



October, 2019

Fall Happenings at AchieveKids

It has been a wonderful launch to the school year! Our Teacher Residency Program is off and running. We are excited to feature our first Teacher Resident, Lisa, in this newsletter. Our Residency design is part of the California Residency LAB group, and is being tracked for its success metrics. AchieveKids was asked and participated in a state social innovation project with the Governor's office, and a national symposium on best practices working with complex students in special education.

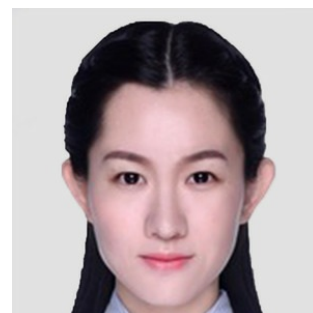
We held a very successful Back to School breakfast in San Jose, and Back to School night in Palo Alto. It is our hope and goal to continue with increased parent engagement throughout this school year. We have launched a PTA and are continuing to host our Parent Cafés! It has been a busy first quarter, and we are thrilled about the work we are doing.

Together We Can Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed. D.
Executive Director

Meet Winter Wu: Our Wonderful Teacher Mentor!

I started my journey in special education 20 years ago while still in high school. My volunteer experiences at my local community center influenced me to major in special education. Doing research and working with autistic kids in college and graduate school has made me passionate about this field. Being a special education teacher can be challenging, but also extremely satisfying and rewarding.



As a trained professional who understands the unique needs of students with special needs, I am proud of my job. Similar to regular teachers, we plan lessons, instruct students, assign activities to students, track students' progress, and meet with parents and other service providers to discuss plans and overall progress.

This year, I am working as a mentor teacher in the Teacher Residency program at AchieveKids. I am excited to be part of this program and help beginning teachers find success and gratification in their new teaching journey. I love sharing my experience and knowledge, providing instructional support, and discussing and figuring out challenges and issues together. Working and learning with my mentee collaboratively as a team is a great experience.

Meet Lisa Truong: Our First Teacher Resident!

I am proudly serving as the teacher resident for AchieveKids at the San Jose campus. I am truly passionate about the work that I do. I graduated with a BA in Psychology from California State University, Monterey Bay. I've always wanted to be a teacher but I never thought about becoming a special education teacher. I completed 10 months of service in East San Jose with City Year, a member of the AmeriCorps national service network. I provided literacy support and helped facilitate the after-school program. During this time, I encountered an unforgettable experience with a student with autism. From there I decided I wanted to learn more about autism and went into the field of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), working as a behavioral technician providing in-home ABA therapy.



Through this experience and my experiences teaching within a school setting, it seemed only fitting to become a special education teacher. As a teacher resident at AchieveKids, I am learning to develop the necessary skills and experience to become a special education teacher. Under the guidance of my mentor teachers, I will be gradually assuming responsibility alongside completing course work at Pacific Oaks College, working towards a Masters in Special Education. From the moment I stepped foot in Winter's classroom to observe, I knew that is where I wanted to be after the residency program is over.

I'm also very fortunate to have additional supports; my other mentor teacher, Carl Hooper at our Palo Alto campus, and my fieldwork supervisor, Jody Wong. What I hope to gain from this program is to develop the necessary skills and experience to become an exceptional educator. I am excited for what lies ahead. Working with special needs students is not a career, but a passion.



For more information on how you can attend, contact the Development Team at: development@achievekids.org

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