Developing Professionals for our Students

About a month ago EdSource released an article highlighting the increasing crisis facing California around the teacher shortage. Specifically, special education faces the largest shortage and is most at risk to have educators with less preparation or experience in the classroom. Our most complex students are often faced with the least prepared instructors, creating a system of high turn-over and constant uncertainty.

AchieveKids made a decision to invest in talent. Creating pathways for our employees to pursue higher education in teaching, behavioral health, mental health, and speech, while gaining experience in the field became a priority for us. This way we could foster the development of strong professionals in our field, benefiting the students of AchieveKids, and ultimately our larger communities. This past year the state announced a similar commitment, allocating specific funds for innovation in teacher development. AchieveKids is excited to announce that we were granted a CTC Teacher Residency Capacity Grant which will enable us to develop and launch a full teacher residency program in the fall of 2019. The program will enable the development of a system to grow talented educators into professional teachers over a two year period, supplementing their master’s degree in Special Education while helping them gain experience in the field and a teaching credential.

This Residency program is one component of a larger commitment to our team members who work tirelessly in our schools to foster learning and opportunity in the lives of our students. This past year we have supported eight individuals working towards a degree in behavior analysis, granted an endowed scholarship to a teacher pursuing a degree in counseling, and have several other professionals working towards a variety of continued learning goals. In our community, Learning for Life is of upmost importance. We see it daily in our wonderful team of professionals and the work they do with our students.

Together We Can Achieve!
Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.
Executive Director
AchieveKids is pleased to announce that Amber Rice is the winner of our first Endowed Scholarship. Amber received $1,500 in August, 2018 to be used towards her graduate degree.

Amber has been a teacher at AchieveKids for four years. In her time here she has launched a mindfulness initiative and started a program for staff and students entitled “Caught Being Good.” Every month a different staff and student are recognized by their peers for their positive attitude and for encouraging others. Currently Amber is attending San Jose State studying for a masters degree in education with a concentration in school counseling. Our scholarship enabled her to attend summer school this past summer so she can finish her program in two years and graduate in May, 2019.

Amber will be speaking about her experiences at AchieveKids at our upcoming event, Festival of Trees, on Monday, December 3rd.

### 35th Annual Festival of Trees

**SAVE THE DATE!**

35th Anniversary
Festival of Trees
December 3, 2018

Monday, December 3, 2018
10:30 am - 1:30 pm
University Club, Palo Alto

$85 per ticket

[RSVP Here](#)

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

**From all of us at AchieveKids we wish you a very happy Thanksgiving holiday.**