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GRADUATION A WAY IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

The San Bernardino School District was involved in eight graduating exercises with 2,933 students receiving high school diplomas.

PREPARING TO GRADUATE-2016

Educators are aware that young students nowadays must be proficient in reading ability at third grade level to academically progress at the secondary level.

Being cognizant of this teaching concept, Riley School third grade teacher Pete Villalobos started the First Annual Spelling Bee Challenge. He challenged his third grade students to learn words from their vocabulary and spelling to win prizes that included portable gaming device and MP3 players. The school staff and members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino donated funds for the prizes. Sixty third grade students were final contestants on June 14 at the school’s multipurpose room with parents supporting their siblings.

After a lengthy elimination of contestants, Quang Li from Ms. Annie Truong’s class won first place; Christian Vasquez from Ms. Maria Busselle’s class won second place; and Christian Valenzuela from Mr. Villalobos’ class came in third place. Mr. Villalobos plans to expand the annual spelling contest. The ultimate goals are to have students participate in the regional and state spelling bees, and in five years to be in the Scripts National Bee in Washington, D.C.!

OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE HIGH EDUCATIONAL DEGREES

See article on page 2

Francisco B. Miranda began his college education in 1994, receiving various education degrees, finalizing in receiving a Ph.D in Organizational Leadership from the University of La Verne. His dissertation: Job satisfaction of chief business officials in low wealth/high wealth school districts in California. Miranda is vice principal at Ramona-Alejandro Elementary School in San Bernardino.

Ladan Ask struggled for years in study and work to fulfill her dream, and received a Ph.D in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University. Her dissertation: Medical Board of California and the challenge by public interest law advocates. Ask is currently professor at Riverside Community College.

Sarah Gonzales overcame obstacles with support from teachers and family to graduate from adult school.

Shannel McDowell thanks counselors, personal friends and community agencies for aiding in successfully graduating from adult school.

This was the scene at the San Bernardino Adult School’s Annual Commencement Ceremonies where board of education board members and education officials spoke of hardships for many students and motivation to achieve major educational steps to advance into

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OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE HIGH EDUCATIONAL DEGREES

Ladan Ask and Francisco B. Miranda recently received Ph. Degrees at Claremont Graduate University and the University of La Verne, respectively. Both recipients have worked diligently for a number of years in progressively acquiring education degrees toward their career goals. The two educators and community activists have reached the pinnacle of their educational careers and are dedicated to apply their expertise, energies and commitment toward the profession of educating our young students, and admired as role models by the education profession, associates and community.

Ladan Ask, Ed. D

Dr. Ladan Ask received a B.A. from Southernwestern Union College, Texas, with a major in mathematics and minor in economics; an M.P.H. from Loma Linda University, with majors in health education and nutrition; and Ph.D. in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University.

Dr. Ladan professional experience includes: contract legal interpreter in the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino; assistant registrar at Loma Linda University; San Bernardino County Department of Public Health as a health education specialist, and project coordinator for IMPACT; and currently professor of Political Science at Riverside Community College.

Dr. Ladan is a member of SOPHE, American Public Health Association and Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino.

Francisco B. Miranda, Ed. D.

Dr. Francisco B. Miranda received a B.S. Degree in Business Administration, with an emphasis in finance, real estate and law; an M.Ed. Cross Cultural Teaching from National University, San Bernardino with multiple subject teaching credential; Mathematics Supplemental and Administrative Services Credential Tier I from Cal-Poly University, Pomona; and Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from the University of La Verne.

Dr. Miranda professional experience: Behavioral Modification Aide, Rowland School District; district manager, ADP, Rancho Cucamonga; math teacher, Marshall Middle School and Simons Middle School, Pomona; vice principal, Arrowview Middle School, Serrano Middle School, and Ramona-Alessandro Elementary School, San Bernardino.

His education-related experiences include certificated and classified evaluations, coordinated STAR testing, lead discipline team in developing new system, supported ELL using SDAIE instruction, and worked with emotionally disturbed/blind/migrant/RSP students.

Other activities include: Parent Institute, assisted in parent conference, coached football/basketball teams, MESA advisor, developed on-line teaching strategies/standard based lesson plans (assisted), lead model team in new discipline program, and myriad of education and community related programs and activities.

Dr. Miranda is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, Mexican-American Educators Association, and California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators.
Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, announced the 2008 Riverside County Teachers of the Year: Tim Hively, Agricultural Science, Norte Vista High School, Alvord Unified School District; Scott Lockman, AVID, Ramona High School, Riverside Unified School District; and Monica Murillo, AVID, Sociology, English 3, Desert Mirage High School, Coachella Valley Unified School District.

The nominees will represent more than 20,000 teachers from Riverside County’s 23 local school districts in the 2008 California Teacher of the Year competition. Winners are typically announced in November. Five state winners will be chosen. One of the state winners will enter the 2008 California Teacher of the Year for the National Yearbook. Nominators said, “Tim’s success is made up, it is hard to change them. From Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me). Copyright 2007 by Carol Tavris and Elliot Aronson. Published by Harcourt Inc.

Scott Lockman is an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teacher at Ramona High School in the Riverside Unified School District. He has been a teacher for 18 years, five at Ramona High School. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in business from Cal State Fullerton and master’s degree in Theology. He is a mentor for AVID coordinators in Riverside Unified, was selected to the Riverside Unified Counseling Leadership Team, and has taught new AVID teachers at the AVID National Institute in San Diego. His AVID program has been designated as a National Demonstration Site for the last 10 years, and is on the cover of the AVID National Yearbook. Nominators said, he “is a teacher who promotes the idea that all students can go to college, his commitment to that vision with his staff and the Ramona community, and the excellence and compassion he brings to this role in his service to students, all make him an outstanding candidate for this honor.”

Monica Murillo is an AVID, Sociology and English 3 teacher at Desert Mirage High School in the Coachella Valley Unified School District. She has taught for four years, all of them at Desert Mirage. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Pitzer College and her credential from Chapman University. She is a member of the Coachella Valley Teachers Association, California Teachers Association and National Education Association. She is an AVID coordinator, mentor teacher, and department chair. Nominators said, “Monica Murillo is totally committed to the success of our students through her efforts on their behalf. All 29 of her senior AVID students were accepted into universities this year. She worked tirelessly for them in securing scholarships. She has very good skills in working with all segments of our school community along with great professional skills in teaching.”

Winners are chosen by a committee, which includes former Teachers of the Year. The selection is based on information from nominators and site visits. Locally, the 2008 Riverside County Teachers of the Year will be honored with administrators, confidential and classified employees next May at the Celebrating Educators event held in Riverside.
RIVERSIDE, CA. - UC Riverside graduates 64 percent of its students in six years, and it doesn't matter whether they are rich or poor. That fact is remarkable when compared to some other universities, where low-income students lag 20 percentage points behind their wealthier classmates.

It is so remarkable, that USA Today on June 6 published an opinion piece that points out UC Riverside's success with students who qualify for federal Pell Grants.

"The knee-jerk explanation — that Riverside must succeed by limiting the number of poor and minority students admitted — is wrong. Riverside is very diverse, especially with Latino students, and 45% of its students receive federal Pell grants for poor students," wrote opinion editor Richard Whitmire in the USA Today issue of June 6. "The real answer emerges from a study recently released by the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education: Riverside treats students differently. Incoming freshmen get year-long orientation sessions that reach out to low-income students who are the first in their family to attend colleges. Those students get offered extra sessions by professors. A special campus center is devoted to encouraging minority students to take on math and science majors. In short, the university pays a whole lot of attention to solving the problem.

"The solution — raising retention rates is not to raise admission standards," says report co-author and Pell Institute Director Colleen O'Brien. "But to be successful at helping students graduate requires a commitment of resources, energy and leadership throughout the campus and a clear understanding of the students who are the targets of your efforts."

That understanding of student needs is frequently absent, says O'Brien, who, with co-author Jennifer Engle, led the study of 14 public universities. When colleges and universities don't understand the academic, financial, cultural and social barriers students face, they invest in retention without sufficient impact.

Moreover, many institutions don't even know how their low-income students are faring because they only calculate overall retention rates. "Demography is not Destiny" documents research conducted by the Pell Institute on public universities with relatively high numbers of federal Pell Grant recipients, an indicator of low-income students served. Researchers predicted each institution's graduation rates based on a number of factors, including the academic quality of the incoming students and the economic diversity of the student body. It turns out that some of the institutions were performing better than expected in terms of graduation rates, despite serving academically and demographically diverse student populations, while others were performing below expectations.

Higher performing institutions helped students succeed by: Personalizing the undergraduate experience by making early contact with students in first-year programs, closely monitoring student progress through advising, "reducing" class size through supplemental instruction, and providing individualized support in special programs. Rewarding the teaching mission by recruiting and retaining faculty through promotion and tenure for supporting it. Rewarding faculty through promotion and tenure for supporting it. Rewarding faculty through promotion and tenure for supporting it. Rewarding faculty through promotion and tenure for supporting it.

Creating a shared sense of community by promoting student involvement even at largely commuter campuses. Developing an institutional culture that promotes success with strong leadership, clear goals and commitment of resources.

"To ensure success for all of their students, institutions have to find the needs of their low-income students in mind when putting these strategies into place," O'Brien said.

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND URGES CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS TO CO-SPONSOR BILL TO COVER 9 MILLION UNINSURED CHILDREN

WASHINGTON, DC - This week, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) called on Hispanic Members of Congress to join effort to provide health care to all children in America regardless of immigration status. In a letter sent to each member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, CDF president Marian Wright Edelman urged all 21 Hispanic members of Congress to join the 52 current co-sponsors of HR 1688, the All Healthy Children Act, which would provide health coverage for every child this year," said Edelman. "The All Healthy Children Act, a companion measure to pending legislation bill that will guarantee all medically necessary services to every child and pregnant woman in America regardless of immigration status. It is the moral responsibility of our Congress, our leaders, to make sure all of our children have a healthy start in life."

Three Members of the CHC have already signed on as co-sponsors of HR 1688, the All Healthy Children Act.
SAN BERNARDINO ADULT SCHOOL CONTINUES A TRADITION OF ANNUALLY GRADUATING GREAT NUMBERS OF STUDENTS

Continued from page 1

higher education for many of the graduates. Dr. Judy White, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, spoke in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, encouraged graduates to continue their education one step at a time.

Adult School Principal also spoke of graduates continuing their education, and overcoming everyday obstacles with the same courage and strength in achieving their present education.

Keynote speaker Sarah Gonzales, representing high school graduates, spoke of family issues, self-inflicted problems and attending several high and alternative schools and being kicked out, and finally enrolling in adult school.

Attending adult school was part of Gonzales’ solution; however, there were other home issues, deaths in the family and best friends, and striving on a daily basis to make a better life for herself.

“I am here tonight and I have a bright future. My plans are to become employed, continue my education at San Bernardino Valley College and become a paralegal,” she said.

Gonzales thanked Marcia Lewis for her time and help, and her mother who supported her through her ordeals. “She never gave up on me nor herself and special thanks to all of the friends and families that made it possible for all of these graduates to succeed.”

Gonzales received a Rochelle Campbell Scholarship and Inland Center Kiwanis. Shannel McDowell, representing GED graduates, stated, “I am at adult school because I had to overcome many barriers. My mother was a drug addict, neither she nor my dad were ever part of my life.”

McDowell said she was lucky to have a grandmother who raised her until she passed away; she then stayed with her sister and with friends. She became homeless with a child at 18 years of age, and then found refuge at Veronica’s Home.

McDowell determined to attend school and graduate, and not become a deadbeat mother for her daughter Aniya, stating, knowing she could succeed. “I was right and here I am as a graduate tonight. I am not finished yet. I will earn my Office Assistance Certificate this summer and enroll in San Bernardino Valley College to start on requirements to finally become a registered nurse,” she said.

She thanked Diane and Les Klenk, her mentors, Debra Olguin and the staff at Veronica’s Home, Mama Irene, Aniya’s grandmother, William Brown, employment specialist, and the adult school staff, including my counselors Coleen Hinkle and Marcia Lewis.

She addressed those who are not getting an education, and said, “Look how far I’ve come, from nothing to working, going to school, getting my apartment, and getting my GED and college. You can do it, too.”

McDowell received a Rotary Tools of the Trade (San Bernardino Sunset).

Adult classes includes high school graduation, GED, nurse assistant, medical assistant, barber, cosmetology, custodial, welding, bus driving, business office, child care, pharmacy tech., vocational nurse, meat cutters, brick mason, and English as a second language.

CHAVEZ ARTISTS WIN AWARDS

Recognition and congratulations were given by the San Bernardino School Board to seven Chavez Middle School students whose two-dimensional work won awards in the Inland Center District Art Show. Winners included Hanna Dimapilis, middle school best of show; Tiffany Rojo, first place in the 6th and 7th grad category; Ashley Schellhous, 1st place for 8th grade category; and Tiffany Rojo, Descentia Anderson, Steven Light, and Alejandro Soto, who received honorable mentions. Stephanie Cereceres is the principal.

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WE WILL NOT BE DIVIDED
By Cynthia McKinney, Black Agenda Report

Former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney served six terms in Georgia's Fourth District. This speech was delivered May 2, 2007 at the Los Angeles immigration rally, and reprinted in Black Agenda Report.

Two centuries ago, the United States, Latin America and Haiti were joined in the struggle for dignity and freedom. In 1779, when a fledgling United States was fighting for its independence, a unit of Haitian volunteers answered the call and fought alongside George Washington in the Battle of Savannah.

When Haiti threw off imperial domination, it helped Latin America to become free. In fact, Simon Bolivar received supplies from Haiti for his victorious war over Spanish imperialism while Venezuela’s first tri-color flag was unfurled on Haitian soil.

Enslaved Africans in the United States fled to freedom in Haiti—and also to Mexico. Black people and the diverse peoples of Latin America share a bond of blood and the struggle for freedom. Whether we are children of Bolivar or the children of la negra Hipolita, we are one.

However, a few cynical, greedy, amoral people who do not share our values but who have a whole lot of power want to divide and exploit us for their own selfish gain. We should never forget that Jesse Helms won reelection to the Senate on a notorious TV spot that pitted white workers against black workers. This tactic has always been used to keep labor divided.

We won’t let it happen! Slavery was abolished in this country in 1865. We won’t go back! Two hundred million people worldwide should not be forced to leave their families behind and head for developed countries because there are no decent jobs at home. Parents and children should not be separated because of global forces that workers don’t understand, but must respond to. I.C.E. agents shouldn’t be picking up people on the streets and holding them incommunicado as if this horrible global assault on human dignity was caused by them.

Our country can do better than this. U.S. policy should uplift workers abroad and at home. We should demand fairness for labor and respect for the environment in all of our trade agreements. U.S. corporations must be held accountable whenever they might operate in the world. We must demand a living wage. There must not be any race to the bottom.

By now, the new Congress should have repealed the Patriot Act, the Military Tribunals Act, the Secret Evidence Act and George Bush’s tax cuts. They should have ensured the right of return for all Katrina survivors; cut off all funding for George Bush’s wars; and they should have impeached Condi, Dick and George by now!

Sadly, the Democrats were too quiet on the theft of two Presidential elections, too quiet on the lies of September 11th; too quiet on the neocons misleading us into the Iraq War, and now they are too quiet on the carnage in Somalia and the possibility of using nukes in Iran.

After his shocking incompetence during Hurricane Katrina, why is Michael Chertoff still Secretary of Homeland Security?

Leaders in Washington, D.C. can change our disastrous military, economic, and foreign policies that contribute to the shape our country and world are in. What they do depends on us.

Between Democrats and Republicans in the corridors of power, the fix is in. Now is not the time to be quiet. We will not be quiet. We will not back down. We will not be divided! Our voices will be heard!
Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod has announced that applications for the homeowner and renter assistance will soon be available at the Montclair and San Bernardino District Offices. The state-funded program provides a once-a-year-payment to qualified individuals based on part of the property taxes assessed on the dwellings they own or rent. The filing period to apply for the assistance is between July 2 and October 15, 2007. For the 2007 claim year, the maximum amount of assistance an eligible homeowner may receive is $472.60; for renters, the amount is $347.50.

A homeowner may be eligible for assistance if he or she is a U.S. citizen, designated alien or qualified alien when filing the claim and who met the following criteria on Dec. 31, 2006:
- Aged 62 or older, blind or disabled,
- Owned and lived in their own home, and
- Had a total household income of $42,770 or less.

Renters may be eligible for assistance if they are U.S. citizens, designated aliens or qualified aliens when filing their claim and who met the following criteria on Dec. 31, 2006:
- Aged 62 or older, blind or disabled,
- Lived in a qualified rented residence in California,
- Paid $50 or more per month for rent on that residence, and
- Had a total household income of $42,770 or less.

For applications contact the Montclair office at (909) 621-2783 or the San Bernardino office at (909) 381-3832. The forms can also be obtained by calling (800) 868-4171. Assistance is available both in English and Spanish.

NCLR APPLAUDS SENATE ON MOVING IMMIGRATION REFORM FORWARD AND WILL ENGAGE IN DEBATE ON IMPROVING SENATE BILL

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., applauded the vote by the U.S. Senate to move the immigration debate forward. NCLR has urged the Senate to pass the strongest bill possible for the 65,000 immigrant students who graduate from U.S. high schools each year who are currently barred from the opportunities that make higher education affordable— in-state tuition rates, state and federal grants and loans, most private scholarships, and the ability to legally work their way through college.

"Our community has also made it clear that we intend to address critical concerns in this legislation such as providing a path to citizenship for temporary workers and preserving the reunification of families as the cornerstone of our immigration laws," Murguía continued. "Now that this agreement has left the back room and is subject to the legislative process, we believe we will have opportunities to improve it in both the Senate and the House."

"The country is hungry for a policy that will work: Congress must turn this momentum into action and pass the best possible immigration reform."
PROSTATE TEST GETS A PASSING GRADE

Scientists at the Johns Hopkins University have developed a blood test for prostate cancer that appears to be much more precise than the standard PSA (prostate-specific-antigen) test.

Every year, 1.6 million men with high PSA levels have biopsies, some 80 percent turn out to be cancer-free. An initial report in April’s Urology indicates a false-positive rate of only 3 percent for the new test, which measures blood levels of the protein EPCA-2 (early prostate cancer antigen-2). The test could even indicate if a cancer has spread beyond the prostate.

Still, the dream, say Jonathan W. Simons, M.D., head of the Prostate Cancer Foundation, is for a test that will tell us if there’s any cancer left after treatment.

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PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Riverside Public Utilities and Southern California Edison invite you to attend a public open house to learn more about preferred transmission line routes selected as part of the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project.

Thursday, June 28, 2007
Riverside Municipal Airport Lobby
6951 Flight Road, Riverside, California
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The project would involve construction of new 230 and 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, upgrades to existing 69 kV substations, a new 230 kV substation, and a new 69 kV substation.

Visit www.riversidepublicutilities.com or call 951-710-5013 for more information.

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