

UPDATE

Week of January 4, 2010

HAPPY 2010!

We live in tumultuous times. While we educators tend to be optimistic by nature and are accustomed to solving numerous problems every day, we must face the fact that hard economic times for education will continue in 2010. This budget crisis is not of our making, yet we have to deal with its fallout.

If you've skimmed the headlines lately, it's been apparent that California's financial crisis has persisted longer than it has in much of the rest of the country. Unemployment rates are high; essential services have been slashed. Public education at all levels is facing unprecedented cuts. Many would argue that underlying our ongoing problems is the advent of Proposition 13 in 1978, which resulted in school finance decisions being shifted to the State legislature. Add to that the fact that a 2/3 majority is required for the legislature to approve any budget and the current poor economy, you have the proverbial "perfect storm." When public education finds itself in competition for funding with prisons, social services for elderly residents and children's healthcare, nobody wins—least of all the families we serve.

Despite our State's miserable economy, administrators soldier on, holding the District and schools together, in the face of recent personnel cuts, bigger workloads, potential salary reductions and lack of support from our own District. We keep on going because we are committed to transforming lives and serving our communities. Many of us know from our own family histories that education has improved the lives of millions of immigrants, giving them life-changing opportunities and bringing them into the middle class. We also know that education benefits every single resident, whether they have children or not.

On behalf of all Californians, AALA thanks you for the important work you do every day. We know how hard it is to do the job with fewer resources and decreasing support. We are fully aware of the daily challenges you face, but celebrate with you the profound impact you have on the lives of students and their families. At least, let's hang on another year or two and hope that California's fiscal condition improves. Happy 2010 to all!

Correction: In the December 17, 2009, issue of *Update*, an error slipped past our usually alert editors. We wrote that the Superintendent is asking employees to accept \$12 million in pay cuts for 2010-2011. We, of course, meant to write that he is asking employees to accept a 12% pay cut next year. We apologize for the error and resolve to improve our editing practices during 2010!

APEIS Survey

We are in the process of analyzing the results of last month's APEIS Survey. Look for details in an upcoming issue of *Update*.

NEWS & NOTES

STRS–Full Year of Service Credit:

Many AALA Members have called with concerns about whether or not they would receive a full year of STRS service if the District and AALA negotiate the implementation of furlough days for the 2009-2010 school year. No agreement on furlough days has yet been made. Superintendent **Ramon Cortines** and Chief Operating Officer, **Jim Morris**, have assured AALA leadership that the District will communicate to the State and STRS that the total days for 2009-2010, be they fewer than 180, would be counted as a full year, and furlough days will not have a negative impact on retirement.

Negotiations:

The AALA negotiating team and the District continue to meet on a weekly basis. Progress is slow and no agreements have been reached. We will keep you informed as negotiations progress.

AALA and District Professional Development:

AALA leadership and Superintendent Cortines have agreed in concept to collaborate on professional development training for AALA Members. More on this subject as meetings with District staff progress. Potential subjects include interpreting bargaining unit contracts, staff evaluation and the training of potential APSCS candidates.

Local School Sites–Restrictions on Reimbursement for Refreshments:

At a meeting with Superintendent Cortines on January 4, 2010, AALA staff raised the concern of principals that the District needs to lift the restrictions on the ability of principals to gain reimbursements for light refreshments served at site meetings. Superintendent Cortines indicated that principals should seek a waiver from their Local District Superintendents.

Leadership Sensitivity to Middle Managers:

On December 21, 2009, AALA staff pointed out to the Chief Academic Officer, Dr. **Judy Elliott**, that she created hard feelings in an “Instructional Update” memo to Superintendent Cortines, which stated that the District should get rid of middle managers. Dr. Elliott indicated that this was not her intent and that she will explain what she meant. AALA’s staff pointed out that there is a need for a greater degree of objectivity and sensitivity to all middle managers in these extraordinary times.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Name	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Mirta A. McKay	Saturday, January 30, 2010 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Fanta Sea Yacht Club 4215 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey	Susy Blair srb5090@lausd.net

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS UNDER ADMINISTERED

Compared to national standards, California's schools are woefully under administered. Nationally, there is one school-site administrator for every 295 students.

In California, there is one administrator for every 468 students—nearly 60 percent above the national average. For district-level administrators nationally, there is one for every 761 students; in California, the ratio is 1 to 2,366. **Compared to the national average, California has an astonishing 1,605 more students per district-level administrator.**

Politicians like to describe administration as "fat" or "bloat" that just "takes money away from the classroom." The fact is, administration provides important functions that have a direct impact on what happens in the classroom. Administrators are needed to observe, evaluate, and mentor teachers to improve the quality of instruction. Administrators evaluate student performance and program effectiveness in order to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan appropriate improvements.

Decision-makers from President **Barack Obama** and Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** on down have stressed the importance of increasing and improving the use of data in schools to effectively assess student, teacher, and school performance. It is the administrator who designs and implements data collection systems and uses the information provided for program improvement. **Just as in private business, administration is essential to quality control and improvement.**

Having too few administrators to fulfill these vital functions is a major impediment to achieving the quality improvements that California expects of and deserves from their schools.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 2010 LAUSD Academic Decathlon competition, the 29th annual, will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010, and Saturday, February 6, 2010, at Roybal Learning Center, 1200 West Colton Street, Los Angeles 90026. Past support by administrators and teachers, **elementary, middle, and high school**, for this competition has been outstanding, and that support is needed again this year, especially on the first date, January 30, for the Speech, Interview and Essay events. Volunteer applications are available at all participating high schools, Local District offices, and at www.acadecala.net. Contact **Cliff Ker**, Academic Decathlon Coordinator, at 818.654.3714 or at cliff.ker@lausd.net if you have any questions.

Special Request for Retired Administrators: Readers are needed to score the student essays on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Beaudry, 25th Floor. If you have questions regarding this request or can help read the essays, please contact Cliff Ker at the numbers above. Validated parking will be available in the Visconti garage.

URBAN SCHOOL LEADERS: *Learn, Lead, Inspire*

California State University, Dominguez Hills and LAUSD invite you to an Information Meeting for the organization of cohorts to complete the Urban School Leaders (USL) program, which leads to the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential (Tier I).

- Earn an administrative credential in 2 semesters starting Fall 2010
- Obtain a Master's Degree in educational administration
- Benefit from a tuition-defraying stipend for successful candidates
- Take advantage of a blended program of online and traditional classes
- Participate in field experiences, university, and nonuniversity-sponsored activities, seminars, independent reading, and reflective practice
- Be part of an extraordinary network of Urban School Leaders

For further information, please attend one of the Information Meetings below, or go to the EAD website at www.csudh.edu/coe/ead or contact:

Dr. Ann Chlebicki	achlebicki@csudh.edu	310.243.2517
Dr. Joseph Scollo	jscollo@csudh.edu	310.243.1063
Judy Radeke	judy.radeke@csudh.edu	310.243.3524

Information Meetings

<u>LD</u>	<u>Day/Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
5	Wednesday, February 17	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	LD 5 Admin. Offices – Saldivar Rm.
6	Thursday, February 18	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	LD 6 Admin. Offices – 3 rd Floor
7	Wednesday, February 10	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Bethune MS – Room D1
8	Thursday, February 11	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Sellery Sp. Ed. Center – Auditorium 2

SPACE AVAILABLE IN CSUN SPRING TIER II PROGRAM

California State University, Northridge, still has space in its one semester, 12 unit, Tier II program for administrators working to clear their Administrative Credential, as well as administrators who have been displaced from their administrative positions.

The CSUN program is a hybrid, with five face-to-face class sessions, and all other work completed online. The dates for the five classes are as follows:

February 1	April 19
February 22	May 3
March 15	

The five class sessions will be held at Helen Bernstein High School and will run from 4:30–9:30 p.m. For additional information, contact the CSUN Educational Leadership & Policy Studies Office at 818.677.2591 or Graduate Advisor Debbie Leidner at debbie.leidner@csun.edu or 818.677.2528.

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

Pillar, a partnership between the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles Unified School District, invites you to participate in **Principal for a Day** on **February 19, 2010**. Principal for a Day (PFAD) provides local business executives the opportunity to experience a typical day as an administrator and educator and encourages them to begin thinking about how they can help students be better prepared for college and the workforce.

This program has become a tremendous success over the past decade, drawing thousands of participants from the Los Angeles business and education communities, and generating a great deal of public attention and media coverage. It helps to deepen the business community's appreciation for your work and lays the foundation for building strong partnerships with you and your school.

In addition to becoming principals at all school levels, the business community will be challenged to become Small Learning Community (SLC) administrators or lead teachers in our high schools during PFAD. It is our hope that these pairings will lead to business-education partnerships that pave the way for students to participate in work-based learning opportunities such as job shadowing, mentoring, and internships to bring the thematic SLC content to life. If you are a high school principal, please share this information with your SLC administrators and lead teachers and encourage them to participate.

Following the busy Principal for a Day school-site experience on February 19, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and LAUSD will host a luncheon to honor PFAD executives, principals, SLC administrators and lead teachers. Los Angeles Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa** and other special guests and dignitaries have been invited to attend.

Additionally, on a mutually agreed upon date this spring, many of our participating businesses will welcome you to become **Executive for a Day** (EFAD). You will shadow a business or community leader to gain insight into a particular industry and learn about its day-to-day operations. Many principals have discovered that participation in EFAD is a way to solidify a relationship initiated during Principal for a Day activities.

Please visit www.lachamber.com/pfad for more information and to **register by January 22, 2010**. If you have further questions, please contact **Paola Santana** at 213.580.7553 or psantana@lachamber.com.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010 – **The PDK-USC Chapter** will host its Annual Emery Stoops Lecture Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (Social Hour at 5:00 p.m.), USC University Club (formerly the Faculty Center). Guest speakers will be Dr. **Angel Barrett**, California 2009 National Distinguished Principal, and Dr. **Karen Symms Gallagher**, Dean, USC Rossier School of Education. Cost is \$40. For questions and reservations contact **Teresa Miller** at TeacherTMM@aol.com.

JOB POSTING

NONDISTRICT POSITION —

PILOT SCHOOLS DIRECTOR — The Center for Collaborative Education (CCE) is seeking a qualified candidate to be the Los Angeles Pilot Schools Director, to work with a coalition of partner organizations to create and support up to thirty small Pilot schools within LAUSD. This is a full-time position. There are currently nine LAUSD Pilot schools in operation with an agreement to start another twenty-one schools over the coming two years.

CCE provides assistance to the Los Angeles Pilot Schools initiative alongside the Los Angeles Small Schools Center (LASSC), providing schools with coaching, network-wide professional development, district advocacy, community organizing, and research and evaluation.

The Los Angeles Pilot Schools Director will be responsible for coordinating DDE's work on launching and supporting LAUSD Pilot schools. Salary and benefits are competitive. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and résumé to **A. Pratt**, Center for Collaborative Education, at apratt@ccebos.org by **February 12, 2010**.

**THREE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR
THRIVING REFORM**

Forty percent of students at Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles are still learning English, and 20 percent live in foster homes, but under the stewardship of MLA Partners Schools, a renewal is underway -- "a glimmer of hope" in the struggling Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), writes **Sandy Banks** in the *Los Angeles Times*. MLA founder **Mike McGalliard** has raised an extra \$400 per student from private sources to fund both grants for teachers and a 12-hour school day. The 100-year-old building now has a drop-in center where 9th-graders can talk to counselors about personal or school problems, a hallway with murals created by "would-be graffiti-artists," and a community garden where there once was a dumping ground for trash. MLA Partners isn't "doing some secret formula," McGalliard said. "My staff takes things that other schools think about but can't do" because of bureaucracy. A third of Manual Arts' teaching staff are alumni and grew up in the neighborhood, and its faculty is a mix of veterans and rookies with an openness to collaboration. "It's too soon to tell whether McGalliard's group has it right," says Sandy Banks. "But they understand that three things are necessary for reform to thrive: investment, accountability, and support."

Read more: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-banks10-2009dec10,0,6997257.column?page=1>

HOLD THE DATE!

ACSA REGION 16 and AALA are proud to host an Educational Forum with the candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Thursday, January 21, 2010, 5:00-8:00 p.m.,

at Los Angeles Central Area High School #9 (Visual and Performing Arts), 450 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles. Additional supporting organizations include the Los Angeles School Police Association, Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, Teamsters, UTLA, Association of Mexican American Educators, and Council of Mexican American Administrators

**OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR GROUP
LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE**

AALA has scheduled an Open Enrollment for the Group Long Term Care Insurance Plan. This insurance will help AALA members and their families meet the high cost of care received either at home or in a facility.

The Open Enrollment period begins on January 15, 2010, and ends on February 28, 2010. AALA has approved the group Long Term Care Insurance through UNUM Insurance Company of America, and marketed by Specialist in Long Term Care Insurance Services, Inc. The insurance is flexible and can be tailored to fit specific needs.

To receive more information about the Long Term Care insurance program, call 800.764.6585 or send an e-mail to info@specialistsinlongtermcare.com or visit www.unum.com/enroll/aala.

IN MEMORIAM

ELEANOR LEO – Former Legislative Analyst, Office of Government Relations, and District Representative at the State Board of Education. She retired in December 2000 and passed away on December 21, 2009.

CAROLYN BOHM – Former Principal of White Middle School and Assistant Principal of Fleming Middle School, Banning and Narbonne high schools. She retired in 1994 and passed away on December 23, 2009.

AALA MEMBERSHIP/ACCESS SAVINGS CARD

The AALA Membership/Access Savings Card expired on December 31, 2009. At this time, AALA does not plan to renew the card due to the lack of use of the card by AALA members. AALA paid a monthly fee to maintain the use of the Access Website for the membership to view participating merchants and receive promotional e-mails from Access. In order to renew the card, AALA would have to enter into another contract with Access and incur the expense of Access printing all new personalized cards for the entire membership, active and retired, and the fee for Access to mail the cards (postage/envelopes/labor). AALA is currently looking into another card for membership discounts.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Minimum Qualifications: Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements have been met. Do not contact AALA for information regarding positions. Use the listed contact phone number.

***EXTENDED/REQUIRED LEARNING ACADEMY ADMINISTRATOR
(Temp. Adv., MST 40, A Basis)***

Garfield High School (5), 5101 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90022
Garfield is a YR Concept 6 school (subject to change in 2010 school year). For information and application procedures contact **Cristopher Ziegel**, Interim Assistant Superintendent, at 323.224.3190. **Filing deadline is Friday, January 15, 2010.**

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW IN THEIR ENTIRETY BY GOING TO THE AALA WEBSITE, <http://www.aalausd.com>. BY CLICKING ON “POSITIONS AVAILABLE” TO THE LEFT OF THE SCREEN, YOU CAN SELECT NONSCHOOL-BASED POSITIONS AND CLICK ON ANY POSITION TO VIEW THE SPECIFIC FLYER.

POSITION	FILING DEADLINE
DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL OVERSIGHT, MST 45, B Basis, Charter Schools Division. For information and application procedures contact Aaron Eairleywine , Central Business Advisor, at 213.241.5516	UNTIL FILLED
COORDINATOR, CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION, MST 41, B Basis, Charter Schools Division. For information and application procedures contact Aaron Eairleywine , Central Business Advisor, at 213.241.5516	UNTIL FILLED