

THE IMPACT



**WINTER
2014
EDITION**

*“If college is the question,
then PACT is the answer”*

Quarterly Newsletter

YOU BETTER WATCH OUT!

You better not cry, the ImPACT Newsletter is out and we're telling you now! In this edition of The IMPACT, we bring you the most up-to-date PACT news, important events and updates. The ImPACT is a glimpse into our organization and lives of those we serve at the schools and communities. Welcome to the Winter 2014 Edition of the ImPACT!

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Introduction from PACT Co-Founder and President, Everett Brandon



Our mission to continue guiding students towards graduating from high school and receiving a college degree remains intact. Serving first generation, underserved and minority students is a mission we embrace. The PACT Inc. organization is devoted to fulfilling its vision that began about 50 years ago.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we feel invigorated to do even more these coming years. We want to thank you for your participation in PACT's Talent Search program and for your continual support. - **Everett Brandon, J.D.**



Special Message from PACT Executive Director and CEO, Derek L. Toliver

I am the CEO and Executive Director of Plan of Action for Challenging Times, (PACT) Inc., dba PACT, Inc. Educational Opportunities Clearinghouse, PACT2College, and PACT2STEM a non-profit 501(c)(3) founded in San Francisco, CA in 1963. We have been successful in introducing over 65,000 high school and middle school students to college over the past 50 years. Over 40,000 PACT, Inc. high school students have been admitted into college, earning over 24,000 college degrees.

We provide free educational services to qualified students that include High School to College Advising, Academic Tutorial Services, STEM Education Services, STEM Career Advising, College Application and Testing Fee Waiver Assistance, Financial Aid, Scholarship, and Grant Services for low income to moderate income students. We serve over 3,200 students per year with over 90% of them coming from urban minority communities. The majority of our students are the first in their families to attend college, or earn a college degree. Our students come from three San Francisco Bay Area school districts: San Francisco, Vallejo, and Richmond, CA. We have been a recipient of over \$40 million dollars in grants from the federally funded TRiO Talent Search program since 1965. Our goal is to expand our new and existing services to the following counties: Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara over the next three to five years.

PACT, Inc: Brief History

1965 – PACT receives funding from the U.S. Department of Education as part of an Educational Talent Search (ETS) program under an umbrella of programs called TRiO.

1993 – PACT diversifies its' mission by launching the Tutorial Program in San Francisco.

2002 – PACT expands the the reach by opening the East Bay Office in Vallejo, CA.

Coming Soon 2015 – PACT celebrates 50 years as part of ETS and TRiO Programs!

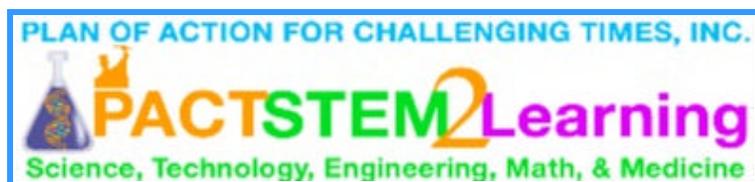


“PACTSTEM2LEARNING Event”

By: *Raynard Cayetano*

On Saturday, November 15th, 2014, PACT hosted “PACTSTEM2LEARNING”. The event promoted future careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medicine (STEM2).

Held at the YMCA in Bayview-Hunters Point, PACT hosted several prominent figures in the STEM2 field such as Derek Toliver, CEO and Executive Director of PACT, Inc., Annette Dennett, Project Director of PACT, Inc. and Dr. Rosaura Valle, Ph. D of Virology & Molecular Biology at the University of Paris. Each guest speaker provided a glimpse into the exciting field of STEM2 careers.



Derek Toliver
*PACT, Inc. CEO &
Executive Director*



Annette Dennett
*PACT, Inc.
Project Director*



Dr. Rosaura Valle
*Ph. D, Virology &
Molecular Biology,
(University of Paris)*



**Bayview
Hunter's Point
YMCA**

Over 60 individuals attended the event and showcased the exciting new developments in the STEM2 fields and careers. Derek Toliver performed a special demonstration of the Argon Beam Coagulator for Electro-surgery to the delight of the attendees which primarily consisted of families who came with students from Middle Schools and High Schools alike. Annette Dennett discussed the importance of pursuing post-secondary education with the assistance of PACT. Dr. Rosaura Valle, meanwhile, brought her expertise to the event as Ph. D of Virology and Molecular Biology at the University of Paris while also serving as a special guest host.

The event was also attended by Hydra Mendoza-McDonnell, who is the San Francisco Mayor's Office Educational Advisor. Mrs. Mendoza-McDonnell spoke briefly about her enthusiasm regarding the STEM2 event and stressed the importance for all students to do their best in school.

(Continued onto the next page)

One of the highlights from the event was the student panel session from our four special guests. Abigail Iturra of Cal Berkeley, John Paul Lawrence of Stanford University, Lavanya Jawaharlal of Cal Berkeley and Nora Jendoubi of Stanford University all shared their thoughts as young adults who are heavily invested in the STEM2 fields.



**Abigail
Iturra**
CAL
BERKELEY



**John Paul
Lawrence**
STANFORD
UNIVERSITY



**Lavanya
Jawaharlal**
CAL
BERKELEY



**Nora
Jendoubi**
STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

Middle school and high school students alike asked interesting questions ranging from college life, work-study, personal motivation and more importantly, STEM2 careers. It was an important panel which reinforced to students the importance of pursuing post-secondary education.

At the end of the event, all attendees were highly encouraged by the participation, enthusiasm and information that were exhibited from this successful event. Simply put, the event showed the importance of investing in young lives and the impact it leaves on these future leaders. ■

Upcoming Event: PACT2STEM East Bay

Date: January 31, 2015

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location: John F. Kennedy Library

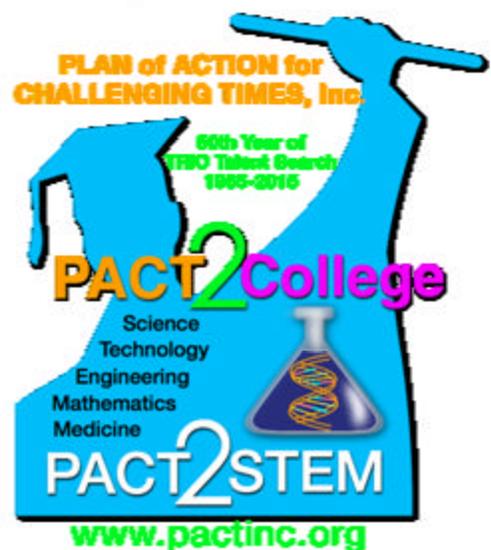
Address: 505 Santa Clara St., Vallejo, CA 94590

Phone: (707) 556-9357

Email: info@pactinc.org

Note: You must R.S.V.P. by Jan. 29, 2015.

"If College or a STEM Career is the Question,
PACT2College or PACT2STEM is the Answer"



Introduction:

PACT, Inc. and Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) of San Francisco have formed a very wonderful relationship these past few years. Every year, ICA sends PACT a few interns in order gain skills and experience. Below is an article written by one of the students describing the experiences as a PACT intern.

“The Life as a PACT Intern”

By: Josella Arriola, ICA Intern

Hello, my name is Josella Arriola. Currently, I am a senior in High School at Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA). As a part of my work-study program requirements, I've been a student intern of PACT for two years. I started working here during my sophomore year (2012-2013) and this year as a graduating senior (2014-2015).



When I first walked into PACT, I was a very shy person and barely interacted with anyone. However, when given a task by the PACT supervisors, I would do the job thoroughly and ask any clarifying questions. Over time, I began to feel more comfortable at PACT and conversing with staff members. I will never forget how PACT surprised me with cake and pizza on my 17th birthday. It was nice and totally unexpected of them to do that for me. ■

“The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.” (Robert Hutchins)



“San Francisco Achievers”

By: *Raynard Cayetano* with Kachiside Madu



Last semester, towards the end of the school year, a scholarship dinner ceremony was held to commemorate a special group of about thirty African-American High School scholars. These scholars filled the room, dressed to impress and celebrated the night with a year’s worth of struggle and success. Without losing composure and professionalism, they represented themselves before the very people that helped them change. Ironically enough, this scene would have not been special if not for the place where these men came from earlier that year.

Raoul Wallenberg High School has a large number of African-American High School males who struggle with social, professional and academic skills. There was a glaring need to create a group to provide a channel for the young men to navigate through these challenges. Thus, the group San Francisco Achievers was created in 2008 to address these needs. San Francisco Achievers focuses specifically on the needs of young African-American males who for socio-economic reasons, has experienced disproportionately high dropout rates and low achievement scores in the San Francisco Unified School District. PACT’s very own Educational Advisor, Kachiside Madu, joined this group to lend his own wisdom and knowledge in the socio-academic struggles of these youths.

San Francisco Achievers addresses these inequalities by providing African-American male students with support programs and resources that could significantly reduce or possibly even eradicate such struggles, which have adversely affected these young men in academia over many decades.

The San Francisco Achievers group meets every Wednesday afternoon for two hours starting at 1 p.m. The first hour of the meeting is dedicated to specially-designed workshops. Workshop topics range from Career Inventory, Resume/Cover Letters, College 101, Money Management, time management, to name a select few. The second hour transitions to the after school program to do an hour of academic tutoring, counseling and mentoring. Young men are given opportunities to work on homework, projects and/or meet with teachers regarding grades. **(Continued onto the next page)**



Article: SF Achievers (Part 2)

When asked what he has learned about the students he has worked with, Mr. Madu says: *"I have learned quite a lot."* Being a young African-American male himself, Madu knows the struggles and challenges all too well. However, Mr. Madu says that; *"These (men) do not use their challenges as an excuse to fail or give up but rather motivation to become better and to prove doubters wrong."* Many of these young men have tremendous potential despite their unique challenges and as such, Mr. Madu learns great lessons from mentoring them.



These are the young males who want to increase college admission rates amongst their population and community. These are the young males who want to debunk the stigma associated with African-American males and education. More importantly, these are the young males who want to be future leaders for the next generation that follows. As a result, Mr. Madu agrees that he would not be the same person that he is today without these young men; *"I am forever grateful and appreciative of them."* He adds.

As he reflects back to last year's scholarship ceremony, Mr. Madu, who is a year older and wiser, is evidently excited for what lies ahead; both immediate and long term. Mr. Madu then poignantly adds: *"I will never forget these experiences and I hold these young men dear to my heart."* As we could clearly see, positive change is apparent to those who go through the struggles, whether as the mentor or as the mentee. ■



PACT Ambassador's Retreat

Hosted by Chinna Ford with Jessica Calderon

It was a late Saturday morning and the retreat began with a unique icebreaker segment; a few high school students were working with purple plastic cups and rubber bands in order to build teamwork and a sense of unity. Clearly, this icebreaker was just the beginning of a fun-filled, educational retreat held at the PACT office in Vallejo, CA.



PACT Educational Advisor, Chinna Ford, hosted the PACT Ambassador's Retreat on Saturday, November 15, 2014 to equip young students with important professional skills, as well as motivating them to become future leaders. Overall, four students attended the retreat; Mia Moore, Taylor Kidd, Chiani Killingsworth and Demelvae Brown.

Jessica Calderon, PACT Educational Advisor, also assisted with the event by conducting an Organizational Skills Workshop. The retreat also contained creating a school calendar and True Colors assessment. Simply put, our PACT staff continues to assist young adults by equipping with skills as future leaders. ■



Mia Moore
(Senior)

Vallejo High School



Taylor Kidd
(Senior)

Vallejo High School



Chianti Killingsworth
(Junior)

Vallejo High School



Demelvae Brown
(Senior)

Jesse Bethel HS

“Two for the Price of One”

By: *Diedre Carter*



The Students of Solano Middle School had the opportunity to visit two Universities in one day. As such, one could feel the excitement in the air.

Our adventure began at 7:15 a.m. in the morning. Students lined up in the dark to ensure a good spot on the bus. As we crossed the Carquinez Bridge we could hear ‘Oohs’ and ‘Ahhs’. Not seemingly sure if that was a response from the view or that we were actually en-route to two of nation’s most popular universities.

While continuing down Hwy I-80 we asked them to count how many cities and towns we passed through. Our chaperones were Ms. Chinna (PACT Educational Advisor) , Ms. Evans (S.M.S Librarian), Ms. Landers (Parent Support and Volunteer), Ms. Napier (S.M.S Teacher), Brittany “Academic Advisor” and I, Diedre Carter Tutorial Coordinator at S.M.S.

We crossed the Bay Bridge with silence and then students began to ask about the buildings in the cityscape. There were different sizes, shapes and much more. I too was excited. Forty minutes later we arrived at Stanford University. The streets were lined with bicycles and pedestrians.

Questions were being thrown left and right like “Why are they riding bikes?” “Why aren’t they locked up?” “What happens when it rains? How do they know which bike is theirs?”

We were greeted by our tour guides, both of which were Stanford students in their senior years. Finally, someone to answers their plethora of questions!

Our tour took over an hour and was filled with historical monuments, different departments of study and interesting people.

After the tour was over we boarded the bus bound to U.C. Berkeley.

(Continued onto the next page)



Solano M.S. Field Trip (Part 2)



The group arrived at U.C. Berkeley on Dwight Way, only to see students everywhere; walking biking and running. The group was directed to the dining hall and to their surprise a delicious buffet awaited them.

The buffet had it all; breakfast, soups, salads, chicken, pastas, vegetarian and vegan items and much more. After multiple trips to the various food stations and endless beverages the chatter became a lull. They were now full!



Mission accomplished! After a great meal, we prepared for the second part of the tour.

We were met again by Tour guides that explained the rich history of the school. Each building had its' own story. We also found the mascot engraved in many buildings. The landscape of this campus was different from the previous university. Afterwards, we walked up and down the hills. With bellies full we pressed onward. Most of the boys had questions about the sports programs on campus and the girls inquired about fields of study.

As we boarded our bus they thanked us and the bus driver for the opportunity to visit two great campuses. Finally, we began the rush hour ride home to Vallejo. ■



“Richmond and Vallejo High School”

By: *Raynard Cayetano with Chinna Ford*

Last November, 25 students from Richmond High School (RHS) and 22 students from Vallejo High School (VHS) students visited California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). As the students boarded the bus, the excitement was apparent.



For many, this was the first time they every visited a college campus and as a result, it was a highly exciting field trip for many involved.

With a mixture of Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores, the students embarked on a field trip to two wonderfully-located college campuses. By far, the highlight of the trip was visiting UC Santa Cruz, where many of our students enjoy the beautiful scenery of the woods and beach. Many of the students do not have the resources to go make such trips to these places. To them, it was a great experience to venture outside their communities to “*see the rest of the world.*”



At CSUMB the students were given a short presentation on EOP by a current EOP student. The students were given an opportunity to learn more about EOP and what it can do for them in college. During the trip to CSUMB, the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library was the main highlight, according to our fieldtrip evaluations. This was the most memorable part of the tour.

(Continued onto the next page)

Article: H.S. Field Trip (Part 2)

At UC Santa Cruz, the bus left us a few blocks away from Stevenson Dining Hall, where we were suppose to have our lunch. During this time, it was a huge opportunity for the students have a good sense of the campus and surrounding areas.

After no more than five minutes of walking, many of the students fell in love with the campus ambiance. They loved the interconnected scenic walkways through the woods and as one student excitedly pointed out, *"(walking here) is like being in the middle of the forest in Twilight!"*



Besides the beautiful scenery, our students were given the opportunity to dine-in during lunchtime at the Stevenson Cafeteria. The students got to experience order the food and dining experience with actual college students. Since the dining hall was buffet-style, the students took advantage and enjoyed multiple servings. Many students were told about the infamous "freshmen 15/20", which refers to the weight a student gains during freshmen year.

"Apple, Bottom, Jeans!" was a short campus tour by members of the Multi-Cultural Center at UC Santa Cruz. From this tour, the students got a good first-impression from UCSC staff while opening up their presentation by dividing students into three groups however, instead of numbering students off they did it by giving students a specific name, "Apple, Bottom, Jeans!" This particular segment, among the several others surely made the day memorable for both the PACT students and Educational Advisors alike. ■



“Dominican and Stanford University Info Sessions”

By: *Raynard Cayetano with Oriol Zales*

This past October, PACT Educational Advisor Oriol Zales hosted two representatives from both Dominican University and Stanford University at Abraham Lincoln High School (ALHS). The two representatives provided important information and the application process.

Students who attended the college informational sessions learned a great deal of important knowledge in order to apply to both schools. PACT would like to thank both representatives for their time. ■



(Dominican University Rep talks to students)



(Stanford University representative talks to attentive Lincoln High School Students)

Introduction:

PACT, Inc. aims to impact the lives of not only students, but the community as a whole. This section is dedicated to those who have been honored or recognized for their efforts at the schools and in their community.

PACT Employee, Sharon Kidd, Honored by the City of Berkeley

This past November, Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates on behalf of the City of Berkeley, honored one of our very own, Sharon Kidd, for her efforts in serving the City of Berkeley through social justice, community building and civilian oversight.

The City of Berkeley Proclamation is awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to the City of Berkeley and includes honoraries such as the American Red Cross, Cesar Chavez and Berkeley Firefighters. The City of Berkeley gives the award only a few times per year and PACT is thrilled to announce Sharon Kidd as one of the recipients.



The award is a testament to the hard work PACT has done this past year. PACT congratulates Ms. Sharon Kidd for this prestigious award!

Get Inspired. Get Informed. Get Involved!

Ask PACT about various volunteer opportunities!

"Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of a true education." (Martin Luther King Jr.)





In The Spring 2015 Issue:

- PACTSTEM2Learning East Bay..
- Senior/Junior Important Dates and Deadlines..
- PACT Making a Difference and many more!

Plan of Action for Challenging Times, Inc.



PACTSTEM2 LEARNING

Learn about STEM Majors & Careers



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