

UPDATE

Week of February 9, 2009

Health Benefits Agreement — A Win-Win!

AALA is pleased to announce to all members and eligible retirees that a tentative agreement has been reached with LAUSD, and the agreement is a Win-Win for both the unions and the District. The tentative three-year agreement preserves our current benefits for the 2009–2011 period. It is a landmark settlement, which acknowledges the need to stabilize health benefits now and in the foreseeable future.

Increased funding: The District will fully fund our current health benefits plan for 2009 and will also fund increases in 2010 and 2011. The increases amount to approximately 1% of employee compensation.

Health care options preserved: All current plan options, including Health Net, Kaiser and Blue Cross, remain in place for active and retired members.

Three-year deal stabilizes benefits: Guarantees no LAUSD-forced cuts to coverage and no protracted battle over benefits every year for the next three years. It also recognizes the need to provide a reasonable cap on health care expenditures while preserving basic benefits for all eligible recipients.

Health Benefits Committee has increased control: the union-led Health Benefits Committee, which has been key to cutting costs and securing fully funded benefits year after year since its inception, will have expanded control over plan design. This means that the HBC decides what modifications to make, not LAUSD.

Continued lifetime benefits: The agreement will NOT eliminate lifetime benefits for new employees. The unions agreed to some modifications in the number of years future hires must work to achieve lifetime benefits, but the key is that future employees are guaranteed a chance to earn that valued coverage.

The full text of the agreement will be put on the AALA website at www.aalausd.com. An electronic ratification vote will be conducted shortly.

AALA extends compliments to Superintendent Ramon Cortines and the members of the Board of Education along with the representatives from the union coalition: CSEA, SEIU-Local 99, Teamsters-Local 572, Building Trades Council, Los Angeles School Police Association, Los Angeles Sergeants and Lieutenants Association, and UTLA, for the work that was done to make health benefits negotiations a Win-Win for everyone.

PRERETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

The District and CalSTRS are co-sponsoring preretirement workshops for the 2008-2009 school year. Information will be provided regarding the calculation of retirement allowances, available options, required forms, and District requirements necessary to establish benefits upon retirement. Time will be provided at the end of the workshop presentation for questions and answers. The workshops are individual meetings (not a series). All CalSTRS members are encouraged to attend a preretirement workshop at least three (3) times during their career in order to plan for retirement security: early in their career; again just prior to age 50; and one (1) year prior to retirement. **All workshops will be held from 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

Date	Location
02/19/09 (Th)	Bassett Street School Auditorium, 15756 Bassett St., Van Nuys
02/25/09(Wed)	Burbank Middle School, Room A-106, 6460 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles
02/26/09 (Th)	Bradley Environmental Science/Humanities Library, 3875 Dublin Ave., Los Angeles

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009 – Los Angeles Chalk Walk, 8:30 a.m. in Exposition Park (Exposition Drive and Figueroa) sponsored by your PDK/FEA Chapter. For more information, go to www.pdkchalkwalk.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009 - The AEIOU (American Educators of Italian Origin United) Fortieth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance will be held at Casa Italiana, 1051 North Broadway, Los Angeles, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For information and tickets contact **Dan Basalone** at 213.484.2226.

ACSA LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

ACSA members can elect coverage in units of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$500,000. New active ACSA members (**those who have never been a member of ACSA**) are eligible for the guaranteed approval of the lesser of two times their annual earnings or \$200,000 as long as they apply within 90 days from their original membership date. Existing ACSA members or previous ACSA members can also apply for coverage; however, they will be subject to medical underwriting.

For additional insurance questions or for hardcopy brochures, please contact ACSA's Plan Administrator **Jackie Stussy** from Mestmaker & Associates. You may e-mail Jackie Stussy at jstussy@mestmaker.com or call 877.472.6722. Please let Jackie know how many copies you need.

SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATORS

For this coming summer, the Music Center is opening our Institute for Educators to new schools that wish to send a team of teachers and an administrator. The program combines intensive study in the summer with individual coaching for the participating teachers in the following school year.

On February 24, 2009, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., we will be hosting an informational session at the Music Center for educators interested in learning more about the Institute and whether it will be a good fit for their school. Deadline for submitting applications is February 20, 2009. For more information or to RSVP, please contact **Shannon Howard** at 213.972.3377 or showard@musiccenter.org.

TIER-2 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CREDENTIALS

Cal State LA Educational Administrators' Institute proudly offers a very "speedy" option to obtain a California Professional Administrative Services (Tier-2) Credential in just over one month during the summer! This high-quality program features authentic assessment using multiple measures. In four to six weeks, when you successfully demonstrate your competence through multiple assessments, including portfolio assessment, you will be recommended for the Tier-2 Credential. You only need to attend four 2-hour sessions between June 23 and July 28, 2009, to make your presentations.

Admissions Requirements:

- Must have at least TWO (2) years of successful experience as an administrator WITH a Preliminary Administrative Services (Tier- 1) Credential and
- Meet other regular Tier-2 admissions requirements

For more info, e-mail Dr. **Lori Kim** at Lkim@calstatela.edu.

Tuition: \$3,510 for Summer 2009

Application + Tuition Submission: March 13, 2009 (Friday)

For application materials, please contact **Joann Edmond**, Associate Director of Extended Education Programs at 323.343.4919 or jedmon2@cslanet.calstatela.edu.

Mandatory Tier-2 Mastery Option Advisement Meeting

- **Date:** April 3, 2009 (Friday)
- **Time:** 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- **Location:** King Hall, C2096, Cal State LA

For directions to the campus, <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/maps/cslamap.htm>

**PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS
"KEY STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATIVE
ADVANCEMENT"**

Pepperdine University will hold its **"Key Strategies For Successful Administrative Advancement"** seminar on **Saturday, March 7, 2009**, at Pepperdine University, West Los Angeles Graduate Campus, 6100 Center Drive, Los Angeles 90045, 3rd Floor. Discussion topics include: Résumé Building, Mock Interviewing, Application Forms, Placement Files, Letters of Recommendation, Self-Assessment, Gaining a Promotion and Search Consultants. Check-in time is 8:30 AM. Program begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM. The cost is \$25, which includes seminar materials, breakfast, and lunch. It is free for Pepperdine GSEP students and \$10 for Pepperdine Alumni. **Please RSVP to (310) 568-5662 or email**

<http://gsep.pepperdine.edu/news-events/events/superintendent-advisory-council/rsvp/>

Directions - <http://gsep.pepperdine.edu/welcome/locations/west-los-angeles/>

WONDER OF READING LIBRARY

In conjunction with Black History Month, **Coeur d'Alene Elementary School** (810 Coeur d'Alene Avenue, Venice 90291) will be joined by music luminaries and civic leaders to celebrate the opening of a new "Wonder of Reading" library on **Friday, February 20, 2009, at 10:00 AM**. The theme for the live jazz music dedication and grand opening ceremony for the new "Wonder of Reading" library will be **"Jazzed About Reading."** The new library features state-of-the-art computer technology, which was made possible by the generosity of the **Wonder of Reading Foundation**, **"Friends of Coeur d'Alene,"** the **Carol & James Collins Foundation**, the **Ahmanson Foundation**, the **Creative Artists Agency Foundation**, and LAUSD Board Member **Marlene Canter**. To RSVP call **Lola Williams** at Coeur d'Alene, **(310) 821-7813**.

THE "OBAMA EFFECT" ON SCHOOL TESTING

Researchers have documented a positive "Obama effect" in test-taking among blacks following his successful candidacy, according to *The New York Times*. Performance gaps between African Americans and whites on a 20-question test given before Mr. Obama's nomination "all but disappeared" when the exam was administered after his acceptance speech and again after the November election. Historically, an achievement gap between white and nonwhite students has surfaced on nearly every standardized test, and researchers in the last decade found that when testing university students with identical SAT scores, blacks performed significantly worse if asked at the start to fill out a form identifying themselves by race. The researchers concluded that anxiety caused black test-takers to tighten up in exams when they risked confirming a racial stereotype. **Ronald F. Ferguson**, a Harvard professor who studies the factors surrounding the persistent gap, called the study's results "provocative," despite its small sample: "There is certainly a theoretical foundation and some empirical support for the proposition that Obama's election could increase the sense of competence among African Americans, and it could reduce the anxiety associated with taking difficult test questions."

Read more: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/23/education/23gap.html?_r=1&ref=education

REMINDER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009 – **ACSA-R Region 16** Winter Luncheon will be held at Taix Restaurant, 1911 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles. The speaker will be **Sal Villasenor**, State ACSA Legislative Advocate on Retirement issues. For reservations, please send a check made payable to ACSA-R for \$20 to Dr. **Harriette Williams**, 6003 Wrightcrest Drive, Culver City, CA 90232. Please include your name, phone number, and menu choice of either fresh boneless trout almondine or roast top sirloin. **DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS FEBRUARY 20, 2009.**



NEW GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

RWJF: Communities Creating Healthy Environments

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Communities Creating Healthy Environments program aims to prevent childhood obesity by increasing access to healthy foods and safe places to play in communities of color. The program will advance RWJF's efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015 by supporting diverse, community-based organizations and federally chartered tribal nations in the development and implementation of effective, culturally competent policy initiatives to address childhood obesity at the local level. **Maximum award: \$250,000.** **Eligibility:** individuals and organizations with a track record of at least two years of successful community organizing and policy advocacy to address health-related problems in communities of color; leadership and membership of any applicant organization should reflect the communities they seek to serve, and youth-led organizing groups and community-based groups with youth-organizing components are encouraged to apply. For further eligibility guidelines, see website. **Deadline: February 26, 2009.**

http://rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/cfp_CCHE2009.pdf

U.S. Government: Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program

The federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program supports the implementation and enhancement of comprehensive, community-wide plans that focus on multiple elements, including safe school environments, mental health treatment services, and early childhood learning programs. Successful applicants propose plans that address these issues with a well-coordinated strategy that links services in a systematic and effective manner. **Maximum award: \$2 million.** **Eligibility:** school districts. **Deadline: March 4, 2009.**

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/dvpsafeschools/>

Questbridge: College Prep Program for High School Juniors

Questbridge, a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving high-achieving low-income students resources during the college application process, is accepting applications for its College Prep Program for High School Juniors. **Maximum award: full scholarship to summer program, college admissions counseling, and attendance at college preparatory conferences.** **Eligibility:** qualified low-income high school juniors. **Deadline: March 31, 2009.**

<http://www.questbridge.org/access/collegepreptext/>

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are among the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science and recognize highly qualified teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. **Maximum award: \$10,000.** **Eligibility:** teachers grades 7-12 with five years experience teaching math or science. **Deadline: May 1, 2009.**

<http://www.paemst.org/>

CONGRATULATIONS MASTER PROGRAM INSTITUTE GRADUATES

Gina Smith-DeVille, Director, Leadership Academy, and **Mike O'Sullivan**, President, AALA, presented completion certificates to twenty-one District staff members for successfully completing Series II of the Master Program Institute, a 40-hour intensive training program focused on the preparation of master schedules for middle and high schools. The graduates included the following: **Phyllis Baer**, Van Nuys HS; **August "Augie" Bakenhus**, Portola MS; **Angela Brathwaite**, Byrd HS Reconfiguration; **Leonard Choi**, Westchester HS; **Acquinetta Cook**, Westchester HS; **Luz Cortes**, Roosevelt HS; **Margaret C. Farrell**, Porter MS; **Alexis Flenorl**, Audubon MS; **Marco Garcia**, Drew MS; **Andrea Goodwin**, Venice HS; **Janet Kiddoo**, Federal & State Education Programs; **Melodee Lydon**, Gardena HS; **Regina Marquez-Martinez**, East Valley HS; **Tony Moreno**, West Adams HS; **John Ralles**, Federal & State Education Programs; **Antonio Reveles**, Bell HS; **Kimberly Sapper**, Wilmington MS; **George Segura**, West Adams Prep.; **Karen Swan**, Gompers MS; **Javier Tapia**, Orthopaedic Hospital Medical Magnet HS; and **Colin Wangila**, Lincoln HS. The Institute facilitator was **Aminika Readeux**, Coordinator, Leadership Academy. She was assisted by **Jim Bryan**, **Maggie Connelly**, **Robin Day**, **Lew McCammon**, **Judi O'Sullivan**, **Jane Pollock**, **Rose Rao**, **Julie Ronquillo**, and **Carolyn Woo**, APSCS mentors; **Shelley Loftus**, School Improvement Facilitator, Local District 2: and **Cindy Cordova**, Secondary Coordinator, Local District 5. **Penny Brown**, **Desdra Butler**, **Dana Perryman**, and **Lynn Williams**, Leadership Academy Coordinators, and **Chris Mendez**, ITAF, provided invaluable support. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

NOTE: Series III of the Master Program Institute is scheduled for March 4 - April 1. Applications are now being accepted for it. Deadline for applying is Friday, February 13. Contact **Aminika Readeux** at 213.241.6608 or aminika.readeux@lausd.net with questions regarding the Institute.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

**"Security is mostly superstition.
It does not exist in nature,
nor do the children of men as a whole experience it.
Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure.
Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing."**

| **Helen Keller**

ENROLLMENT FORECAST 2009 -- NEW PROCESS -- REPLACEMENT FOR ENROLLMENT ROADSHOW

In the Spring of each year, the District has held Enrollment Roadshow meetings with principals as the first step in planning for the new school year. This year, the Spring Enrollment Roadshow process has been changed. The new process is called Enrollment Forecast 2009. Principals will no longer attend Roadshow meetings. Enrollment estimates will be mailed to schools on February 27, and principals will be required to return documents via fax. For more information please see Memorandum No. 4642 titled "2009 Enrollment Forecast Information." Many Local Districts will be offering a workshop to review the packet contents. Attendance is voluntary. Please contact your Local District administrative office for information on date, time, and location.

TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEMS MERIT A D-PLUS, NATIONALLY

A new study indicates that states are failing to remove bad teachers, according to *The Associated Press*. The 2008 State Teacher Policy Yearbook, just released by the National Council on Teacher Quality, found that **only Iowa and New Mexico** require any evidence that public school teachers are effective before granting tenure, and nearly every state in the country lets public school teachers earn tenure in three years or less. While tenure does not guarantee job security, it makes removal of teachers much harder, requiring due process and a demonstration of just cause. **Only 13 states say that teachers who get multiple bad reviews can be fired, and only 26 states put teachers on an improvement plan after one bad review.** The National Education Association, the biggest teacher union in the country, said in response that job protections shouldn't be blamed for retaining bad teachers, and that teacher firing should be part of a broad evaluation and support system developed in cooperation with teachers, either through unions or teacher groups. States were given letter grades in the study and averaged a D-plus. The highest overall mark, a B-minus, went to South Carolina, which requires two annual evaluations of new teachers. All other states earned Cs or worse.

Read more:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jNNacuhEXsSnk5r4JrH3ML1G2KdQD960MLPO0>

See the report: <http://www.nctq.org/stpy08/>