

The logo for the Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL) is displayed in a large, white, serif font on a black, tilted rectangular background.The text "ON THE CUTTING EDGE" is written in a white, serif font on a black rectangular background.

Strategic Partnerships Build a Demonstration Site by CSUN, Project Grad LA, and San Fernando High School

September 2017

CSUN and Project Grad LA (PGLA) have begun a partnership with San Fernando High School (SFHS) to implement a College Access Demonstration School beginning in Fall 2017. A Demonstration School is one that models the successful implementation of an educational approach, initiative, or programmatic strand of interest to educators and policymakers, who might then seek to replicate it for the benefit of their respective constituencies.

In seeking to establish itself as a Demonstration School, SFHS is fortunate to have had an existing college access partnership with PGLA for more than 15 years. CSUN is a primary provider of SFHS's certificated teachers through its School of Education, as well as the CSU that receives the majority of SFHS students. In addition, CSUN has been working with SFHS for the past three years on the Transition to College Math and Statistics (TCMS), a 12th grade course to assist students in achieving success in college-level Mathematics, and has shared many other collaborative grants and activities in the past.

SFHS's transformation to a Demonstration School would facilitate the deepening of these critical partnerships, establishing PGLA and CSUN as key supporters in implementation of this initiative. In this way, we aim to successfully address the top three barriers to students' college access and success: [1] Academic Preparation (Poised for Academic Success in College), [2] Complexity (Navigating the College Application Process), and [3] Affordability (Access to Financial Aid).

The Demonstration School will address each of these three barriers through focused partnerships and targeted efforts. Once the Demonstration School is established, it will showcase how a "typical" comprehensive LAUSD high school (SFHS) implements a committed and coherent systemic approach to school-wide college readiness organized to maximize student success in postsecondary education. The aim is for the partnership between SFHS, PGLA, and CSUN to thereby demonstrate how to implement a pervasive college-going culture within three to five years.

CSUN's commitment to the SFHS Demonstration Site project is two-fold — focused on both students and faculty. Students from CSUN will visit SFHS to provide mentoring, be on panels, and possibly provide tutoring, while students from SFHS will be welcomed to CSUN through various activities spearheaded through CSUN's Office of Student Affairs. CSUN faculty will be integrally involved with SFHS teachers around the topics of writing across the curriculum, academic discourse, cooperative grouping, adolescent literacy, co-teaching, and student motivation and engagement. CSUN faculty will be working collaboratively with SFHS and PGLA leadership to ensure school reform efforts are strategic, systemic, and sustainable. The CSUN Center for Teaching & Learning is organizing the efforts of CSUN faculty to ensure ongoing communication and supportive structures are in place.

Over the next three years, we hope to see a true partnership between the three organizations resulting in shared expertise and role release. SFHS faculty may come to CSUN and help teach classes or serve on panels. PGLA staff may learn strategies from CSUN faculty to implement when they work with students at SFHS, and CSUN faculty can use SFHS classrooms to showcase best practices in educational pedagogy.

Dr. Wendy Murawski (CSUN), Michael Butler (NPO Solutions), Ford Roosevelt (PGLA), and Flora Mendoza-Warner (SFHS) have worked collaboratively to help build the infrastructure for this demonstration site project. They wish to thank the many others who have also been supportive of the project through their time, work, and expertise.

Strategic Partnerships Build a Demonstration Site

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PARTNERSHIP?

Interested in learning more about this project?

Contact the CSUN Center for Teaching & Learning at ctl@csun.edu or www.csun.edu/ctl

If you'd like to learn more about Project Grad LA, please visit their website at www.projectgradla.org

For more information on San Fernando High School, please check out www.sanfernandohs.com

Want to get involved and support a particular strand of focus?
Feel free to contact the CSUN liaisons to get more information:

TOPIC OF FOCUS	SFHS DEPARTMENT INVOLVED	CSUN FACULTY LIAISON
Writing across the curriculum	Social Studies, PE	Dr. Kathy Rowlands kathy.rowlands@csun.edu
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CSUN

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