

Center for Leadership Equity And Research



Recognizing the  
Acknowledgment Gap

# **CLEAR Newsletter**

## **Spring, 2013**

### **Together. Shaping the future.**

Welcome to the first edition of the CLEAR newsletter. The team at CLEAR has been working hard in the last few months to provide high quality programs and events focused on equity and mentoring for educators in the Central Valley and beyond. I invite you to read about CLEAR accomplishments, and please, put future events on your calendar.

Sincerely,

Ken Magdaleno



### **Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD) Summit-Live Webcast March 27, 2013**

Join Us!



CLEAR and Lozano Smith are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the College of Education at California State University, San Bernardino as a Town Hall Viewing Partner for their 4th Annual LEAD Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD) Summit.

This one-day summit was created for teaching professionals and educators, researchers, academics, scholars, administrators, independent writers and artists, policy and program specialists, students, parents, families, civic leaders, activists, and advocates. In short, those sharing a common interest and commitment to educational issues that impact Latinos. This one-day summit is free of cost.

**Sign up today.** email [nakhavan@clearvoz.com](mailto:nakhavan@clearvoz.com)

## Young Men's Alliance

CLEAR is proud of the middle school mentoring program that we, along with our partner Sodexo, support at Baird Middle School in Fresno Unified. The program has been a lifeline for a number of the boys at Baird who otherwise would not have the support so needed at this time in their lives. Grades are up and behavior is better. As always, there are challenges along the way but with the guidance of CLEAR Advisory Board Member, Ms. Valerie Martinez, who is an Assistant Principal at Baird...things are looking good and moving in a positive



direction.

We are very grateful to the sponsor of this project - **SODEXO**. Visit Sodexo at [www.sodexo.com](http://www.sodexo.com)

## 1st Annual Mentoring Summit

We are excited to share that the CLEAR 1st Annual Mentoring Summit was a great success. We would like to thank everyone who participated; panel members, presenters, and of course, our attendees. We are already in the planning process for this year's Annual Mentoring Summit and can't wait to see you all this fall.

## EL SOL

### Leadership Academy & Mentoring Program

CLEAR is fully engaged once again, in the development of another mentoring program. In September 2012, Cohort #1 of the Enhancing Latino Service-Oriented Leadership, Latino Leadership Academy (EL SOL Latino Leadership Academy) met for the first time.

The EL SOL Latino Leadership Academy is a two year mentoring program pairing protégés and mentors to help one another in the next phase of their leadership development. The goal of the program is to develop, support, and guide Latino role models for our children. This program provides Latino leaders with the tools, experiences, and networking opportunities to become change agents, inclusive leaders, and transformational Central Valley leaders.



## CLEAR and Middle School Mentoring by Ken Magdaleno

Somewhere between the nurturing atmosphere of elementary school and the business-like setting of high school lies the wonderful, challenging, and sometimes tumultuous world of middle school. Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell described it well when he stated:

"Middle grades can either be a time when students become discouraged and give up or become a springboard to life-long learning. These children experience swift physical, mental, and emotional changes that alter every aspect of their lives. The depth and breadth of this transformation require us to create the appropriate learning conditions and deliver a rigorous and relevant education that meets the needs of these young people."

And "no" educators...middle school and the adolescents that attend them will not go away if you just ignore them. ... Let me share a short story I found while researching middle schools... Recently, I was working with a school district in a nearby high-poverty area, when Tyrone, a 7th-grade student, said to me, "Don't ya know goin' to school here is like committing suicide by jumping out of a basement window?" Noticing my bewilderment, he went on, "You never heard that kids rise to teachers' expectations? They don't expect us to do anything in this school, so we don't rise." Wise beyond his years, and clearly having overheard an adult conversation, Tyrone pointed to one of the most important factors necessary to the success of all students--teachers' beliefs in students' capabilities. (Williams-Boyd, 2005)

As a former middle school teacher, assistant principal, and principal, I can vividly recall the response from students when they realized that an adult on campus recognized them as being valued and capable. I also recall the look on a student's face when he or she realized that the adult in question did not believe in him or her.

As Executive Director of the Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research, I am insistent that our leadership component include a support mechanism for middle school mentoring. Middle school is an extremely important, yet sometimes overlooked, level of the educational system. CLEAR is proud of the middle school mentoring program that we, along with our partner Sodexo, support at Baird Middle School in Fresno Unified. The program has been a lifeline for a number of the boys at Baird who otherwise would not have the support so needed at this time in their lives. Grades are up and behavior is better. As always, there are challenges along the way but with the guidance of CLEAR Advisory Board Member, Ms. Valerie Martinez, who is an assistant principal at Baird...things are looking good and moving in a positive direction.

Recently we had the opportunity to meet with the administrators and faculty of Scandinavian Middle School in Fresno Unified and are looking forward to supporting their recently implemented mentoring program. In addition, just prior to winter break I met with the school leadership at Caruthers Middle School in Caruthers and have agreed to assist them as they move forward towards the development of a Young Men's and Young Women's mentoring program at their school.

## Upcoming Events

03/27/2013 LEAD IV Summit: Live Broadcast at CLEAR

04/20/2013 El Sol Latino Leadership Academy Meeting

**Ken Magdaleno**  
[kmagdaleno@clearvoz.com](mailto:kmagdaleno@clearvoz.com)

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7404 N Spalding Ave | Fresno | CA 93720 |

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