators and is a member of the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators.

She was responsible for developing L.A. Unified’s quarterly Culturally and Linguistically Responsive (CLR) Institutes and the annual Equal Access Series for Effective Teaching of SELs. As a result of her courageous advocacy, L.A. Unified’s SEL Resolution Action Plan was adopted by its School Board in 2014.

The SEL Resolution unapologetically addresses the disparities in educational resources for students who possess non-standard language features that do not match the language of academia. This resulted in the implementation of a plan to utilize financial and human resources to address the specific academic needs and the academic outcomes for SELs. Additionally, Ms. McLurkin was instrumental in addressing linguistic diversity in the California English Language Arts and English Language Development Framework and the 2019 Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners.

Kandice has been recognized by numerous organizations for her unwavering commitment to serving the needs of all students not yet proficient in Standard or Academic English. In 2019, Ms. McLurkin was the recipient of the Diane E. Watson Trailblazer Award. She was also honored by Pepperdine University’s Graduate School of Education and Psychology as a Distinguished Alumna Educator.

We wish her all the best in the next phase of her life.

Contact Us

Andre Spicer, Administrator
Access, Equity and Acceleration
andre.spicer@lausd.net

Juanita Rainey Woods, Director
Access, Equity and Acceleration
jrainey@lausd.net

Phone: 213-241-3340
Fax: 213-241-8495

Web: http://achieve.lausd.net/aea

Upcoming Events

ACADEMIC ENGLISH MASTERY PROGRAM
LAS Links MOY Testing
1/21-2/28

AEMP Written Word/Multimedia Contest
2/1-2/29

CLR Winter Institute
2/22

UCLA-LAUSD COLLABORATIVE
UCLA-LAUSD Collaborative Coordinators and Counselors Meeting
1/31 & 2/13

GIFTED NETWORK FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK STUDENTS AND FAMILIES
LAUSD GATE Conference
3/14 @ Roybal Learning Center