

**L.A. Unified Board Member Mónica García**

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*Read, Write, Think, and Believe: The Movement Towards 100% Graduation in Los Angeles*

## News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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Date: April 19, 2021

### **Board Member Mónica García and the Board District 2 Student Empowerment Council Host Powerful and Moving Virtual Student Empowerment Conference for High School Students Across Los Angeles**

**(Los Angeles, CA, April 19, 2021)** Last week, Board Member Mónica García and the Board District 2 Student Advisory Council hosted a Virtual Student Empowerment Conference created for students by students with a mission to empower students with informative workshops on College access, Financial Aid, LGBTQ+, Leadership and Mental Health. Special guest speaker, Patty Rodriguez, co-host on the KIIS FM Morning Show and author of Lil' Libros, moved the audience with her powerful story on purpose and advocacy for anyone trying to 'make it'.

The Student Empowerment Council, consists of high school students from East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, Pico Union, South Los Angeles, MacArthur Park, Koreatown, El Sereno, Lincoln Heights and Downtown Los Angeles. The conference was open to all high school students in Board District 2.

"We have seen and benefited from the impact of student voices since the 1968 walkouts," said Board Member Mónica García. "There is no better advice on how to serve today's youth than the advice that comes from the teens we serve in our

classrooms. It is my honor to provide a space for their talent, their needs and their leadership. I am grateful to all our sponsors for empowering the leaders of tomorrow and continuing the work in carrying out the voices of the entire student body.”

“One of the most important things we teach students is that each of them matter,” said Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner. “Thanks to Board Member Mónica García and the Board District 2 Student Advisory Council for helping students find their voice.”

“Students are the future of our society and the experiences we offer them today will shape the future. Student empowerment today is the promise of democracy and social justice tomorrow,” said Local Superintendent Frances Baez.

Students shared their personal stories of serving on the council and attending the conference. “Serving under Board Member Monica Garcia's Student Advisory Council has been a profound honor. During every minute of every meeting, I was able to serve alongside like-minded student leaders and societal change-makers under the leadership of truly genuine and motivated mentors such as Board Member Garcia. Board District 2's recent Student Empowerment Conference was a perfect culmination of months of service and I would like to express how appreciative I am to have had the privilege to be a part of this community,” said Justin Choo, a senior at Rise Kohyang High School.

“Yesterday was my first time hosting a conference for students by students,” said Daniela Gonzalez, a senior at the School for the Visual Arts and Humanities “We had informative workshops, in particular, my favorite part was Out in Front by the It Gets Better. The workshop gave me the courage to advocate for myself and others. As a member of the student council in Board district 2, I am proud of our work and as a student of Board district 2 I appreciated the experience because it allowed me to improve my skills and make new friendships!”

Wendy Vaughn, Programs Manager at California State University, Los Angeles and leader of access to college workshop said, “Working with our G.O. Partners is always so inspiring. The Student Empowerment Conference truly brings together the most important resources for our students to gain tools for their success in college and beyond.”

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