



# Youth Education Support Newsletter

*"Promoting Academic Success"*

Volume 5 – July 2011

Please Email your feedback, questions or stories to: [youth.education.support@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:youth.education.support@dcfs.lacounty.gov)  
Also visit us on LA Kids' Youth Education Support website. We look forward to hearing from you!!

## *"Did You Know?"*

Now that summer is here, many of our youth are left to find their own recreation. An increasing number of them are left alone with no adult supervision. Let's get them enrolled in some type of recreational activity, or summer school, so that they may learn and grow. The following are a few available programs:

- The Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA): [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)
- LA Kids Recreation Program – Summer Day Camp [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)
- LAUSD Beyond the Bell Summer Program: [http://btb.lausd.net/home/files/2011%20Beyond%20the%20Bell%20Summer%20Programs\\_053111A.pdf](http://btb.lausd.net/home/files/2011%20Beyond%20the%20Bell%20Summer%20Programs_053111A.pdf)
- The Public Library: [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)

## *Welcoming Our New Education Consultants*

Please join us in welcoming our newly-hired Education Consultants to 2 of our DCFS offices. **Debbie Finlay**, of the Lancaster & Palmdale offices, has years of experience in working for a Continuation School. The Antelope Valley is very fortunate to have her. Ms. Finlay can be reached at [ed411lanc@att.net](mailto:ed411lanc@att.net) (Lancaster referrals), or [ed411palm@att.net](mailto:ed411palm@att.net) (Palmdale referrals).

The Wateridge office is thrilled to have **Sharon Castro**, who brings a wealth of experience with the LAUSD. She has already dived-in full force in meeting the academic needs of our youth. Ms. Castro can be reached at [ed411wtrge@yahoo.com](mailto:ed411wtrge@yahoo.com), or (323) 290-8426.

## *Above and Beyond*

We did a phenomenal job last school year, inputting 19,269, out of 23,801, educational records for our youth. Now is the time to let your Unit Clerks know where your youth will be attending school, as well as their grade level, as they enter school in the fall (August or September). Let's keep the momentum up, and continue to strive for that 100% mark for maintaining our youth's school records!

Congratulations to our Top 3 Offices for the month of July:

W. San Fernando Valley:	89.70%
Santa Clarita:	89.60%
South County:	88.70%

## *Newsflash! Red Alert!*

Effective July 1, 2011, the new California State Law (AB 354) mandates that *all students entering the 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades* for this academic school year (2011-2012) **MUST** have the **Tdap (whooping cough) vaccination** prior to starting school!

For further information, CSWs can consult with the regional office's Public Health Nurses, or go to [www.getimmunizedca.org](http://www.getimmunizedca.org).



*~It is very important for all CSWs, Parents and Caregivers to maintain a copy of the vaccinations, in the event of a replacement or a change of school districts. ~*

## *Mentoring Relationships*

Although our DCFS Community-Based Mentoring Program Pilot Project has officially ended, we are extremely pleased to report that several of our Matched Relationships have expressed a desire to continue to thrive on their own. One of the areas that many of our Mentors have taken a genuine interest, is their Mentee's education. In fact, youth, and recent high-school graduate, **Cinthya M.**, of the Pasadena office, reports that her Mentor, **Marisol Castro**, is very actively involved in her education. She spent a great deal of time assisting her with completing college applications, financial aid applications, and graduation preparation. Similarly, youth, **Jose G.**, of the Probation Dept., reports that his Mentor, **Kimberly Fuentes**, is very supportive when it comes to helping him to establish an ILP plan for his on-going care and support, once he is terminated from the system. She is actively assisting with researching Transitional Housing for this youth.

## *Spotlighting Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade UCLA "First Stars"*

A recent trip to the UCLA campus to conduct a Courtesy Monthly Visit to the youth who were selected to participate in the First Star Guardian Scholars Summer Academy, confirmed what we've always known: Our kids are **brilliant!** The CSAs from the Education & Mentoring Section arrived to find all of the kids working on their brand new laptops, which they each will be allowed to keep, upon their successful completion of the 5-week program. These soon-to-be 9<sup>th</sup>-graders were very articulate and engaging, and most report they *definitely* see college enrollment in their future. As participants in this innovative program, the next 4 years of these youth's academic journey will be "shadowed" by the staff at UCLA, whose goal is to provide the guidance and support needed to successfully transition into college living. We're so proud of them!

*Congratulations*, once again, to our bright and shining

