



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

Information: Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4487



District-Wide Professional Development Day “Celebrating the Possibilities”

“Back to School” events were exciting for both students and staff this year in the Orange Unified School District. Orange Unified School District (OUSD), Division of Educational Services hosted a “Welcome Back” General Convocation Ceremony for teachers and educators. The highly anticipated event titled, “**Celebrating the Possibilities**”, successfully brought OUSD classroom teachers and many additional certificated staff together. This approach to providing teachers professional development provided every attending participant a new and exciting opportunity to engage in high quality, training that was based on the attendees’ choice and needs. This “learner-centered” event took place at Santiago Canyon College (SCC) in Orange.

The District was pleased to be strengthening its collaborative partnership with the SCC community by bringing all PreK-12 teachers to the SCC campus for the first time. The SCC venue provided participants the opportunity to step onto the local college campus and experience firsthand a 21st century, high-quality facility that included a state of the art gymnasium and largely spaced technology-enhanced classroom with a variety of flexible seating arrangements, that easily accommodated the learning needs of participants. Over 2,000 participants attended this captivating event. Amongst the OUSD, crowds included PreK-12 classroom teachers, counselors, psychologists, special educators, instructional specialists, alternative education teachers, Career Technical Education (CTE) teachers, Regional Occupational Teachers (ROP) teachers, Home/Hospital teachers, assistant principals, principals, district administrators, and special education instructional assistants.

The ceremony began with a strong “student-centered” opening. As teachers arrived at the event, music was provided by Villa Park High School (VPHS) Student Jazz Band, under the direction of Chuck Jay. Following VPHS, Orange High School’s JROTC presented the colors and a Canyon High School student lead the flag salute. The opening session ended with the National Anthem, beautifully sung by a current student from El Modena High School. Following the opening, Superintendent Michael L. Christensen provided a warm, welcome back speech that brought in the new 2014-2015 school year. Orange Unified Education Association (OUEA) President, Jennifer Pettey and OUSD State Teacher of the Year, Linda Horist, addressed the audience on the theme of “Team Work”.

Next, OUSD welcomed guest keynote speaker, Erin Gruwell (Founder of The Freedom Writers Foundation and classroom teacher). Ms. Gruwell provided a personal, inspiring message to all attendees. Following the morning presentations, participants spent the remaining time at SCC in training workshop sessions. These sessions exemplified a myriad of professional learning opportunities that showcased strategies and ideas that current OUSD educators and leaders have successfully implemented in the classrooms. Many of the training session topics illustrated how teachers are positively affecting student learning, motivation and overall academic

(Continued on Page 2)

achievement. These sessions enabled participants to engage in real, relevant learning that left attendees with tips, ideas, strategies and information to support teachers as they continue to support students in engaging in a 21st century learning environment.

Attendees were able to select from over 55 sessions and attend two topic sessions based on their own interests and needs. During the day, attendees participated in a variety of sessions that provided teaching ideas and strategies. This event was an overwhelming success that generated a lot of positive energy for OUSD teachers and staff. Several attendees left the training excited, enthusiastic and ready to start implementing new ideas and strategies with students this year. Our OUSD schools and district office are very excited to kick-off another great school year. This year will be an amazing and exciting year of “possibilities” to uncover and celebrate for all children in our OUSD community.

The District would like to thank the following teacher leaders and in-house experts for their session presentations at the Professional Development Day:

Name	Position	Name	Position
Whitney Amsbary	Teacher, Nohl Canyon Elementary	Marie LaCassa	Secondary Mathematics Instructional Specialist, Curriculum & Instruction Department
Teresa Andrade	Teacher, McPherson Magnet School	Diane Lissner	Teacher, El Modena High School
Debbie Ashmore	Teacher, Prospect Elementary	Kathy Lloyd	Elementary Mathematics Instructional Specialist, Curriculum & Instruction Department
Lisa Aulick	Teacher, Canyon High School	Catherine Lonergan	Teacher, West Orange Elementary
Helen Barney	Teacher, Yorba Middle School / Math Coach	Abby Mann	Instructional Specialist, Esplanade Elementary
Christina Baroldi	Instructional Specialist, Educational Technology Department	Julie McNealy	Coordinator, BTSA/Induction, Curriculum & Instruction Department
Karin Barone	Teacher, La Veta Elementary	Kim Merlihan	Teacher, El Modena High School
Linda Bartrom	Teacher, Villa Park High School	Crystal Meyer	Instructional Specialist, Educational Technology Department
Jaime Bauer	Elementary Instructional Specialist, Special Education Department	Amber Miller	Instructional Specialist, California Elementary
Sara Beggs	Coordinator, Special Education Department	Ken Miller, Ed.D.	Administrative Director, Student and Community Services Department
Sandra Benuzzi	Teacher, Villa Park High School	Sandra Miller	Principal, Anaheim Hills Elementary
Brandi Black-Le Tourneau	Teacher, West Orange Elementary	Kristine Nelson	Coordinator, SCS/ Foster Youth, McKinney Vento, and At-Risk Youth
Kathy Boyd	Coordinator, Curriculum & Instruction Department	Terri Nii	CTE/ROP, Curriculum & Instruction Department
Dawn Bronson	Teacher, OUSD Preschool	Anita Olson	Special Education Department
Misty Campos	Elementary Instructional Specialist, Accountability and Special Programs Department	Corinne Owens	Teacher West Orange Elementary
Sharon Cecchi	Teacher, Crescent Elementary	Jyoti Patel	Special Education Department
Julie Chapman	Teacher, OUSD Preschool	Ashley Pedroza	Coordinator, Research and Assessment Department
Krista Chupryna	Occupational Therapist, Special Education Department	Dee Petersen	District Rtl Coach, Curriculum & Instruction Department

Name	Position	Name	Position
Diana Cohen	Teacher, Anaheim Hills Elementary	Jen Pettey	Teacher, Canyon High School
Kelly Devine	Elementary Instructional Specialist, Accountability and Special Programs Department	Celinna Pinelo	Coordinator, Accountability and Special Programs Department
Maribelle Donaldson	Teacher, West Orange Elementary	Pam Quiros	Coordinator, Educational Technology Department
Kristi Dorf	Secondary Instructional Specialist, Accountability and Special Programs Department	Jodi Roney	Teacher, Cambridge Elementary
Dana Encheff	Instructional Specialist, Educational Technology Department	Julie Roney	TOSA - STEM/Science Center, Curriculum & Instruction Department
Paul Flores	Teacher, Sycamore Elementary	Jamie Rose	Teacher, Nohl Canyon Elementary
Sheldon Glass	Coordinator, Student and Community Services Department	Erin Rosselli	Teacher, Panorama Elementary
Alex Graham	Teacher, Canyon High School	Jennifer Salas	Secondary Instructional Specialist, Accountability & Special Programs Department
Emma Granados	Instructional Specialist, Taft Elementary	Josh Sherman	Teacher, Villa Park High School
Lisa Green	Coordinator, Accountability and Special Programs Department	Amber Tatch	Instructional Specialist, handy Elementary
Carrie Griggs	Teacher, California Elementary	Denise Trenner	Teacher, Nohl Canyon Elementary
Delia Hawley	Teacher, Anaheim Hills Elementary	Laura Urquart	Instructional Specialist, Fairhaven Elementary
Linda Horist	Teacher, Nohl Canyon Elementary	Pam Verdone	Teacher, Anaheim Hills Elementary
Vicki Johnson	Speech/Language Pathologist, AT/AAC Specialist, Special Education Department	Glen Warren	Teacher, McPherson Magnet School
Dana Johnston	Instructional Specialist, West Orange Elementary	Ginny Wilson	Occupational Therapist, Special Education Department
Suzanne Kent	Teacher, Handy Elementary School	Tracy Zaldivar	Special Education Department

Images are available online at <http://www.orangeusd.org/PD2014/>



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The Orange Unified School District educates approximately 30,000 students in the Cities of Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and county areas. The school district, founded in 1953, encompasses 108 square miles. The District office is located at 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, California.