Los Angeles Times

A small distance, but a great feat: Foshay Learning Center sends more students to USC than any other high school

Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles’ Fox News affiliate featured the USC Neighborhood Academic Initiative and two first-generation college students from Foshay Learning Center. Twenty-one students graduated from the NAI program at Foshay, a community school that was USC’s top feeder institution for the 2016 freshman class.


IN THE NEWS:
USC NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMIC INITIATIVE 2015-16

KABC featured NAI gala, celebrating 25 years of college access, hosted by Alysha Del Valle, ABC-7 reporter

“Pay attention to the pipeline. Partner with K-to-12 schools. This is where you can make a difference.”

C. L. MAX NIKIAS


A dream come true, thanks to NAI

CNN en Espanol featured NAI and program graduate Mauricio Garcia. Garcia, who will attend Harvard this fall, and his mother attribute his success to the program. As one of four children, Garcia worked hard to honor the opportunities his family has sacrificed to provide for him and hopes to become a cancer researcher. The story also quoted NAI curriculum and instruction specialist Lizette Zarate.

For full story: bit.ly/naimauriciogarcia


IN THE NEWS:
USC NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMIC INITIATIVE 2015-16

USC’s signature college access program, Neighborhood Academic Initiative (NAI), received notable media coverage in 2014-2016. Media placement highlights in major publications include Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, Los Angeles Times, KPCC, Univision, ABC-7 and KCBS. The intensive seven-year academic enrichment program has recently expanded its reach to the schools of East Los Angeles at Murchison Elementary School, El Sereno Middle School and Nightingale Middle School as well as Lincoln and Wilson High Schools.
A four-year free ride to USC

Eric Rhodes, a sixth-grader at Foshay Learning Center, is hoping to complete USC’s competitive, seven-year Neighborhood Academic Initiative, and earn a scholarship to USC. “This is a special program … this program will get me to a very successful college, and if I do go to that college, I know I will have a successful future.”

“Really, it’s six days of school for seven years, from 6th to 12th grade,” said Kim Thomas-Barrios, the program’s director.

For full story: bit.ly/naiericrhodes

NAI graduate attributes success to ‘The Academy’

Lillian Singh, associate director of the Racial Wealth Divide Initiative at the Corporation for Enterprise Development, was accepted into NAI at the age of 12 after her family moved to Los Angeles from Mississippi. “The Academy’ as we called it, worked to remove barriers to educational opportunities through enhanced classes at USC on weekday mornings, Saturday classes, afterschool tutoring and workshops on time management and study skills,” Singh wrote. She was the second college graduate in her family and the first to receive a graduate degree. Singh calls her experience a “testimony to the fact that providing resources and investments to people from all backgrounds will strengthen their ability to create a positive future for themselves.”

For full story: bit.ly/naililliansingh

The Eastside Sun ran a story on USC’s Neighborhood Academic Initiative, a seven-year program dedicated to preparing students in low-income neighborhoods to attend college. Nightingale Middle School in Cypress Park is the latest school to offer the program in the area surrounding USC and aims to create a college-going culture for the school’s predominantly Latino student body.

For full story: bit.ly/nainightingale
UNICEF has awarded USC President C. L. Max Nikias with the Spirit of Compassion Award for his work shaping the minds of a generation of students to be philanthropic, globally minded and informed of the issues that are affecting the world’s children.

The award was presented to him by Marvin Arias, a 2010 alumnus of USC who grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from the USC Neighborhood Academic Initiative. UNICEF honored Nikias in part for expanding USC’s youth outreach and education programs such as NAI.

In presenting the award to Nikias, Arias described how NAI helped him on his way to his career as a film industry executive. “Thanks to the support of Dr. Nikias and his relentlessness in making higher education accessible, there are hundreds of others out there who can now also say that they are on their way,” Arias said. “What Dr. Nikias is doing is life-changing for these kids and their families.”

Social Media Impact

IN THE NEWS:
USC NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMIC INITIATIVE 2015-16

A COLLECTION OF MEDIA COVERAGE COURTESY OF USC