



Montebello Unified School District Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Initiative

Upcoming Activities

December 2	School Site Coordinators Meeting
December 7	Element Working Group Meeting
December 9	ATOD Coordinator Meeting
January 13	Parent Workshop – 40 DAs

Take a Second, Make a Difference

December 2009 Newsletter

It Was All About Training The Trainers

47 middle school students and 12 adult leaders from seven M.U.S.D. schools gathered at the DePaul Conference Center in Montebello on November 12th and 13th to learn how to train their peers to make a difference. It was a tall order, but facilitator Paul Sulley, deftly took the students and teachers through a model of what it means to Take a Second, Make a Difference: Challenging Students and Staff to be Kind, Caring and Connected. And by the time the trainers-to-be left the 2-day training session, they were visibly pumped up and eager to take the lessons back to their schools.



The main objectives of the training sessions were to introduce the trainees to the concepts of striving to be (1) a more kind, caring and encouraging person; (2) to improve relationships with all students within their school; and (3) to promote a more supportive, caring and connected school. In other words, these 47 students were challenged to do the right thing and walk the talk.

Other objectives were to mobilize and empower young people to promote other positive social norms of inclusion, respect and common courtesy in their respective schools. Trainees also were introduced to the 40 Developmental Assets program with particular emphasis on the

“Montebello Five” which are those assets the District has identified to be key to fostering good relationships and attitudes. They are: (1) Other Adult Relationships; (2) Caring School Climate; (3) School Safety; (4) School Engagement & Participation; (5) Bonding to School.

At the conclusion of the training, participants were asked to make a formal commitment to be a more positive force within their schools by writing a Commitment to My School with at least 7 things that they can and will do to make a difference.

Utilizing empathetic student leaders to train their classmates is an extremely empowering strategy that not only benefits future participants, but also gives the student trainers confidence and immense satisfaction. All participants agreed that great energy, respect and caring were brought to the event.

The administrative support of Michael Ladjevic, Mike Cobarrubias and Bev Cohen ensured well-organized sessions with stimulating materials. Additional thanks to Paul Sulley for his efforts in making the training understandable, interesting and inspiring. Paul is a former classroom teacher and has over 20 years of experience in the field of positive youth development. He is the author of two books dealing with safe schools and promoting caring climates within schools. He offers training models across the country and has had a close working relationship with the District for many years, bringing his professionalism and expertise to countless students and teachers. Also many thanks to the 47 students and 12 teachers who took the time, interest and commitment to learn how they can take an attitude of caring, kindness and connection back to their schools. And they will indeed make a difference.

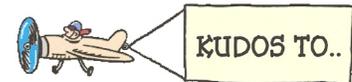
For additional information

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Montebello Five

1. Asset #3-Other adult relationships
2. Asset #5-Caring school climate
3. Asset #10-School Safety
4. Asset #22-School Engagement & Participation
5. Asset #24-Bonding to School



Carol Juarez, After-School/Mentoring Liaison

After School Programs is one of the most important aspects of the District's student outreach efforts. For many students and staff, their school day isn't over when the last class bell rings. The district is now expanding its already successful after school programs to reach an even greater number of children to enrich their learning experience and give safe shelter following the regular school day. Special recognition this month goes to Carol Juarez.

Carol has been with MUSD over 3 years as an Extended Learning Opportunity Site Specialist providing homework assistance and enrichment activities for students at Schurr High School. Many of those activities include: soccer, robotics, folklorico, and recreational pursuits. As the After-School/Mentoring Liaison for Adolfo Herrera, under the SS/HS Grant Initiative, Ms. Juarez will also be responsible for all District marketing materials and dissemination of information on the after-school programs.

Student participation is crucial to the success of the extracurricular aspects of the after-school program and Carol brings her good judgment and communication skills into the newly expanded program. Her enthusiasm and dedication to the program also gives her an edge when it comes recruiting students and credentialed staff.

On the personal side, this busy woman is married to her high school sweetheart and is the proud mom to three children who range from a college freshman to a fourth grader!

To unwind, Carol says she loves to read or engage in journaling. A favorite pastime is the faithfully adhered to Family Night board games. This family that stays together also plays around at the beach and many other outdoor activities.

Our District is happy to have Carol Juarez on board as a member of the team that will bring greater opportunities and mentoring to our kids....after that last bell rings.

