



AchieveKids 

February 2017

A Message From

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Executive Director



Learning for Life

From an early age, I always had a passion for learning. Curiosity, exploration, and finding understanding engaged me as a student and a person. This love for learning helped shape my professional approach as an educator. I was drawn to individuals at the schools I attended that did not find the same joy in learning that I did, and often reflected on why that was different person to person. As I entered into my career as an educator, I found myself still connected to groups of students who had traditionally been disenfranchised from school and learning, and dedicated myself to helping those students find more successful outcomes. It is my belief that all students deserve to have that joy in learning, and to have a safe place to appreciate who they are as individuals while working towards where they are capable of going. At AchieveKids we often say that success is defined by life after AchieveKids.

The goal of success beyond our doors, and our ability to create a path to a brighter future guides our instructional approach. As we strive to enhance the educational experiences of our students, AchieveKids works to create habits towards **Learning for Life**, which helps us build the skills necessary for a student to experience success when they graduate from our schools. We work to create **Awareness**, to nurture one's **Ability** to learn, to develop a sense of **Advocacy**, and to enhance an individual's **Agility**. These overarching goals help us align a wide set of curriculum and skills to enable our students to be more prepared for life after AchieveKids. This umbrella enables our team of professionals, including teachers, behavior analysts, mental health therapists, and speech/language therapists to effectively problem solve and align goals, which focuses our approach to meet individual student needs. At AchieveKids we call this skill development. The philosophy of skill development is based around the idea that all people benefit from setting goals and working to improve and increase their skill set. We believe that students and people make rational decisions based on how they perceive the world and utilize the skills they have available. The better we are at helping students increase this skill set, the more ready they are to handle the challenges that come with life.

Learning for life is a philosophy we should all embrace. Our ability to model this for our community not only enriches the students who see it in practice, but it enables all of us to continue growing as people. I appreciate the commitment of our professionals, and our supporting community for helping us develop this culture of learning, so that we can achieve in helping our students find successful outcomes within their lives.

Let's Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.

Executive Director



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



6th Annual **Reach for the Stars BBQ**
Saturday, June 17th, Palo Alto Campus
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
STAR award honoree: **Leland D. Levy**

Staff Spot Light



Adri Martinez has worked at AchieveKids for 4 years. She describes herself as outgoing, responsible and someone who can't live without coffee or watermelon. Adri is currently studying to become an MFT with a dual degree in forensic psychology. She attended Menlo College on a soccer scholarship and majored in psychology because she has always been interested in why people do what they do. Adri's love of children drew her to AchieveKids. "Sometimes the progress can be slow, but when they 'get' something it is very cool!" She wants to see each of our students be able to function well in society. For some that is learning how to cook, for others it might be learning how to put their shoes on. Adri is very proud that the classroom she works in is used as an example of how a good classroom should be run.

A few interesting facts about Adri:

- She doesn't like bread
- Her weirdest job was working at a tuxedo rental company steaming tuxedos
- She loves to go to Fresno to visit her family
- Adri is currently doing an internship at a camp for juvenile offenders and for juveniles with drug and alcohol problems for her masters

We are very proud of Adri and glad she is a member of our AchieveKids staff.

For more information on how you can sign up for a school tour or to learn more about our program please contact: Karin Klarreich, Director of Development at 650.213.5286 or kklarreich@achievekids.org

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