

Center for Leadership Equity And Research



CLEAR Newsletter

Winter, 2013

A message from the Executive Director

It is an honor to serve as the Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR). Since our formation in February of 2011, CLEAR has been on the "fast-track" of development and "praxis" or "intentional activism." Two particular areas are examples of our areas of focus thus far:



The first is the EL SOL (Enhancing Latino Service Oriented Leadership) Academy made up of educational and community leaders that focus on the area of leadership mentoring under the umbrella of Social Justice Training. This coming Saturday, December 7, members of Cohorts 1 and 2 will meet in the offices of CLEAR and our partner Lozano Smith, in order to participate and engage in conversations and activities regarding our past and current experiences as social justice leaders. The goal of the day will be to

"assist protégés to further develop leadership skills and knowledge needed to advance their contribution to the community, and especially the growing Latino community. Participants will develop a framework for social justice in education, allowing them to judiciously engage in social justice work within their school and community."

The second area of focus thus far has been our support of the Young Men's Alliance Mentoring Program at Baird Middle School in Fresno Unified. You will see an article later on in this newsletter that provides additional information regarding the wonderful work occurring at Baird under the guidance of current EL SOL mentor, Principal Valerie Martinez.

Finally, this past week, CLEAR received the exciting news that the California Endowment awarded us our first grant as an organization. This grant calls on CLEAR to:

Improve Student Health Outcomes Through Innovative Educator Preparation: To prepare, train and provide technical assistance to teachers and administrators in the Central Valley in order to improve school climate, student health and academic outcomes.

We want to thank the Endowment for their support and look forward to working with schools of education and school districts throughout the Central Valley as we continue our mission of "prioritizing inquiry and solutions to issues of equity for students in PreK-12, on higher education campuses, and at community sites.

Ken

EL SOL Academy



Mentors and protégés in CLEAR's EL SOL Academy will meet on December 7th for the third in a series of eight workshops. Education and community leaders, collaborating in the El Dorado Neighborhood, will present a panel discussion on social justice leadership, including: Dr. Cynthia Matson, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Administrative Officer at CSU, Fresno; Dr. Darlene Murray, Education Coordinator at California Emerging Technology Fund; and Michael Duarte, Site Director for the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program. To compliment the panel discussion, guest speaker, Dr. Tony Monreal, Deputy Superintendent in Madera Unified School District will share insight on the challenges and solutions for social justice leadership from the PreK-12 perspective. Closing out the session will be Lozano Smith Associate, Regina Garza, sharing information on the topic of Transgender Student Issues from a Social Justice Perspective.

Young Men's Alliance Baird Middle School

The Young Men's Alliance (YMA) at Baird Middle School, began nearly two years ago under the tutelage of Valerie Martinez, Principal of Baird Middle School and Ricardo Guevara, Instructor for the Young Men's Alliance. The program was developed to address the behavioral and academic issues that many of our young men encounter. Through a leadership and character building curriculum, the YMA coordinators and teachers are able to show students that there are real and inspiring options when it comes to their future and success.

The first YMA class graduated in June 2013 and the new group of students have been so

inspired by their predecessors that they have set their sights even higher in terms of academics and leadership involvement. CLEAR will continue to support the Young Men's Alliance at Baird Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year.

CLEARvoz Journal

The CLEARvoz Journal, a publication of CLEAR, is focused on providing a multidisciplinary forum to provide a broad range of education professionals an avenue to share scholarly knowledge in the area of Equity and Leadership in K-20 education.

The inaugural issue of the CLEARvoz Journal, the research branch of CLEAR, will be published electronically in January. CLEAR is excited about this first edition. A call for papers for the spring edition of the CLEARvoz Journal will be released after the first of the year.

Second Annual CLEAR Mentoring Summit

The second annual CLEAR Mentoring Summit on October 25, 2013, was a great success! Thank you for all those who attended and participated. [See more pictures here.](#)



CLEAR

7404 N. Spalding Ave. | Fresno, CA 93720