

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL EQUITY AND ADVOCACY

The Educational Equity and Advocacy Department will provide guidance and leadership to create
excellence and equity for every student, every classroom, every day.

Winter Greetings Colleagues!

My team and I hope you're enjoying the winter weather. I want to thank you ALL for your AMAZING efforts in helping our students feel safe and welcomed in our schools. Please continue your strident efforts in supporting our students and their families. Happy Holidays!

[Claustina Mahon-Reynolds](#), Director of Educational Equity and Advocacy

2017 Cesar Chavez Language and Visual Arts Contest

Cesar Chavez worked hard for social change to support the rights of migrant farm workers. Like Cesar Chavez, there are many others who fight for social justice. This includes equal access to civil liberties, human rights and opportunities for all. We are excited because this year's theme allows our Salt Lake City School District students to express their ideas about people in their own communities who are actively involved in Social Justice causes.

This Year's Theme:

What can be done to support the rights of people in our communities? What Social Justice causes are people fighting for today that make a difference in the lives of individuals?

We are hoping that our district's educators will encourage all K-12 students to participate in this year's Cesar Chavez Language and Visual Arts Contest! Click on the Educational Equity Website link for instructions and entry form information.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Leadership Awards Call for Nominations

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Leadership Award Selection Committee is counting on you to identify and nominate students (grade 7-12) who demonstrate dedication to the beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in their communities and daily activities.

To nominate a student please click on this [link](#), follow the instructions, and submit the necessary paperwork on behalf of your selected candidate.

Equity Action Plans

Our department is excited about the many areas of focus for the school equity action plans. Several schools have determined the need to include culturally responsive

practices in order to provide an equitable educational experience for all of our Salt Lake City School District students. Our department is working hard to create and offer professional learning opportunities based on culturally responsive practices.

Culturally Relevant and Responsive Teaching Professional Learning Opportunity

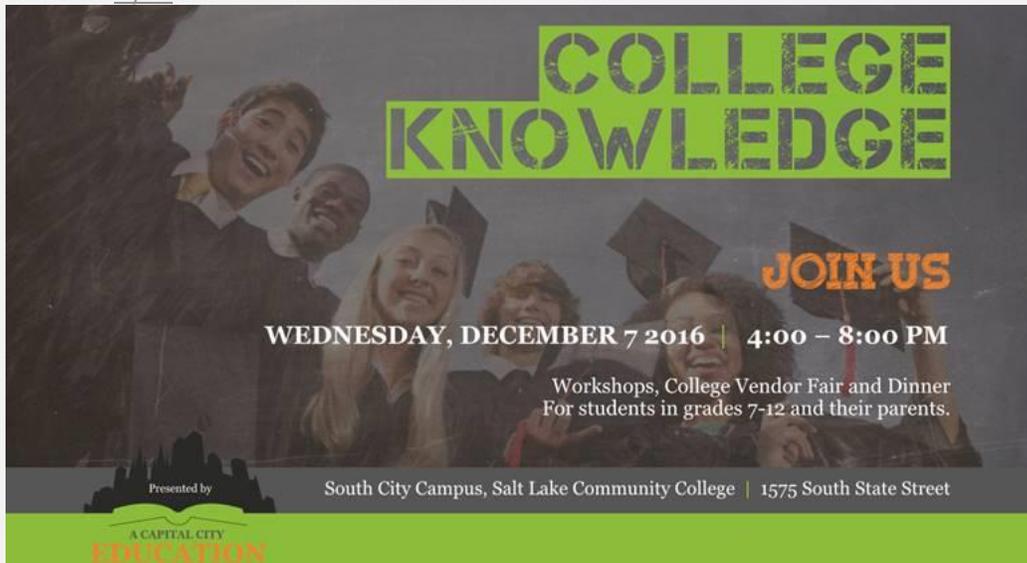
Many of you have expressed an interest in the Culturally Relevant and Responsive Teaching professional learning opportunity. We realize that December is a very busy month; therefore, please contact [Edie Park](#), if you are interested in a January 2017 workshop. Relicensure points will be offered.

Alternative Language Services

It may be hard to believe, but we are nearing the time of year for WIDA testing. After winter break, the WIDA Access 2.0 testing window opens January 9th and will remain open until March 10th, 2017. A testing team will support you in your WIDA administration for 3 days according to the schedule in the DDC WIDA Access folder–[here](#). If you have questions regarding the WIDA Access 2.0 testing, please contact [Betty Jimenez](#), ALS Coordinator.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

Next week, on Wednesday, December 7th, 2016, there will be a College Knowledge event taking place for students in grades 7-12 at the South City Campus, Salt Lake Community College from 4:00-8:00. All students are welcome to attend. Please see the [flyer](#) below for additional information.



Refugee Services: “Refugee Support Group” at Highland High School

The Refugee Support Group is intended to help newly arrived students to better understand the U.S. school system. The group meets once a week on Wednesdays during the first and second lunches. The students come in seeking support in many

areas. For example, some students would like support in understanding class schedules, how many credits are needed for graduation, how to apply for free or reduced lunch, how to schedule appointments with a counselor or teacher, how to apply for FAFSA, etc. Most of the time, the students come to support each other and get to know other students who are refugees with similar backgrounds. [Christal Rattanavilay](#), Refugee Support Coordinator, is working hard to make the students feel welcome in their school community



On November 22nd, the Refugee Support Group enjoyed lunch with Christal Rattanavilay.

American Indian Education

In honor of American Indian Heritage Month, the Utah State Board of Education, Dr. Chuck Foster from the Utah State Board of Education, and Salt Lake City School District -Title VI (Indian Education) Coordinator, [Davina Spotted-Elk](#) partnered with The Natural History Museum of Utah. This year, Jackson Elementary took part in this great event and were able to tour the entire museum, including the special exhibit The Power of Poison and Native Voices. Students also had an opportunity to take part in a cultural class presented by an American Indian elder. Thank you Principal Edwards for supporting your students in taking part in such a great event!



The Natural History Museum of Utah offers educational events throughout the school year. If you are interested in learning more, check out their [website](#).

Translation Services

As we work toward the end of the calendar year, the schedule becomes more and more busy with each day as we approach our Winter Vacation. Please remember to schedule your appointments well in advance, so that we will have time in the

Translation Office to fill your requests. We love taking care of your translations and interpreting for your meetings, but to be able to do so well, we need enough time to plan out our assignments. Thank you.

Bob Muench—Translator Coordinator

Title I Corner

Parent Involvement vs. Family Engagement

Under the Title I section of the Every Student Succeeds Act, “Parent Involvement” has been changed to “Family Engagement”. The change from involvement to engagement implies moving from ‘doing to’ to ‘doing with’.

The following piece from Educational Leadership, May 2011 Volume 68, Number 8 Schools, Families, Communities, pages 10-14 gives some guidance on the difference.

- The right kinds of school-family connections—those built on relationships, listening, welcoming, and shared decision making—can produce multiple benefits for students, including higher grade point averages and test scores, better attendance, enrollment in more challenging courses, better social skills, and improved behavior at home and at school (Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, 2002).
- A school striving for family involvement often leads with its mouth —identifying projects, needs, and goals and then telling parents how they can contribute. A school striving for parent engagement, on the other



hand, tends to lead with its ears—listening to what parents think, dream, and worry about. The goal of family engagement is not to serve clients but to gain partners. . . Almost all the research also says that family engagement can produce even better results—for students, for families, for schools, and for their communities (Ferlazzo & Hammond, 2009).

As we move into the new calendar year and look toward beginning school improvement plans, look at ways to engage our parents at a deeper level. Some schools are looking at home visits and/or Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT).

Below are some resources for these engagement models:

- APTT:
 - <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/academic-parent-teacher-teams-anne-obrien>
 - <https://www.wested.org/service/academic-parent-teacher-teams-aptt-family-engagement-in-education/>
- Home Visits:
 - <http://www.pthvp.org/>
 - <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/family-engagement-works-parent-teacher-home-visits-anne-obrien>
- Educational Leadership:
 - <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may11/vol68/num08/Involvement-or-Engagement%C2%A2.aspx>

If you have questions about this content, please contact Paula Espinoza-Wells, Title I Coordinator.

Upcoming December Holidays

- **December 1:** World AIDS Day, which was created to commemorate those who have died of AIDS, and to acknowledge the need for a continued commitment to all those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- **December 1:** Eid Milad Un Nabi, an Islamic holiday commemorating the birthday of the prophet Muhammad. During this celebration, homes and mosques are decorated, large parades take place, and those observing the holiday participate in charity events.
- **December 1:** Marks the 61st anniversary of Rosa Parks' decision to sit down for her rights on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus, putting the effort to end segregation on a fast track.
- **December 3:** International Day of Disabled Persons, which is designed to raise awareness in regards to persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
- **December 3-24:** Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November
- **December 8:** Bodhi Day, a holiday observed by Buddhists to commemorate Gautama's enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, India.
- **December 10:** International Human Rights Day, established by the United Nations in 1948 to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- **December 12:** Feast Day at Our Lady of Guadalupe. This day commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531.
- **December 16-24:** Las Posadas, a nine-day celebration in Mexico commemorating the trials Mary and Joseph endured during their journey to Bethlehem.
- **December 21:** The Winter Solstice/ Yule the shortest day of the year represents a celebration focusing on rebirth, renewal, and new beginnings as the sun makes way back to the earth. A solstice is an astronomical event that happens twice each year when the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky.
- **December 25:** Christmas, the day that Christians associate with Jesus's birth.
- **December 25:** The beginning of Hanukkah (Chanukah). Also known as the Festival of Lights, it is an eight-day Jewish holiday recognizing the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. It is observed by lighting candles on a Menorah—one for each day of the festival.
- **December 26 – January 1:** Kwanzaa, an African-American holiday started by Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate universal African-American heritage.
- These dates were found at [this](#) website.