

Collaborating For College Success

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Name	Monique Sosa Allard, Ed.D.
Title/Position	Director, Student Services
Institution	California State University, Los Angeles
Department	Charter College of Education

Please list any collaborations and/or partnerships that you have now or have had in the last 5 years:

We collaborate with a variety of districts, community organizations, and other universities. The following are just a few districts, colleges, and other organizations with whom we collaborate: LAUSD, Alhambra Unified, San Gabriel Unified, El Monte Unified, Montebello Unified, Pasadena Unified, Whittier City Unified, Whittier Union Unified, Burbank Unified, Los Angeles County of Education, East Los Angeles Community College, Pasadena City College, Stern Math and Science School, El Centro de Ninos y Padres

Please provide a description of your department, program, school, district, and/or institution of higher education (e.g. size, demographics, programs, goals):

There are over 20,000 students enrolled at CSULA. More than half of the students are women. Approximately 45% are Hispanic, 20% are Asian, 10% are White, and 8% are African American. The student demographics of those enrolled in the Charter College of Education mirror the demographics of the university.

Mark with an "X" if you want to be a partner in these activities	Activities	Mark with an "X" if you have these activities and are looking for partners
X	Professional development for teachers	X
X	Mentoring/tutoring for students	X
X	Creating high achieving college-going environments in K-12 schools	X
X	Developing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum	X
X	Engagement with parents	X
X	Leadership development for administrators and/or aspiring administrators	X
X	Assistance in data analysis and evaluation	
	Recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers	
X	Assistance in working with low performing schools	X
X	Research	X
X	Engagement with community-based organizations	X
X	Use of technology in enabling student and teacher learning	X
	Cost of/financing of higher education	
X	School climate/safety	X
	Other – please fill in below:	



BUILDING

EDUCATIONAL

SUCCESS

THROUGH

COLLABORATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Why Partnerships?

Educational partnerships are an important tool for increasing the capacity of California's public schools to prepare all students for college. In fact, developing partnerships was identified by California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell's P-16 Council as one of 14 recommendations for closing the State's growing achievement gap. Partnerships provide a space for districts, higher education institutions, and community groups to bring together resources to promote college readiness and success for all students.

BEST Collaboration In LA County

Throughout Los Angeles County, school districts and institutions of higher education collaborate in order to advance educational opportunity, academic success, and college going for K-12 students. Established in 2005, the *BEST Collaboration in LA County* initiative builds a regional partnership of such collaborations so that they can learn from each other, avoid duplication and enhance synergy, band together when useful, and support new collaborations in order to improve K-12 public schools throughout

LA County. The initiative developed as a result of an agreement between the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) and the University of California (UC) to build P-16 alliances. It is currently governed by a steering committee that includes representatives from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Los Angeles Unified School District, Local District 7, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California.

Initiative Goals

The ultimate goal of *BEST Collaboration in LA County* is to increase the proportion of students, particularly those from under-represented groups, who earn a baccalaureate degree. *BEST* supports partnerships between K-12 schools and districts and institutions of higher education (IHEs) in their efforts to prepare middle and high school students for college.



Accomplishments

In the last three years, *BEST Collaboration in LA County* has hosted six daylong conferences for established K-12/IHE partnerships. Topics have included fostering strong partnerships, creating a college going culture, and engaging parents in this work. The conferences have been well received by participants who report learning from them. Participating partnerships involve four districts (Antelope Valley Union High School District, Centinela Valley Union High School District, Long Beach Unified School District, and Los Angeles Unified School District, Local District 7) and five higher education institutions (Antelope Valley College, Long Beach City College, California State University, Long Beach, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California). *BEST* has also conducted a survey of K-12 districts to learn about existing partnerships and desired new collaborations. A similar survey of higher education institutions is underway now. Resource guides based on conference activities and materials, conference evaluations, and K-12 survey results are all available online at <http://apep-bestla.gesis.ucla.edu/>.

Next Steps

BEST Collaboration in LA County would like to involve more K-12/IHE partnerships in shared, sustained work, following the model already established. To do so, it is first hosting a get together for all K-12 districts and higher education institutions in Los Angeles County in order to identify potential participants in *BEST*'s work (more below). They will join current *BEST* partnerships in an 18-month commitment to participate as a team in three *BEST* conferences and to address self-identified goals from each conference in the intervening months. On the data-gathering front, the survey of higher education institutions' current and desired collaborations with K-12 districts will be completed and results will be shared widely.

The Fall 2008 Conference

To be held at LACOE on November 19, 2008 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, this event is intended for both existing partnerships seeking to improve upon and expand their current work and also those school districts and higher education institutions interested in developing new collaborations. Patricia Gándara and Gary Orfield, co-directors of the Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles, will be the featured speakers, a panel of K-12 superintendents and higher education leaders will discuss their collaborations, and there will be ample opportunities to seek out new collaborations and renew current collaborations. District Superintendents and/or senior district officials are invited to attend, as are IHE representatives with a working knowledge of the university/college resources available for collaborations preparing K-12 students for college.

For More Information

Please contact Bryan C. Ventura at bventura@ucla.edu for additional information about joining the *BEST Collaboration in LA County* and registering for the November 19th conference.
