



Division of Instruction
Los Angeles Unified School District

The District's One and Only All-Girl's School is All About Computer Science Education

Last week, a representative from the New York Department of Education came to visit L.A. Unified schools to learn about how the District engages in instructional technology practices. One school visit in particular highlighted the District's computer science (CS) education efforts, which was the Girl's Academic Leadership Academy (GALA), a highly rigorous all-girls college preparatory school, exclusively devoted to the education of young women in grades 6-12. In efforts to increase access to and representation of women and girls in underrepresented fields of mathematics, science and technology, GALA's focus is science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with particular emphasis on engineering and CS. Every student at GALA is enrolled in a computer science course.

During the team's visit, the GALA Robotics Team was prepping for the First Tech Challenge, working on perfecting their autonomous program as well as trying to add a new arm to the robot. Also, a small group of students were excitedly programming and building VEX robots to move around the room, dance, and communicate with other students. There were also students practicing Hour of Code on Code.org while other students worked on their web pages which featured their efforts in building a robot.

The Instructional Technology Initiative supports GALA through the Practitioner Schools 3.0 Program where an Instructional Technology Facilitator works with teachers to develop their instructional technology, explore ways to infuse technology into their instruction to support student achievement.

DACE Apprenticeship – Debt Free Training Career Pathway Success Story

After graduating from Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, Chris Cabrera attended college but found that it wasn't for him and began working for LAUSD as a custodian. Chris worked his way up to plant manager, then promoted to maintenance worker. He then learned that LAUSD announced an opportunity for existing employees to enter an apprenticeship program with the Division of Adult and Career Education's apprenticeship partner, Local 250 Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Training Center. Six hundred LAUSD employees applied and Chris was one of 20 selected. He attributes his math skills as a factor in passing the initial screening examination. Chris is in his second year of the registered apprenticeship program and sees the value that the "earn while you learn" concept provides, in which he is able to directly connect the classroom instruction with his hands-on training.



Chris Cabrera with Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE) Representative

At the completion of the five year State of California Registered Apprenticeship program, Chris will earn a distinguished industry recognized credential, earn a top wage, and have the personal satisfaction of completing a premier training program.



GALA students showcasing one of their robots.

Stress Reducing Skills Training for Parents at CDAGS

As part of their school's Open House activities, a team of teachers from Augustus Hawkins High School - Critical Design and Gaming (CDAGS) led a workshop for parents aimed at offering parents stress-reducing skills and strategies.

The workshop, focused on techniques to reduce stress and increase wellness for families, was an extension of a four-part series. Resilience In School Environment (RISE) focused on adult and student wellness. The mini-grant project was an extension of the RISE project. The project was aimed at helping members of the CDAGS school and community to deal with the trauma that has impacted families and students.

The team leader Margarita Arias, an English teacher at CDAGS stated, "We wanted to share some strategies with our parents and families in our school community of South Central, Los Angeles to help them learn how to reduce daily stress."

The presentation focused on mindfulness and wellness. Team members Alvaro Medina and Juancarlos Roque demonstrated mindfulness techniques to parents through the exploration of the five senses.

This workshop was made possible through a SIG Mini-Grant awarded to the teachers at Augustus Hawkins High School (CDAG). SIG Mini-Grants are awarded to teams of teachers from Cohort 4 SIG schools. Through the implementation of the mini-grant, teachers have the opportunity to address an area of need at the school site, beyond their day-to-day responsibilities.



Parents gather around to receive training on how to reduce stress.

Inspiring Your Child Today For a Successful Tomorrow



Dr. Russell Quaglia addressing parents at Highland Park HS.

The Division of Instruction partnered with Dr. Russell Quaglia to support special parent events hosted by Huntington Park High School and Chatsworth Charter High School. All L.A. Unified parents and families were invited to join Dr. Quaglia for a conversation on developing student voice and aspirations. During his presentation, Dr. Quaglia discussed the necessary skills needed to inspire their children, using positive communication strategies in order to support post-secondary aspirations. More than 30 families across the district was in attendance between the two event locations and many stated that this parent session was helpful that they would like more sessions in the future.

Re-Envisioning Mathematics Instruction Materials for English Language Learners

The Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department together with the Council of Great City Schools, presented a joint L.A. Unified procurement project to the L.A. Unified Board of Education on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. This ground breaking procurement project is to provide re-envisioned instructional mathematical materials for English Learners (ELs) with a focus on developing math language. EL students need to utilize language-rich content materials to be better prepared for college and careers. Curriculum Associates, Imagine Learning, and Open Up Resources are the three publishers out of a hundred who were approved by the Council of Great City Schools. Their materials are the best in supporting English Learners with developing content language. In addition to the joint project update, Richard Ramos, Al Vega, and Joe Nardulli, principals of Northridge Middle School, John Liechty Middle School and Vista Middle School



Board Member Kelley Gopez, Senior Executive Director Hilda Maldonado, Executive Director Lydia Acosta Stephens, Principal Richard Ramos, Principal Al Vega, Principal Joe Nardulli, and Council of Great City Schools