

# CENTINELA VALLEY UNION

## HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



HAWTHORNE HIGH SCHOOL



LAWNDALE HIGH SCHOOL



LEUZINGER HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING / SUMMER 2015



### Esteemed CVUHSD Community,

I am honored to be the new Superintendent of the Centinela Valley Union High School District. On April 1, 2015, I became a new member of the team, and I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome. I have had the opportunity to meet many of you during my site visits, after school activities, and various school and community meetings. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Centinela Valley has so much to offer students. The many new structures that have been built using voter-approved bonds are not only inspirational to look at, but they are functional, offering our students the opportunity to learn in state-of-the-art facilities. In addition to sports, our schools offer students a variety of academies and special programs from which to choose. The key to all of this, however, is the incredible staff that cares deeply about our students.

Over the years, I've discovered that I have the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of students. More importantly, I've learned that when I work in unison with others who are unwavering in their commitment to help students succeed, we are able to accomplish so much more than any one of us could accomplish individually. I often refer to those individuals who create life-changing opportunities for students as World-Changers. Our schools need

staff, parents, and community members who are willing to do whatever it takes to transform the "world" of our students.

First and foremost, I want the community to know that my time and energies are going to be focused on ensuring that we provide each and every one of our students the opportunity to not only graduate, but to receive a world-class education that effectively prepares him or her for college, career and life. That being said, if we truly want to see all students succeed, it is going to take all of us working together as a team.

We know there are a number of challenges facing us as we move forward, but let's work together, and transform Centinela Valley into a model 21st-Century urban district that is a leader in student-centered education. Join me as we advance together!

Calling all World Changers!

**Dr. Gregory O'Brien**  
Superintendent



### CVUHSD Board of Education:



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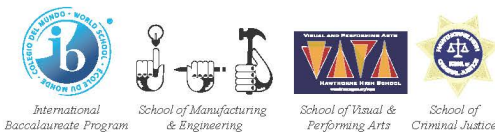


Gloria A. Ramos  
Member



Maritza R. Molina  
Member

### HAWTHORNE HIGH SCHOOL



### LAWNDALE HIGH SCHOOL



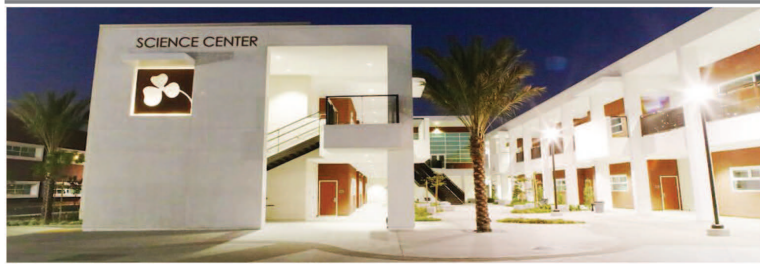
### LEUZINGER HIGH SCHOOL



# Hawthorne High School



Dr. Mark Newell, Principal



Hawthorne High School Science Center (top),  
School of Engineering Building (middle right)  
Student Services & Administration Building (bottom left and right)  
Opened Fall of 2014

## Hawthorne High School Scholarship Recipients



Hawthorne High School is proud to acknowledge three accomplished seniors who have been awarded scholarships to attend four-year universities this fall.

**Enrique Lopez** is not only an ambitious intellectual, but an incredibly noble and humble individual who is a true

humanitarian. His two passions are his education and serving his community. He is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate and is a vital member of Hawthorne High School's Site Council. He has served numerous hours through Rotary (Interact) and most recently, as a Wish Granter for the Make A Wish a Foundation. He is a serious academic, manages to work nearly full-time hours and participates in various service organizations on campus. Enrique will be attending and continuing to leave a legacy at the University of California, Berkeley this fall. He has received the \$20,000 Dell Scholarship as well as the Sandpiper Scholarship, that will pay for the remaining balance of what is not covered by FAFSA and Dell.

**Ryan McCoy** is the model student athlete that all coaches and educators wish for. Ryan is ranked 36 out of his senior class of 437. He has a 3.61 weighted grade point average and has taken rigorous courses including Honors Geometry, AP European History, Honors Algebra 2, Honors Chemistry and AP Literature and Composition. He has also participated in the AVID program and the cross-country and track teams. He has performed community service at a community garden project at California Lutheran University and his church. He aspires to be a veterinarian because of his love for animals. Ryan has received a \$10,000 B.J. Clack Scholarship, and will attend California State University, Los Angeles this fall.

**Jennifer Prado Leon** is a genuinely kind, instinctively nurturing and endearingly patient young lady, no matter what the circumstance. She has a noteworthy 4.57 grade point average and is ranked number 3 of her senior class. For the past four years, she has quietly endeavored to surpass her own expectations, taking on the challenging International Baccalaureate Diploma curriculum and maintaining a competitive standing. No matter the amount of hours, expectations and incessant workload, she has done it without complaints while demonstrating character and integrity. Her mature demeanor and resilience attest to her work ethic and the humanitarian she aspires to be. Jennifer has also received a \$10,000 B.J. Clack Scholarship and will attend University of California, Davis this fall.

## Robotics Team Wins Chairman's Award at FIRST Robotics Competition



The Hawthorne High School of Manufacturing and Engineering Academy won the FIRST Chairman's Award of 2015. The Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award that the U.S. FIRST organization gives, which honors the team that best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST, serving as a model for other teams to emulate. This award is a team lifetime achievement award that is given to the team who has done the most to promote STEM in their community and with other schools as well as promoting community outreach and involvement. Team 207 earned a position in the FIRST Robotics Championship (FRC) by winning the Chairman's Award.

HHSME Team 207, the MetalCrafters, was chosen to represent the Los Angeles region at the World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri. Team 207 was chosen as being the prime example of spreading the FIRST message. The Core Team members were able to demonstrate and articulate how the FIRST message has impacted their lives, school culture and community. After sixteen years of impacting students, the team was recognized by FIRST as one of the few whose students lead the team and manufacture their robot in-house. As a participant in FIRST Robotics, many industry leaders, such as **SpaceX, Walt Disney Imagi-nering, Boeing and HAAS** view HHSME as being the school to emulate because of the accomplished work produced and the professionalism of the students.

## Hawthorne High School Hosts Geometry Fashion Show



Math teacher Ding-ay Tadena's students spent several weeks working through geometry problems that they used to create outfit designs with recycled items like plastic cups, newspapers, trashbags and CDs. Out of their effort came frocks, smocks, skirts and other costumes for their event.

Some advocates of Common Core lessons that integrate the arts also say that students who find subjects like math hard to grasp can learn more easily when lessons are visual and hands-on. Their hope is lessons like Tadena's will spread in school districts across the state, helping restore funding to arts education that, in some places, was severely cut during the recession.

Math Teacher,  
Deborah Gonzalez



*Lawndale High School Student Services & Administration Building  
Opened Fall of 2014*

## Two Lawndale High School Students Win Prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship



Two graduating seniors, Andrea Barragan and Richard Thomas, are proud recipients of the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Each year, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program — funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation — awards 1,000 high school students with a good-through-graduation scholarship at the college or university of their choice. The program additionally covers certain graduate programs for continuing scholars, including computer science, education, engineering and math.

**Andrea Barragan** emigrated from Mexico with her family at the age of 3.

Growing up, she had difficulty learning English but in high school, she joined the MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan) program, which became an important support system for her, assisting in developing a more outgoing character while defining her professional ambitions. Andrea aspires to become a lawyer, support Latinos and work directly with the government. She is the salutatorian of her class and looks forward to continuing her education at the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

**Richard Thomas** was born in southern California but lived his early childhood in Mexico before returning back to the U.S. He is the only child to his disabled, single mother. He has strived for academic excellence in hopes that he may one day support his mother, after earning his college degree. In addition to his course load, Richard is currently attending his 3rd semester of vocational school so that he can work simultaneously while attending college. He is also part of the L.I.F.E (Living in Faith Everyday) Club, which is an organization that reaches out to students who wish to understand more about the origins of Christianity. Richard looks forward to his journey at a four-year university this fall.

## Lawndale Student Union Opening Fall 2016

The students of Lawndale High School have more to look forward to with the Student Union — a two-story, 42,200 square foot building housing a cafeteria, student union, 9 classrooms and 1 computer lab. Construction began in May 2015 and will be ready for the 2016-17 school year.

## Lawndale Boy's Basketball Take It All The Way

2014-2015 was a historic year for Lawndale High School Boy's Basketball. They set school records in wins (23) and in the advancement to the CIF Sectional and Regional Playoffs. During league they realized that they were the only team to have a double-digit lead on every opponent. They were the CIF Finalists in the Section 2AA and in the Division 2 Southern Regional. Captain's Chimezie Metu and D'lano Beckles led the team this season. Brandon Newman, Brodricks Jones, Quincy Pinkard, Chris White, TJ Johnson, Deandre Snedecor, Kenny Sherman, and David Broaster are to be commended for this great year.

They started to gel after having comeback wins in the first two rounds of the playoffs. They finally knocked down the quarterfinal door against Mira Costa at home. The semifinal win at Elsinore was the highlight of the season, winning in a hostile environment. They made it to the finals and had a tremendous lead, but due to some misfortune and mistakes they were not able to capitalize on their dream of being the first CIF Champions at Lawndale High School since 1966. However, they regrouped and won 3 State Regional Playoff games earning a trip to the Regional Finals with a chance to go upstate to compete for the grandest title of them all, the CIF State Title. Although they fell short in the championship, they had a great season and are grateful to have gone on the journey.



## Lawndale Top Ten Awards

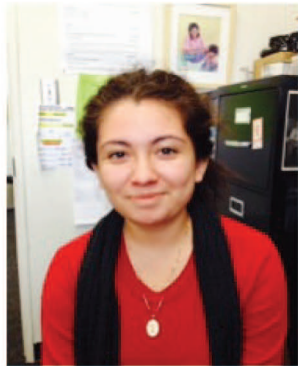
Lawndale High School hosted its annual Senior Awards to honor those seniors with notable accolades. Among the top ten were the class valedictorian, Margaret Zimmerman and co-salutatorians, Andrea Barragan and Gloria Garcia. This fall, Margaret will be attending **UC Irvine**, Andrea will attend **University of Pennsylvania** and Gloria will attend **UC San Diego**. The remaining top seven are: Denise Mendez, Jose Rodriguez, Jazmine Almanza, Cristina Romo and Felipe Rubio who will attend **UCLA**; Tommy Luong will attend **UC San Diego**; and Kiara Cuevas will attend **UC Davis**.





Leuzinger High School Arts & Science Center and Culinary Careers Building Opened Fall of 2012 and Fall of 2014

## Jasmine Escareno Wins Posse and Sandpiper Scholarships



Jasmine Escareno Wins Posse and Sandpiper Scholarships Leuzinger High School senior, Jasmine Escareno, the valedictorian of her class of 2015, was awarded a Posse Scholarship as well as two Sandpiper scholarships. A Posse Scholarship winner is carefully selected and trained to serve as a catalyst for increased individual and community development. At Leuzinger High School, she joined band, then drum corps where she became Pit Captain and participated in competitions during 11th and 12th grade. She is currently President of the Speech and Debate Program, President of the Multimedia Careers Academy, Co-founder of the Women United Club, a member of CSF and was selected

to be Leuzinger's delegate to Girls' State. Last year, not only was she class president, she also had the honor of being selected as a participant in the Asomugha College Tour for Scholars (ACTS) Program and traveled to New York with other high school students, where they met former President, Bill Clinton. She is involved in helping the community as a tutor for Reading Partners and working at Anderson and Roosevelt Elementary Schools. She also volunteered for the Ben Allen for State Senate Campaign. Due to financial hardship on her family, she applied for many competitive scholarships and was awarded the Posse and Sandpiper Scholarship, a gap scholarship that will pay for any unpaid college expenses, as well as the Junior Sandpipers Scholarship of \$2400. Jasmine will be attending the University of Wisconsin in the fall where she has been accepted to the Bachelor of Business Administration program and looks forward to becoming an entrepreneur after college.

## Students Run LA (SRLA)

The Students Run LA (SRLA) program is 25 years old. SRLA is a successful mentoring program to teach high school students important life lessons in commitment, dedication and determination. This year under the leadership of three mentor teachers who also completed the race, Mr. Romo, Ms. Varee and Ms. Tran, the following students completed the 26.2 miles through the streets of Los Angeles: Captain's, Mayra Perez and Cynthia Garcia, and members Cesia Samayoa, Jeymi Esquivel, Melissa Garcia, Onasis Ventura, Aislyn Chavez, Alejandro Padilla, Madelyne Marin, Francisco Rubio, Claudia Castro, Maggie Aguilar, Wendy Quiñones, Joaquin Quintero, Miguel Cab, Brandon Guzmán and Angel Vital.

## Advancement via Individual Determination

**"AVID is not just another program; at its heart, AVID is a philosophy that holds students accountable to the highest standards, provides academic and social support, and proves that students will rise to the challenge."**

88% of the Senior AVID class will be attending four-year colleges. This year's graduating seniors who will be attending a four-year university this fall includes: Peter Godslaw - **UC Berkeley**; Christian Zarzosa Mezzich, Yessenia Lopez and Leslie Romo - **UCLA**; Micael Wheelington - **UC Irvine**; Mayra Perez - **UC Davis**; Gold Osita Ogbonnaya - **UC Riverside**; Vanessa Alvarez Ceja, Deiby Alvarez Poscasangre, Alvin Nguyen, Daniel Ramirez, Jessica Rosales, Mariam Jurado Jiminez - **CSU Los Angeles**; Azalea Estrada, Wendy Quinones, Esmeralda Martinez, Hector Ortiz, Jaime Sanchez, and Vu Trong - **CSU Dominguez Hills**; Claudia Castro, Christopher Cousin, Candice Johnson Meeks, Madelyn Marin and Rachel Villafana - **CSU Northridge**; Earl Minor and Francisco Rubio Soto - **CSU Fullerton**; Lawrence Quilario - **CSU Long Beach**; Uchenna Akpa - **CSU San Bernardino**; David Hernandez - **CSU Chico**; Alexis Castro - **University of LaVerne** and Alice Tamyo - **University of Hawaii Pacific**.



## Marching Band and Drum Line Finish Strong

The Marching Olympians had a successful season this year, finishing 3rd place in the State Finals. The 3rd place finish allowed them to compete against the best of the best at open class in the State Grand Championship. Drum line competed at the American Drum Line Association Championship for a 2nd year in a row, finishing 7th overall in their division and bringing home a finalist banner. The student leaders include: Angelica Rivera (Drum Major), Edith Navarro (Band President), Sofia Villatoro (Band Vice-President) and Christopher Swartzbaugh (Percussion Captain).

