

Children's Resources

Summer 2019

Volume 13

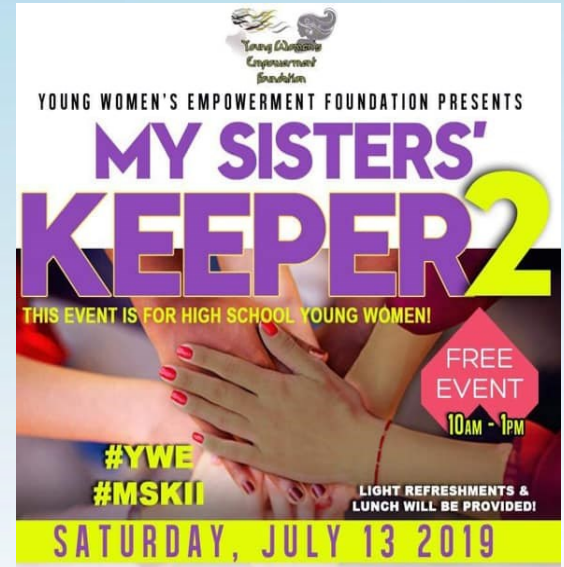
Issue 3

Conference Empowers Girls to Make Good Choices

On July 13, 2019 Young Women's Empowerment Foundation (YWE) held its second annual *My Sisters' Keeper Conference*. The event was held at San Bernardino Valley College, and was well attended by high school aged girls and community leaders.

Workshop presenters covered important topics pertaining to conflict resolution, sexual assault awareness and teen dating violence. A workshop for parents was also conducted on how to best prepare students for college and the necessary courses and extracurricular activities to help students become competitive for college admission.

YWE Founder Gwendolyn Rodgers is a parent, therapist and member of the San Bernardino City Unified School District Board of Education. Her mission is to empower young women to make good choices and reach their utmost potential.



Students Audria Montalvo of the Fontana Unified School District and Casmir Middleton of the San Bernardino City Unified School District were recognized for their achievements and leadership in the community.



YWE Founder Gwendolyn Rodgers poses with Shannon O'Brien, Co-founder of Children's Resources, after honoring two students (pictured left) for outstanding community leadership.

Business Leaders Motivate Youth

Each year, the Black Chamber of Commerce Inland Empire (BCCIE) hosts a youth business conference, where youth from across Southern California engage in meaningful business workshops and activities that prepare and educate them for entrepreneurship. With a panel of professionals, guest speakers, and entrepreneurs, youth are able to explore the field of business and gain insight into what it takes to turn their ideas into income.

The 2019 youth business conference took place at Valley College in San Bernardino, CA on June 24th. The workshops were geared towards youth ages 12-25, who are interested in starting and running profitable businesses. Topics included financial literacy, social media marketing and vision crafting.

For more information about BCCIE please visit www.bccinlandempire.com



Ralph Richardson is a realtor and founder of CHNG Agent media company.



Verious Smith is the creative director of Philoveracity Design, a firm that specializes in interactive brand development.



Madison Minisee is a 16 year old entrepreneur currently making waves in the entertainment and fashion industries.



Student Board Member Sworn in at FUSD

At the Fontana Unified School District's Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, Juleny Ortiz-Contreras was sworn in as the 2019-2020 Fontana Unified School District Student Board Member by Board of Education President Jason O'Brien, Sr. Juleny is a senior at Jurupa Hills High School where she is the team captain of the girls' basketball team, serves as a math club officer and is a Bible school assistant teacher at her church.

"As a high school student, I am affected by the very issues that board members are working to resolve, so I know that my insight will be of help to them," Ortiz-Contreras said. "I am excited to learn from our board; I want to understand how our District works and I am looking forward to this amazing opportunity."

Ortiz-Contreras juggles nearly a dozen additional clubs and volunteer activities with a full academic schedule and is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme candidate.

"She understands the importance of involvement, not just for students, but parents as well, and how vital their contributions can be, both in and outside of the classroom," said Fontana Adult School Principal Dr. Ruzanna Hernandez, who met Ortiz-Contreras while serving as assistant principal at Jurupa Hills.

Ortiz-Contreras hopes to explore her passion for science and math by pursuing a college degree in biomedical engineering. One day, she hopes to create and design equipment and



Pictured left—Board of Education members and the Superintendent pose for a photo with newly sworn-in student Board of Education representative, Juleny Ortiz-Contreras standing alongside her school principal, Caroline Labonte.



Fontana School Board President Jason O'Brien, Sr. poses with Juleny Ortiz-Contreras after swearing her into office.

School District is Gaining Ground in Anti-Bullying Battle



SAN BERNARDINO CITY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Making Hope Happen

Anonymous Reporting Tip Line:
1-855-86-BULLY
(1-855-86-28559)

NATIONAL
SUICIDE PREVENTION
LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org



SBCUSD's Positive Youth Development Team: Stephanie Fletcher (left) Marlene Bicondova (center) Michelle Myers (right)

Former Curtis Middle school principal Marlene Bicondova is the director of Positive Youth Development for the San Bernardino City Unified School District. Bicondova has implemented a district-wide anti-bullying intervention system known as Undercover Anti-Bullying Teams (UABT) that is similar to the one created during her time at Curtis. Stephanie Fletcher and Michelle Myers are part of Bicondova's team; both of them are experts in restorative practices and were former on-site counselors for elementary and high schools.

While the program has been around only for a year, Bicondova says 42 schools in the District are now using the UABT program. When a case of bullying arises, parents and students can call or come into the Youth Services Department; however, if a child who is being bullied or is a witness to bullying is too embarrassed to report in person they (the child) are provided a QR code (Quick Response code) that can be used with any smart-phone to report anonymously. The department then within 24 business hours following the report of bullying schedules an appointment for a screening with the child and the parent to determine if it's bullying. Bicondova says that 50 percent to 60 percent of bullying cases reported are due to "conflict," which is addressed through "restorative practices" to help resolve the conflict.

If it is determined to be bullying a team of six influential peers are secretly assembled as an anti-bullying team. Together they are told the victim's story and struggles (without identifying who is doing the bullying) and they are assigned the mission to look out for their classmates, the support of the influential peer(s) helps the student being bullied feel welcome and discourages the person doing the bullying from continuing. At the start and throughout the process the student being bullied is asked to rate the bullying on a scale of zero to 10, 10 being the worst, and once they reach a zero rating the team is informed, they are congratulated with a party, thanked by the principal and the team is disbanded.

Bicondova tells us that the UABT program has stopped a number of serious cases that a child was about to commit suicide due to bullying. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, 5,016 males between 15-24 years old have committed suicide in 2017 in addition to 1,225 females in that same year. A separate study from the JAMA Network reported that suicides among girls and young women have "followed a steady upward trajectory since 2000, roughly doubling between then and 2017."

Bicondova wanted to emphasize that nowhere in the plan are the influential kids going after bullies and that the District "is not putting kids in harm's way." Myers says "they want kids to work together to encourage kindness, respect and acceptance." There have been 157 cases as of October 2019 referred to the district, 64 were confirmed to be bullying and assigned a UABT team. Forty teams have been successful. Twelve teams are currently in progress.



Congratulations!



Del Rosa Elementary Parents

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

SENATOR CONNIE M. LEYVA'S

**7TH ANNUAL
YOUNG WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

FREE EVENT

**HIGHLIGHTING THE
UC RIVERSIDE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**



MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

UCR

LOCATION
UC Riverside
900 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92521
Highlander Union Building (HUB)

Conference contact:
vanessa.wiarco@sen.ca.gov or (909) 469-1110

BCCIE PRESENTS

**5th Annual
Black History Super Expo
Mardi Gras**

FEBRUARY 1, 2020

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SAN GORGONIO HIGH SCHOOL

2299 Pacific St., San Bernardino 92404

FREE ADMISSION FOR THE PUBLIC

Vendors, Food, Entertainment,
Fashion Show and More!

Register at bccinlandempire.com

1-844-33-BCCIE (22243) Ext. 902



In partnership with San Gorgonio High School's Black Student Union