

Family of Schools

LMU|LA
Loyola Marymount
University

End of Year Message From Dean Shane Martin

Dear LMU Family of Schools Community,

As the school year winds down, we thought it would be beneficial to review the accomplishments of the Family of Schools with an eye toward the future. This year the LMU Family of Schools worked through several major challenges which resulted in improving hiring procedures in our schools, training for our newly elected leadership teams on visioning and mission, and responding to the financial crisis crippling the state of California and its schools.

While these issues could have derailed the FOS, we have worked as a community toward our goals and, as a result, are stronger as we move forward. The financial crisis on both the state and local levels will require our continued commitment to work together to ensure that the FOS continues to thrive.

This year the FOS also created or supported a series of programs to improve the administration and support given to our local schools and raise student achievement levels. These programs include:

- **K-12 College Access and Readiness Programming:** An initiative in which LMU leverages local support to implement a college readiness program for K-12 students to instill a college-going culture; LMU FOS dedicates staff time to develop and implement college access and readiness programming in all partner schools through workshops, information sharing and other events.
- **Upward Bound:** An LMU college preparation program that serves more than 50 Westchester High School students to get them focused on college careers and skills development. The goal of the four-year, \$1 million program is to increase the rate at which participants complete college.
- **Building Bridges for Others:** This job-skills readiness program is designed to teach résumé-building and employment skills workshop facilitated by the LMU Student Employment Services. SES, with dozens of LMU volunteers, serves hundreds of Westchester High school students through several daylong workshops. In addition, a specialized program, in conjunction with the LAUSD's Office of Transition Services and Start on Success has been implemented for students with disabilities.
- **LMU for Others:** A student mentoring program that pairs Westchester High School

freshman, identified by their teachers and counselors, with LMU students and staff together to establish supportive relationships. It includes a specialized mentoring program that pairs students with disabilities with LMU School of Education students for mentoring support.

- **CMAST:**A program created by the LMU School of Education's Center for Math & Science Teaching in conjunction with faculty from the College of Science and Engineering, which is working with ninth grade math teachers to increase student achievement and interest in math.
- **ArtsLink:**An LMU program that works with teachers in our partner elementary schools to develop a comprehensive arts infusion strategy into the instructional program.
- **Parent and Community Engagement:**A project, led by LMU, to develop and support processes and structures for effective parent and community involvement in the Family of Schools.
- **Human Relations Training and Support:**A program of intercultural affairs and human relations training, led by LMU, to guide stakeholders through a dialogue process to better understand assets from diverse communities.
- **Academic Performance Review and Needs Assessment:**LMU leveraged outside resources for a review of high school instructional programs examining equity and access. Additionally, FOS staff members are working with the Office of Learning and Leadership to help school leadership teams identify priority areas to close achievement gaps and raise performance outcomes.
- **Teacher Development and Support:**LMU is working with each school to identify teacher credentialing needs. In conjunction with school leadership teams and the LAUSD Division of Human Resources, LMU will develop a program to address credentialing needs.

As we look forward, LMU reaffirms its commitment to our local students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members in the LMU Family of Schools. LMU is currently seeking to extend its Memorandum of Understanding with LAUSD for an additional four years. The four-year time frame will align LMU with other LAUSD iDesign network partners' MOU time frames. For these upcoming four years, LMU believes that it is critical to build upon our strengths as a university in working with our local schools. LMU, through its School of Education, will work with the iDesign Division, the Office of Learning and Leadership, and each of the LMU FOS sites to provide support in professional development, development of external supportive partnerships, and K-12 research opportunities with specific school and classroom level accountability measures. All our efforts are focused on the goal of improving academic success and closing existing achievement gaps.

Direct management and oversight will continue to be provided by the Office of Learning and Leadership, led by Stephen Rochelle, which will continue to work to access the flexibilities available to all iDesign schools.

A critical component, which is supported by LMU, is the need to engage all stakeholders in the work that is taking place in our schools. With that in mind, LMU will develop, with school stakeholders, a partnership work plan tailored to each school site that lays out the goals for the

LMU-FOS partnership for the year. LMU and its Family of Schools team are committed to working with our school partners to improve outcomes for all students in our participating schools. Through the educational expertise of the School of Education combined with efforts to seek external resources we hope to build upon this year's successes.

Sincerely,

Shane P. Martin, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education
Loyola Marymount University

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