



August 2019

Back to School!

As summer comes to a close and school begins we are met with the excitement of new beginnings. The launch of a school year represents opportunity for all of us to grow and learn, for us to focus on new goals and challenges, and for the opportunities that lie ahead.

AchieveKids Leading the Way, Developing Educators for Tomorrow!

When we say we believe in Learning for Life it goes beyond engaging our students in learning and growth. It is our belief that we must all value learning and partake in the journey of growth. This gives us shared values and it helps our organization continue to learn and grow as well.

If we value on-going learning, it is important that we demonstrate that value, and AchieveKids definitely does. Over the past year we are excited to announce on-going partnerships and professional learning opportunities that help our team members grow and help meet the current needs within our communities.

One of these programs is the AchieveKids **Teacher Residency Program**. Our innovative design is founded on the central ideas of strong mentorship with layers of support, slowly growing responsibilities, core practical experiences, diversity within cohort, and a rigorous master's program. With our need for special educators being so high, it points to several challenges within our current system. Our residency looks to address some of those challenges to foster the growth of a teacher so they can enter the field feeling prepared and confident to meet the diverse and complex needs of our students. We are excited to have brought on several partners including other non-public schools and public school districts under our design. In partnership with Pacific Oaks College, we are thrilled to launch our first cohort this year. Our program design is being supported by the State of California and we have been asked to sit on the California Teacher Residency Lab Team to track and enhance not only our residency system, but the overall system of teacher development.

In addition to this residency system, we also continue to have a partnership with the **Florida Institute of Technology (FIT)** and a career pathway program for

our team members to earn their BCBA. We are excited to see our first graduates this past year, and have a few others sitting for their exam this coming year. Our career pathway team members gain practical experience in the field while taking their coursework towards a master's degree and their BCBA license.

Our **Endowed Scholarship** program enables our team members to engage in enriching educational experiences that contribute to our community. Last year our recipient was one of our credentialed teachers who saw a need to expand her education into mental health. With our scholarship she was able to complete her master's degree in counseling, and now holds dual credentials for both teaching and counseling. This year we are excited to announce Perla Rodriguez-Arroyo as the winner. She is utilizing her funds in her journey to become a teacher.

It is important for organizations to live their values and we are excited about our leadership and innovation in creating opportunities for our faculty through the residency, career pathway, and endowed scholarship programs. We look to not only continue these this year, but to expand them for the future, making AchieveKids strong, and making our collective community more prepared to meet the needs of complex learners.

Together We Can Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Meet our new Academy Leads for San Jose and Palo Alto

Hello! My name is Jody Wong and I will be the Academy Lead on the San Jose campus, providing support and mentorship to the teachers and specialists in the classrooms. Most of my 12 years of experience in special education, 8 years at AchieveKids in the roles of a special education teacher and a behavior specialist, has been working with individuals with developmental disabilities across all ages. I've been privileged to work on both campuses this past year in most of the classrooms across campuses in collaboration with the teachers, program counselors, and specialists. I'm look forward to working more closely with everyone in our school community this coming school year.

Hello! My name is Sally Townsend and I will be the Academy Lead on the Palo Alto campus. I was born and raised in a very small town in rural New South Wales, Australia. I completed a Bachelors of Health Science at The University of Sydney and then worked as a Health Education Officer in a private medical clinic. After this I traveled through Vietnam as a volunteer teacher at the Social Center and Red Cross Baby Orphanage and shortly after that I trekked to Mount Everest Base Camp. I then returned to Australia to complete a Masters in Teaching (Secondary) in Science (Biology and Chemistry), and Society and Culture. I moved to California in 2013 and began working at AchieveKids. Through Queensland University of Technology, I recently completed a Masters of Education (Inclusive Education) with a special interest in latent autism in young girls.



For information on how you can sign up for a school tour
or to learn about our program please contact:
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WEBSITE

FACEBOOK

