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86-Year-Old Chicago School Principal Renews Contract for Another Four Years

When Hiram Broyls was chosen as the principal of Burbank Elementary in Chicago in 1977, he became the school's first African American principal. And 41 years later, he is still the school's principal.

In fact, Broyls, who is 86, just renewed his contract for another four years and has no plans to call it quits anytime soon.



Chicago Principal Hiram Broyls

"I like being here, and after all these years, this is a way of life," said Broyls, in a story that appeared on Chicago Public Schools' website. "If I were at home, there would be the four walls, a television set and no justification for getting up in the morning. It would be very dull."

Broyls begins his day at 3:40 a.m. when he gets up to make his nearly two-hour commute by train and bus to Burbank, where he arrives around 6:25 a.m. He credits staying in shape to his commute to the school.

He started his career at the district's former Louis Champlain School of Chicago, where he taught for 17 years, and then trained to be a principal, serving at two high schools before coming to Burbank in 1977.

As part of the district's desegregation
Chicago Principal *continued on page 8*



Youanna Ibrahim gives her valedictorian speech.

Syrian Students Leave War-Torn Country for Success

Youanna Ibrahim was the valedictorian of her 2018 senior class at North Side High School in Fort Worth, Texas, and the recipient of a four-year scholarship to Texas Christian University. But her successful journey to valedictorian began a world away in Syria.

Ibrahim was born and raised in Damascus, Syria, and she only knew her country as a place of peace. But everything changed in the spring of 2011, when pro-democracy demonstrations erupted. By 2012, the country had descended into civil war.

Many of Ibrahim's friends fled the country, and areas that she would frequently visit were no longer considered safe. But the hardest day for the teen was when she witnessed the destruction of her school and had to immediately evacuate. Her daily life then became one of bombings and danger.

"I had to live my life in constant fear of explosions or attacks," said Ibrahim.

Syrian Students *continued on page 5*

Students in North Carolina District Earn Two Diplomas at Graduation

The Class of 2018 exceeded its goal of at least 30 percent of graduating seniors in North Carolina's Guilford County Schools in Greensboro earning graduation recognition beyond a high school diploma.

Students in more than half of the 31 high schools in the state's third largest school district also received a service-learning diploma.

Since 2010, nearly 9,000 Guilford County students have graduated with ser-

vice-learning recognition, donating more than 2.1 million hours of community service, according to the district, which estimates that students have contributed more than \$51.1 million of economic impact within the community.

As national studies have shown that students who engage in service-learning feel more connected to their schools and

Two Diploams *continued on page 8*

Son to Take Over Father’s Classroom in Wichita

A son is continuing his father’s legacy as an educator in Kansas’ Wichita Public Schools. Gavin Darr will be the new marketing education teacher at Northwest High School, following his father’s retirement from the position this year.

Jeff Darr has been a teacher in the district for more than 30 years and has spent 24 of those years at Northwest High School. Son Gavin even graduated from the high school. As poetic and thoughtful as this homecoming and passing of the torch moment sounds, this was not planned at all.

“We never really talked about him taking over for me,” admitted Jeff in a story that appeared on Wichita Public Schools’ website. “I wanted to stand back and let him find his way and not be too involved in his decision.”

Gavin’s first decision that led him to picking up his father’s title was as a student at Kansas State University. Though he enjoyed business in general as a marketing major, Gavin decided he did not want to pursue a career in the field.

After earning his marketing degree, then business secondary education degree, Gavin still had not made the decision to follow directly in his father’s footsteps and was applying to multiple open teaching positions in and outside the district. He received several job offers but finally decided that his first teaching job would be at his alma mater.

“It’s a really cool opportunity,” said Gavin. “...I’ll even be teaching some of the younger siblings of my high school friends.”

He will not only take on all of Jeff’s marketing and youth entrepreneur classes, but the school’s DECA program, as well. The program prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.



Gavin Darr, left, and his father Jeff Darr, whose class at Wichita’s Northwest High School he is taking over.

Father’s Classroom continued on page 3



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Okla. City, Newark Name New Leaders; Boston Leader Resigns, Atlanta Chief's Tenure Extended



Sean McDaniel

Oklahoma City Public Schools recently selected a new superintendent to lead the 46,000-student school district. Sean McDaniel will take the reins of Oklahoma's largest school system, succeeding acting superintendent Rebecca Kaye.

McDaniel has served as the superintendent for six years of Oklahoma's Mustang Public Schools, which serves approximately 11,500 students. During his tenure, voters passed a \$180-million bond in 2017. And McDaniel was selected as the 2018 Superintendent of the Year by the Oklahoma Association for School Administrators.

According to the *Oklahoman*, McDaniel will become the district's 13th superintendent since 2000.

New Leader in Newark

New Jersey's Newark Public Schools selected a 25-year veteran of the school dis-

Father's Classroom *continued from page 2*

"It still seems surreal that it's all happening and I'm going to be handing over the keys to my son, but it's pretty exciting," said Jeff.

The high school's principal, Eric Hofer-Holdeman, shares in that excitement and is enthusiastic about Gavin joining the staff.

"Whenever a quality, veteran teacher like Jeff Darr retires, a principal is faced with an extremely difficult task: How does one replace a pillar on the teaching staff? ... When the opportunity came along to hire Gavin, I knew I had that quality person," said Hofer-Holdeman. Gavin begins his first-year teaching in the 2018-2019 school year.

trict to lead its schools.

Roger Leon will head the state's largest school system in July, succeeding interim superintendent Robert Gregory.

This is the first time in 22 years that the 36,000-student district has chosen its own leader. After taking control of the school system in 1995, the state recently returned control of Newark schools to the locally elected school board.

Leon has deep ties to the district; he is a graduate of Newark schools and has served as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent.

Boston Leader Steps Down

In other superintendent developments, Tommy Chang, the superintendent of Boston Public Schools, recently resigned from the district he has led since 2015. During his tenure, graduation rates have increased, suspensions have decreased due to restorative justice practices being implemented, and 57 schools now have extended learning time.

Contract Extended

Meria Carstarphen has served as the superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools since 2014. Under her leadership, the district's graduation rate has increased and students in the district have made gains in three of the four tested grades and subjects on the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress. In addition, gains were made by 57 schools on the state report card, 17 more schools than the prior year.



Meria Carstarphen

As a result, Carstarphen was recently given a contract extension through June 30, 2020 to lead the 52,000-student school system.

'Backpack of Success Skills' Initiative To Launch in Louisville



Marty Pollio

Kentucky's Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville plans to launch an initiative in August that aims to transform teaching and learning and equip students

with the skills they need to be successful in school and life.

Called "Backpack of Success Skills," the new initiative identifies five key areas, or success skills, that students will need to master before graduating high school. They include:

- Being prepared and resilient learners;
- Globally and culturally competent citizens;
- Emerging innovators;
- Effective communicators; and
- Productive collaborators.

"Every JCPS [Jefferson County Public Schools] student, beginning in kindergarten, will have a digital backpack in which he or she will collect evidence of his or her development in each of these areas each year," says Superintendent Marty Pollio and Chief Academic Officer Carmen Coleman in a joint statement. "In addition, each student will be asked to defend his or her readiness at the key transition points of fifth grade, eighth grade, and graduation.

"This 'Backpack of Success Skills' will be a transformational education initiative that we believe will become a national model," they emphasize. "...The model will allow us to check the academic pulse of students at multiple times throughout the year and provide interventions immediately for students who might not be meeting grade-level requirements or on track for key transitions," they add.

Backpack Launched *continued on page 12*

Valedictorian in Hawaii Leaves Engineering For Teaching

Daniel Quiamas, a graduating senior at Waipahu High School in Hawaii, was well on his way to becoming an engineer. He was a top student at the school's Engineering Academy, and as a member of the school's robotics team led it to success in various tournaments.

But after having the opportunity to coach and mentor younger students on his robotics team, he realized that becoming an engineer was not what he wanted to do. Instead, he wanted to become a teacher.

So at the start of his senior year, he moved out of his school's Engineering Academy and enrolled in the Teacher Education Academy. As a student-teacher cadet, he observed teachers in their classrooms, helped create lesson plans and even taught lessons in World History and economics at his high school.

It was those hands-on experiences that strengthened his initial thoughts of wanting to become a teacher. "Now I know it's really the field I want to go into," said Quiamas in a story that appeared on the Hawaii Department of Education website.

He was named one of the valedictorians of his senior class, and after graduation he will study teaching at the University of Hawaii, where he was awarded a four-year scholarship. And his goal after college graduation is to teach at his high school alma mater.



Daniel Quiamas with science teacher Tessie Lumabao Ford. Photo credit: Hawaii Department of Education.



Two L.A. Students Headed to the Ivy League

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launched a new program last year to award scholarships to high-achieving Hispanic high school seniors from low-income backgrounds.

Beatrice Castillo and Ailene Torres, 2018 graduates of Los Angeles Unified School District's Bell High School, were two of the 300 students from across the nation who won the coveted Gates scholarship, which pays for tuition, housing, books and fees.

Castillo will be the first in her family to attend college when she heads off to Harvard University. She plans to pursue a career as an environmental science researcher.



L.A. students Beatrice Castillo and Ailene Torres.

Torres will attend Columbia University in New York, where she plans to major in mechanical engineering.

She is inspired by her mother, who works in the Garment District, her fingers dyed blue as she makes the \$250 designer jeans that neither of them can afford.

"Those blue fingers and the labor behind them drive

me to be the best student I can be," Torres wrote in her scholarship application. "... Following her example, I have sacrificed sleep and pushed myself everyday through the rigors of my AP [Advanced Placement] classes to keep my grades up."

Student Beats Medical Odds in North Carolina



Emma Galusha

called misophonia, where she gets very angry or scared when she hears certain sounds.

School didn't come easy for Emma Galusha. Since middle school, she has suffered from severe migraines, depression and a sound disorder

Yet, Galusha recently graduated from North Carolina's Guilford Middle College at GTCC-High Point near Greensboro with her high school diploma and an associate's degree in Entertainment Technology in Concert Sound and Lighting. Because of her medical issues, she completed many of her high school classes through Guilford County Virtual High School so that

Beats the Odds continued on page 6

Student's Volunteerism Shines Through

Yliana Beck is the valedictorian of her 2018 graduating class at Burbank High School in San Antonio, Texas, and has maintained a perfect grade-point-average of 104.3. The same dedication she has shown toward academics, she gives to volunteering, having served as a volunteer with several non-profit organizations, including an orphanage in Mexico.

During the past year, she has volunteered three times at an orphanage in Morales, Mexico, which is sponsored by her school's National Honor Society.

"Going to the orphanage has helped me become the person I am today," said Beck in a story on the San Antonio Indepen-



Yliana Beck, left, with a student at an orphanage in Mexico.

dent School District website. "I can better understand people's circumstances around me and the challenges they face."

Beck also volunteers with Haven for Hope, an organization for the homeless. A member of her family struggles with mental health issues and was

homeless for a time, so the issue is important to her. Her family member's plight has also sparked her interest in neuroscience, which she plans to study at Dartmouth College in the fall.

Syrian Students *continued from page 1*

An opportunity for her father to finish his theological studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary brought her family to Fort Worth in 2014.

She became a student at North Side and enrolled in the school's medical profession program because she aspires to become a surgeon and return to Syria to help people.

Ibrahim received excellent grades and was selected as the valedictorian of her senior class and received a scholarship to Texas Christian University through the TCU Community Scholars program, which recruits top students from urban, high minority public schools in Texas. In the fall, she plans to study biochemistry.

Ibrahim Alothman was also born in Syria and lived in the city of Aleppo. But when the war came to his city, he and his family left and moved to another new city.

But they were unable to escape the war and often heard bombs going off, some that were only five minutes away. They eventually left the country to go to Iraq when Alothman was 13-years-old.

His parents decided to apply to the United Nations as refugees and in 2017, Alothman, his parents and his sister were granted clearance to travel to the United

States where they resettled in Buffalo.

Alothman was in the 11th grade when he entered Grover Cleveland High School in May last year, and even though he spoke very little English, he was determined to learn the language quickly so he could graduate on time. He also attended night school and was not only able to learn English in one year, but maintained an A+ average and became a member of the National Honor Society.



Ibrahim Alothman

The experience of living in a war-torn country has not left Alothman, and to this day if he hears a loud noise, he gets scared that danger is close to him.

Yet, living in America is a dream come true and in the fall, he will attend Erie Community College in the business management track. He also looks forward to becoming a permanent citizen. "I am so honored to have been welcomed into this wonderful American society," said Alothman.

Former Homeless Student in Indy Finds Success

R.J. McDuffey carries deodorant and supplies to wash up in his backpack at all times because he never knows when he may be homeless.

A 2018 graduate of George Washington Community High School in Indianapolis, McDuffey spent his junior year homeless, moving from the streets to one shelter after another. His parents were not in his life.

Eventually, a family friend opened his home to McDuffey and the perseverance that helped him survive alone on the streets also helped him succeed as a student.

Despite working two jobs after school, he earned "A" Honor Roll status, completing his homework during breaks at work, during the hour-long bus ride to and from his jobs and during lunchtime at school.

In addition, he played on his high school basketball team and was the senior captain and the second-leading scorer for the team. In April, he received a top honor in state athletics, the Brady Comeback Award for overcoming adversity and excelling in sports and in the classroom. In the fall, McDuffey will take his strong work ethic to Vincennes University in Indiana, where he received a scholarship.

There have been times in his life when he felt like giving up but he was inspired by his baby sister to keep pushing. "I want to show her that even if you grow up rough, you can succeed, you can get out," said McDuffey. "You can do something for yourself. It's not about where you're at, but how you get out."



R.J. McDuffey, left, receives congratulations from athletic director Kenneth Roseman for winning the Brady Comeback Award.

Orlando Students Who Fled Hurricanes Find Hope



Jenise Smalls

Jenise Smalls was a student in the U.S. Virgin Islands, but when Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit her island in September, she moved to Orlando to

stay with a family friend and finish high school, enrolling at East River High. Leaving her home for a new school was daunting for Smalls at first and a culture shock. In addition, she missed her family and friends. "Everything was such a big change," said Smalls.

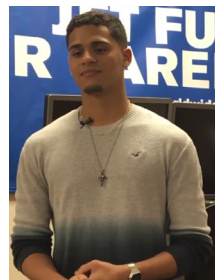
Eventually, she became accustomed to her new school and whenever she needed help, she visited the school's guidance office. And while she may have been alone in Orlando, the counseling office at East River High became her new family.

She excelled academically and earned a full scholarship to Barry University in Miami to study child psychology, with the goal of becoming a child psychologist and having her own practice.

"I just love working with kids, especially the kids who need help the most," said Smalls. "I want to do that for the rest of my life."

Since the age of 5, Felipe Almodóvar Lopez had always wanted to be a pilot. But that dream almost didn't occur when Hurricane Maria landed in Puerto Rico, where Lopez lived with his family.

After the hurricane hit, Lopez would sit on the roof of his house every day and watch the military airplanes bringing supplies for the people on the island, which was devastated. Watching this scene un-



Felipe Almodóvar Lopez

fold made him even more determined to pursue his dream of becoming a pilot, so he moved to Orlando to live with his grandmother and uncle and enrolled at Cypress Creek High School.

At Cypress, he was able to pass all of the state exams to receive a high school diploma and was accepted to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he will study to fulfill his childhood dream of being a pilot.

Lopez credits the staff at Cypress Creek High for helping him make it through, and remembers the day he received his university acceptance letter. "My mom, I called her that day and she started crying. My dad cried too, he was happy."

Fresno Student Perseveres Hardships



Jesus Panales Castillo

Jesus Panales Castillo grew up in poverty and has lived in nine cities and towns, including several years in Mexico.

Yet he has not let his background deter him from achieving

success. He was ranked No. 1 out of 208 in his senior class at Duncan Polytechnical High School in Fresno, Calif., and has been accepted to California Polytechnic University. He has also been an award-winning cadet in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

While living in areas of high crime, Castillo learned that crime rings are now operating on the Internet, inspiring him to pursue a degree in computer science with the goal of becoming a cybersecurity agent at a law enforcement agency.

"My biggest personal dream in life, however, is to someday be able to look a disturbed child or human trafficking victim in the eye and tell them they're finally safe," said Castillo.

Beats the Odds *continued from page 4*

she could stay on track and focus on her college work. She credits this achievement to her experience at GTCC High Point, its smaller class sizes and the encouragement of counselor John Devonmille.

"If I hadn't gone to GTCC High Point, I wouldn't have had the amazing Mr. Devonmille to help me throughout my high school career," said Galusha. "He was, and still is, so focused on helping me and making sure I have the help I need."

Galusha isn't sure what's next for her. Several medical issues significantly impact her life. But her time at Middle College GTCC-High Point was significant.

"I'm going to miss GTCC and the Middle College," she said.

Milwaukee Student Follows in Siblings' Footsteps

Sirtaj Grewal is the valedictorian of Milwaukee's Riverside University High School Class of 2018, but his being the top student in his class is nothing new.

Grewal is simply following in the footsteps of his siblings who were the valedictorians of their senior class at Riverside in 2011, 2014 and 2017, respectively.

All of the siblings graduated with nothing lower than an A on their report cards,



Milwaukee valedictorian Sirtaj Grewal, second from left, with his siblings.

as did Sirtaj. In the fall, he will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he plans to major in engineering or philosophy.

According to district officials, the Grewal family is be-

lieved to be the first family in the district to have all of their children graduate as valedictorians.

Buffalo Breaks Ground for New School To Contribute to Downtown Growth

Buffalo Public Schools recently broke ground for a new school of culinary arts and hospitality management in the city's downtown, which is undergoing revitalization.

The new school will expand opportunities for students in the growing hospitality, sports management and hotel management industries in Buffalo, and is an offshoot from the school district's successful Emerson School of Hospitality.

The site of the second Emerson school is in the historic C.W. Miller Livery Stable, built in the late 1800s and on the National Register of Historic Places.

The six-story building will be reconstructed to house state-of-the-art commercial kitchens supporting an innovative restaurant operated by Buffalo public-school students.

Additionally, the school will have modern classrooms, science labs, a library and a gymnasium, according to the district.

"You can't really do any better for chil-

dren than to give them a world-class high school for Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management right here in the epicenter of downtown Buffalo, a city undergoing a tremendous renaissance," says Buffalo Schools Superintendent Kriner Cash. "Buffalo Public Schools students will be ready for the jobs of the future, in the major fields of growth – health care, clean energy, and hospitality to name a few – in Buffalo's new economy."

Under the New Education Bargain with Students and Parents initiative, the school district believes that the redesign and launch of new innovative high schools provide expanded opportunities for career development aligned to emerging industries in Western New York.

The Buffalo Public Schools opened five new high school programs in the fall of 2016, two more since then, and the new Buffalo School of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management brings the total to eight.



Buffalo Public Schools Superintendent Kriner Cash announces new Buffalo School of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management at recent groundbreaking event.

New Leadership At Council to Begin



Lawrence Feldman

Lawrence Feldman, a member of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, takes the reins as chair of the Council of the Great City Schools' Board of Directors for the 2018-19 school year, effective July 1.

He advances from chair-elect to lead the 140-member Board of Directors, the



Eric Gordon

coalition's main policymaking body, which includes the superintendent and one school board member from each of the coalition's 70-member big-city school districts. He

succeeds former Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent

Darrienne Driver for the one-year term.

CEO Eric Gordon of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District becomes chair-elect, stepping up from the Council's secretary-

treasurer post. He was the Council's 2016 Urban Educator of the Year.



Michael O'Neill

The third member of the leadership team is Michael O'Neill, a member of the Boston School Committee, who assumes the position of secretary-treasurer.

He was elected by the Council's Board of Directors in March to move up to officer status after serving on

New Leadership continued on page 9

Two Diplomas *continued from page 1*

communities, Guilford County Schools began a high school service-learning program in 2010, promoting service-learning as a core value.

“Studies have also shown that students are more academically engaged, have better attendance and demonstrate more positive behaviors at school,” the district points out in a news release.

Graduating senior Victoria Epps earned two diplomas at her recent graduation after contributing more than 900 hours as a volunteer since her sophomore year at an organization that serves people with disabilities.

Three high schools in the Guilford County school system had 100 percent of its seniors recognized for completing at least 100 hours of service.

Thirty-two percent, or 1,723, of the district’s entire graduating class earned at least 100 hours of service in the 2017-18 school year.

Dudley High School saw 218 of its 325 seniors receive service-learning diplomas, the highest number of any school in the district. Principal Rodney Wilds notes that his students contributed to tornado and hurricane relief efforts, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, and a breast cancer awareness walk among other service activities.

“We’re very proud of the work that our students put in, not only in the classroom, but in the community,” says Wilds. “It speaks to what they think about beyond their school and classroom.”



Graduating senior Victoria Epps, left, recently earned a second high school diploma for her volunteer work in helping intellectually challenged citizens plant, grow and harvest their own vegetables.

School Renamed for Obama In Former Confederate Capital

The school board in Richmond, Va., recently voted to rename a school commemorating a Confederate hero to Barack Obama, the nation’s first African-American president.

Obama Elementary School will replace J.E.B. Stuart Elementary, named for a Confederate Army general in the former capital of the Confederacy.

Richmond Public Schools teachers, staff, parents and community members were involved in the renaming pro-

cess, which began in April following last year’s Charlottesville, Va., racially-charged protests.

“I’m thrilled that the students of J.E.B. Stuart – who recommended Barack Obama as one of their top choices for the new name – will now have the opportunity to attend a school that honors a leader who represents the great promise of America,” said Superintendent Jason Kamras in a press statement.

Chicago Principal *continued from page 1*

plan to create and maintain racially integrated schools, Broyles left a predominately African American school to serve at Burbank, which was predominately Italian American. He was nervous when he first came to the school because it was a new neighborhood and racial tensions in the city were high at that time. But he received a warm welcome and he began to relax.

“It took me awhile, but everyone was so nice,” said Broyles. “The children treated me with respect and after awhile, I lightened up and tried to be a motivator rather than a tyrant. It worked better.”

In his 41 years as principal, the veteran educator has seen many changes at the school.

There used to be 48 students to a class but the maximum size is now 32. Teaching styles have also changed; in the past, teachers used to follow the curriculum set by the math and reading books, but now teachers meet students where they are and teach according to the needs of the children.

As the district’s oldest employee, one of the changes he is most pleased with is that the school system has done a much better job of tracking student achievement and its progress.

“I would be kind of depressed when people would say bad things about Chi-

cago Public Schools,” said Broyles. “I knew they weren’t really that bad, but we couldn’t prove anything. Now CPS has proof that our kids are doing as well, and better than a lot of schools in the state.”

Burbank is ranked Level 1+, the highest level a school can attain. Broyles describes the school as a tight-knit community where students are pushed academically and recognized for their achievements. Each quarter the school holds a ceremony called Shooting Stars where children are picked out by their teachers for doing something exceptional, whether it be grades or good citizenship.

Rosa Romo is a parent of an 8th grader at the school and said that she likes everything about the school.

“Everything the teachers do, the principal, the assistant, they’re all great help and the children get a lot of support,” said Romo.

Broyles describes Burbank as one big family, and serving as its principal, a fun place to be, even after 41 years.

And the best part of his day is in the morning when he greets all the children walking into school.

“I get to say hello to them because I just love to see the children come in with a big smile,” said Broyles. “They’re really like my extended family.”

'Youth Today, Leaders Tomorrow' Program Kicks Off in Santa Ana

Students in California's Santa Ana Unified School District this summer will participate in an internship program aimed at providing real-world career opportunities at local businesses.

In a partnership with the City of Santa Ana, the state's 7th largest school district in Orange County will help students gain 21st century skills with workforce opportunities through its *Youth Today, Leaders Tomorrow* Summer Internship Program.

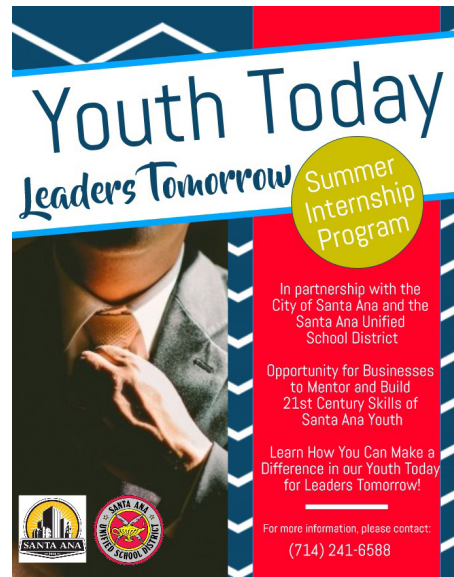
Eligibility for the program requires students to be at least 16 years old and enrolled full time in the 50,000-student school district, which enrolls some 60 percent English learners, primarily Spanish speakers, with 91 percent of the student population eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

"We are extremely excited for our students to demonstrate what they have been learning in the classroom in a business environment, and what better way to do that than in their own community," said Valerie Amezcua, president of the Santa Ana Board of Education, in a press release.

The school system offers 34 career pathways in such fields as engineering, law, healthcare, culinary arts and hospitality, global business, automotive logistics and transportation, and digital media.

Last year, 900 industry certifications were earned by students. "Our focus is preparing students for college and careers, and we have been successful at doing that by providing rigorous coursework, meaningful field experiences, and early college courses through our partnership with Santa Ana College," stressed Superintendent Stefanie Phillips.

The partnership with Santa Ana College allows all Santa Ana Unified graduates to attend at no cost in their freshman year when enrolled full-time at the college. Moreover, after completing all the transfer requirements, students will receive guaranteed admission to the University of California-Irvine, or California State University-Fullerton.



Anchorage Voters Support \$50-Million School Bond

With many of the district's schools built in the 1960s and 1970s, Alaska's Anchorage School District is the excited recipient of a bond that will be dedicated to making schools safe and functional. The \$50.6-million bond was recently approved by Anchorage voters and will benefit 15 schools in the district.

This election was the first time mail-in ballots were accepted. The result was a record-setting number of votes cast with 59.2 percent voter approval. "... It looks really pleasing, for our whole city really," said Superintendent Deena Bishop in an interview with KTUU-TV.

The bond will directly go into roof replacements and improvements, fire suppression and safety, code upgrades, and school planning and design.

According to district officials, many of its schools require substantial work to extend their functional life.

Nashville District Receives Grant To Engage Community

Metro Nashville Public Schools was already a leader in the community, and thanks to a coalition of non-profit organizations, the district will have even more help to aid the community.

The Together for Students initiative, which was created by three nonprofit organizations, has awarded the district approximately \$150,000 to support its Community Achieves initiative, which currently serves 18 schools.

Including Nashville, there are 10 communities that were selected from a pool of 86 applicants, which will receive financial support.

In receiving the grant, the Nashville school system was cited for its success with giving students and families the resources necessary for them to achieve.

Community Achieves focuses on college and career readiness, parent/family engagement, health and wellness, and social services.

"This grant will allow us to reach and serve many additional students and families through Community Achieves," said Shawn Joseph, director of schools.

New Leadership *continued from page 7*

the policy body's Executive Committee.

Also serving as immediate past chair is Felton Williams, a board member with California's Long Beach Unified School District and the Council's 2017 Urban Educator of the Year.

"We look forward to the reform-minded leadership team led by Larry Feldman, as the organization's officers represent major city school districts that are forging ahead in accelerating achievement in urban education," says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly.

Fits and Starts Approaching the Mid-Term Elections

By Jeff Simering, *Director of Legislation*

New and ongoing controversies are keeping Washington in a constant state of turmoil. Carrying out even routine governmental business now gets sidetracked in the midst of high political theater. Still, this summer's annual appropriations bills are moving according to the two-year budget agreement enacted last February, while momentum to pass even long-delayed education reauthorization bills waxes and wanes from week to week. Nonetheless, expectations that either routine or contentious legislation can be completed by the end of this election year remain low.



Resolution of headline-grabbing issues like gun control or DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) remains snagged in ideological and partisan acrimony. A new surge of immigrants and the Trump administration's steadfast zero-tolerance but on-again-off-again family separation policies further complicate a Congress mired in its own divisions. It appears that the majority of House and Senate members would support an extension of DACA and would back keeping immigrant families together, but a politically acceptable legislative package that would address these issues and a continuously changing set of White House demands eludes Congressional leadership.

Moreover, the public outcry over school shootings has failed to jolt Congress into action and no substantial federal assistance has been approved. A small competitive grant program, titled "STOP," represents all the federal government has mustered in the wake of multiple school shootings this year. Ironically, the appointment of a Federal Commission on School Safety may provide further cover for inaction as people await the Commission's end-of-year report. It isn't even clear at that point whether the School Safety Commission will address gun

control issues, despite the Council of the Great City Schools' testimony calling for restrictions on gun availability.

These critical national issues along with the ever-present specter of the Special Counsel's investigations, international tariff battles, and foreign policy summitry overshadow the more mundane authorization and appropriations business of government. Efforts to move a higher education reauthorization through the House contrast with a seemingly stalled-out companion effort in the Senate. Last year's House-passed measure to update the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act may be resuscitated by the Senate committee, but it is unclear whether there is enough floor time to bring the measure to fruition. At the same time, initial House committee action on the FY 2019 education appropriations bill (providing freezes or small increases in key education programs) may set the stage for increased investment by the Senate committee later this summer—but that is uncertain as well.

Concurrently, the House has begun a belated and futile FY 2019 congressional budget process with massive cuts in health and welfare entitlement programs over multiple years—cuts that are not being enacted in the appropriations process. Fortunately, the two-year budget agreement negates the need for a formal congressional budget resolution or a reconciliation process this year.

Amid yet another highly-charged election cycle, even simple spending measures face an uncertain fate. Status quo bills seemingly hold the best prospect for legislative passage, but hyper-partisanship may delay or even derail action until after November 6th.

Detroit Creates New Brand to Support Education Reform

"Students rise. We all rise."

That's the message conveyed in a new branding campaign launched recently by Detroit Public Schools Community District Superintendent Nikolai Vitti.

Ending the school year on a high note, Vitti invited students, families and community members along with school board members at a Detroit elementary-middle school to make the announcement on the last day of school in June.

"We recognized that after developing and implementing our new strategic plan, we did not have an aligned brand identity," the superintendent explained in a news release. "...Our brand reflects a new vision, commitment, and opportunity to prioritize students and traditional public education in Detroit in alignment with our strategic plan."

More than 800 community members, teachers, principals and families provided

their vision of what the Detroit public school system represents as a new brand was considered.

In addition to a new logo and tagline, the district will use #DPSCDStudentsRise to share on social media channels. It also unveiled a marketing commercial featuring stakeholders and members of the Detroit Schools Community District family.

Council Opens Fall Conference Registration

The nation's former second lady and professor Jill Biden, noted Gold Star father Khizr Khan and author Michelle Alexander of the award-winning book *The New Jim Crow* will highlight the Council of the Great City Schools' 62nd Annual Fall Conference, Oct. 24-28, in Baltimore.

Under the banner "Building A Generation: Blueprints for Success in Urban Education," the conference is the country's largest gathering of urban school district superintendents, board members and senior administrators who converge to share information and strategies to improve big-city schools.

Breakout sessions range from urban school achievement, professional development, bilingual education and males of color to leadership and governance, finance and more.

The conference will be held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront hotel, and hosted by the Baltimore City Public Schools.

Registration is now open and accessible on the Council's website at www.cgcs.org.



Superintendent Nominations Sought for 2018 Urban Educator Of the Year

Is there an urban school leader who exudes excellence in school leadership, progressive thinking in solving problems, or unwavering dedication to staff and students?

These are some of the qualities of previous finalists for the Green-Garner Award, the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed upon a big-city public school leader, sponsored by the Council of the Great City Schools, Araramark K-12 Education and Scholastic, Inc.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 29th Annual Green-Garner Award, and one superintendent will be selected from among peers as the top urban educator of the year. The winner will not only receive an award, but also a \$10,000 college scholarship to be given to any student of the winner's choosing in his or her school district.

The award is named in memory of Richard Green, the first African-American chancellor of the New York City school

system, and Edward Garner, former school board president for Denver Public Schools.

The winner will be selected at the 62nd Annual Fall Conference in October in Baltimore. The deadline to apply for the award is August 31 and applications can be accessed at: <http://www.cgcs.org>.

Queen Smith Award

The Council is also seeking nominations for the 2018 Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education. Sponsored by the Macmillan/McGraw Hill Publishing Company, the \$5,000 award honors an urban school teacher who has made compelling contributions to education in both their school district and community.

The award will be presented at the Council's Annual Fall Conference in October in Baltimore. The deadline is August 13 and the application can be found at <http://www.cgcs.org>.

Principal Leadership Program Begins

Four school districts recently gathered in Dallas to participate in the George W. Bush Institute's School Leadership District Cohort, aimed at helping districts find, support and retain high-quality school principals and improve student outcomes.

The school districts in Austin and Fort Worth in Texas along with Virginia's Chesterfield County and Utah's Granite school system in Salt Lake City were selected in December to work with the Bush Institute's Education Reform team to implement its Principal Talent Management Framework.

"Principals set the tone for school climate and culture, and we are grateful to the George W. Bush Institute for their investment in our district and its leaders," said Fort Worth Schools Superintendent Kent Scriber.



Long Beach Scholar

Demetrius Jackson, a 2018 graduate of Cabrillo High School in Long Beach, Calif., was recently honored at a school board meeting for winning the 2018 Green-Garner \$10,000 college scholarship. The scholarship was given to Jackson by Long Beach school board member Felton Williams, who was the winner of the 2017 Green-Garner Award. Jackson earned a 4.1 grade-point-average and played basketball. He will attend Northern Arizona University and plans to major in business. "I just like hard work paying off," he said.



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Backpack Launched *continued from page 3*

With the new initiative, the district plans to call on the community to help the district support those students who are not meeting grade-level or transition-readiness expectations.

“Our school and our community are on board and ready to create a unique and inspiring opportunity for all of our students,” says Superintendent Pollio. “Our students deserve this. Our community needs this, and our business partners support this.”

Measuring Success

The district will measure student progress by reviewing what it calls “backpack data,” measuring transition readiness for every student on a regular basis.

“We will clearly know when each student is equipped to move successfully from elementary to middle school, middle to high schools, and from high school to college, the military, or a career,” the superintendent explains. “We will have an unprecedented focus on literacy and numeracy, and as a result, we will see clear growth for every student in reading and math reflected on both state and national assessments.”



Summer Food on Wheels in Miami-Dade

In a school district where an average of 66 percent of the student population depends on the free or reduced-price lunch program, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has gone mobile to make sure students get the nutrition they need this summer. A food truck will be driving through the community providing free meals during the summer to children 18 years old and under.

Miami-Dade’s Department of Food and Nutrition food truck will be servicing eight different locations through June and July. Each location is near a district school and will have the food truck available for an entire week during the lunch hour of 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., serving nutritious cold lunches with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Food is not limited to those students normally participating in the free or reduced-price lunch program, nor is it limited to just students in the district. Any child is eligible to receive the free meal, and district officials anticipate thousands of children will walk up to the food truck’s window for a taste of its healthy menu items.