

## Creating Impact. Changing Lives.



Dear AES Friends and Family,

Recently in talking with a parent of one of our AES youth, they shared in reflection that we can't do this work alone - *we help each other and we get it done together*.Nothing could be more true as we look at the projects we have begun to tackle and the new opportunities that are presenting themselves for AES. Over the years we have learned that the key to making a sustainable impact is not to silo ourselves, but to collaborate with other organizations and motivated individuals to bring collective talent together to impact the lives of youth.

We have been busy facilitating retreats, launching our newest mentorship program -Pathways to Success, implementing multiple grants, beginning new consulting contracts, and participating in several Sacramento-based programs and initiatives. Our work is growing and so are our collaborations and strategic partnerships, which we are beyond grateful for. *Thank you for doing this work with us - bgether we create change!* 

# Framing Our Future Retreat With SKFC



In April, AES hosted the Sacramento Kids First Coalition (SKFC) "Framing Our Futures" retreat at Shady Creek Event Center in Nevada City, California. Thirty Coalition members came together to build trust, create connections, and strategically plan next steps in advocating for youthfocused implementation of the Children's Health Fund passed in the last election.



The goals of the retreat were to strengthen collaboration and build meaningful relationships among Coalition members. We at AES are extremely excited and proud to be part of this movement for change in Sacramento and can't wait to continue working with the Sac Kids First Coalition to build systemic change for generations to come!

### Pathways to Success Collaboration



Our new mentorship program, Pathways to Success, is underway. A partnership with Twin Rivers School District and American River College, the Pathways to Success program engages high school students in design tech college courses to help prepare them for future careers. The group meets at Highlands High School and participates in smaller-scale events, such as a Career Fair.

AES staff and mentors help the students to connect as a cohort, build confidence as 9th graders taking college courses, and provide a support system for the students. Pathways students are currently learning about confidence,

public speaking, and understanding how to articulate their thoughts based on their passions. A few Pathway students also participated in our Board retreat (more below on that!), where they had the opportunity to share about their experiences, make recommendations and connect with AES Board members.

### Partnering with Boys & Girls Club

AES was invited to participate in the Boys & Girls Club California regional conference at the Grand Sheraton hotel, where 50 club youth from across the state had an opportunity to learn about civic engagement and career exploration.

At the event, the career panel included: Assembly member Mike Gibson's Chief of Staff E.J Aguayo, Senior Public Policy Manager for the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Esthely Pacheco, and AES Director of Youth Programs Ana Taukolo.



Yesterday, **Boys & Girls Clubs of America** kids from across California visited Sacramento to share their voice on important issues facing their communities. Former Club kid and current Deputy Superintendent **Abel Guillén** shared his experiences with regional Youth of the Year winners on his journey as the first in his family to graduate from college.

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and the CDE are working hard to make sure every student has a safe place after school through the Extended Learning Opportunities grant program and investments in the Community Schools initiative.



#### Former AES Intern Doing Big Things



Hi my name is Grace Hadani and I am currently a junior at Davis Senior High School in Davis, California. I am passionate about working to educate people on their rights and bridging the gap between people of different ethnicities, abilities and economic circumstances. I have worked throughout the Sacramento area with local non-profits such as Alliance for Education Solutions and Sacramento Area Council of Governments to work on my passion and bring resources to my community.

Congratulations to Grace, who was recently selected to serve as a Board Member for The Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation! Grace is a past AES Voices of Change Youth

Intern and currently serves as AES' Youth Social Media Manager.

As a Board member for The Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation, Grace advocates for social justice issues she is passionate about and incorporates youth voice in their decision making processes. Way to go Grace - the world is better because of you!

# What's New with AES Board



In late April, the Board came together for a weekend retreat and Board meeting. On Saturday, Project Optimism hosted AES at their headquarters, allowing for the Board to play, connect, and learn with our youth mentors and Pathways to Success students.



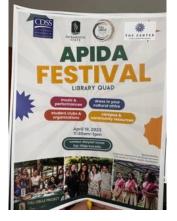
On Sunday, youth Board Members Talon and Lavin officially joined the Board! As previous AES Voices of Change Interns, they both bring youth advocacy skills and unique perspectives to the Board. We are so excited to have them help lead AES!

# AES on the Move!

Alliance for Education Solutions has been hitting the pavement hard recently by participating, collaborating, hosting and speaking at several community events. Here is a snapshot of just some of the many opportunities AES has been involved with!



Sacramento State Big Hysto Event



**APIDA** Festival



Sac Kids First Coalition Retreat Training



Mentoring Monday



SKFC General Meeting



SKFC Take on City Hall

### **Connect With AES**

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