



PRESS RELEASE

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Gateway Community Charters Celebrates National Charter Schools Week

SACRAMENTO, California. April 21, 2010 – In honor of National Charter Schools Week 2010 (May 2nd -8th), Gateway Community Charters is planning to launch into social media with Facebook for May 2nd and open up their school sites to the public on Friday May 7th. Gateway Community Charters is a local nonprofit with six public charter schools serving over 3,200 students in the greater Sacramento region. For National Charter Schools Week we plan to celebrate the many great things our schools have done this year for our children and community. Some of our highlights this year, include:

- For the second year in a row, Futures High School received the US News and World Report Bronze Medal for high performing high schools. Futures is currently offering two advanced placement classes and is expanding to three next school year; student results have been strong. Several Futures students received honors: Valeriy Karpiyevich received an ACSA Every Student Succeeding scholarship and Mariah Aguilar received a local Comcast Scholarship.
- At Sacramento & Vocational Academy (SAVA) we have developed the base for three focused career pathways which will be built on in the coming year. SAVA also expanded its offerings to include an online academy called AdvancedPath@ SAVA. Additionally, SAVA student James Hernandez received an ACSA Every Student Succeeding scholarship this spring.
- Community Outreach Academy (COA) has many great programs; a successful middle school concept, intramural sports, spelling bees, international festival, and more. COA continues to excel, having met the API for the last five years while gaining more than 100 points. COA has also met AYP for 4 of the last 5 school years and continues to be one of the highest scoring schools in the district. This spring COA Principal Larissa Gonchar was the recipient of the California State Recognition Award honoring her work and contribution in the community.
- Higher Learning Academy (HLA) has integrated content standards and the Core Knowledge sequence. At HLA the focus is on meeting the needs of the individual student be it through small class sizes, individualized instruction, or in our quality after-school program. On May 6th HLA is reaching out to prospective Kindergarten families during “Kindergarten Round-Up” followed by an Open House and Spring Performance.
- The California Aerospace Academy (CAA) has an active partnership with both Sacramento City College Aeronautics program and the Aerospace Museum of California. CAA hosts a chapter of the Civil Air Patrol, has instituted a Robotics club, and has implemented Project Lead the Way curriculum as well as co-hosting a

Speaker Series with the Aerospace Museum of California. CAA Student Paul Jenkins was the recipient of an ACSA Every Student Succeeding Award.

- Community Collaborative Charter School (CCCS) was successful at receiving a full WASC accreditation this year. CCCS serves primarily at-risk youth; homeless, pregnant and parenting teens, adjudicated youth, fifth year seniors etc. The school has active partnerships with local organizations like WIND youth, WEAVE, and Birth& Beyond, where community organizations can come together and fully meet all needs of the child. In 2009-10, CCCS has begun the initial implementation of their Service Learning graduation requirement. Principal Jon Campbell recently received a local People Reaching People Award.

“We are pleased and excited to be offering such great public school options in our community,” said Dr. Cindy Petersen, Gateway’s Superintendent and CEO. “We invite the public to join us as we celebrate our schools and our students’ accomplishments during National Charter Schools Week. Five of our six schools have scheduled a National Charter Schools Week ‘Charter Hospitality Hour’ from 1:00 to 2:00pm on Friday May 7th to welcome students, parents, stakeholders and community members to come out and celebrate with us. ” Note: Higher Learning Academy invites the community out on Thursday May 6th from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

Each of our site administrators will be available to discuss current year progress and plans for the next year with visitors. Teachers and staff also will be on hand to discuss the school’s philosophy and curriculum. They are available to guide visitors on a tour of their school building as well.

Over 1.6 million children attend more than 4,900 public charter schools in 39 states and the District of Columbia, including the GCC schools in California. Charter schools are tuition-free public schools that are open to all students. Educators, community leaders, business people and parents who start charters select the curriculum, philosophies and emphasis of the schools, such as a back to-basics foundation, technology focus or school-to-work approach.

Gateway Community Charters opened its first charter schools in 2003. We have grown from one charter school and approximately 320 students to six schools (over 12 locations) serving over 3,200 students today. We are very proud of our schools, each with its own population and different approach to meeting the needs of students. Our schools emphasize quality instruction and we have been using a performance pay system for teachers for more than three years. While each school is unique, just like our students, each are dedicated to excellence in education.

Those wishing to attend a specific school’s ‘Charter Hospitality Hour’, or set up a tour/visit at for a later date, may call the GCC offices at (916) 286-5129 for directions or visit www.gcccharters.org for more information about each of our high quality schools.