A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRS

Dear Friends,

Much of our work at Camino Nuevo Charter Academy is focused on giving students the dedicated support they need to learn and excel. We believe that our students are capable of achieving at the highest levels, but know that many of them face hardships. Some are navigating language barriers. Some are coping with the trauma of being separated from loved ones. Others experience violence, homelessness, or other challenges that affect them in school. Understanding that our students must navigate a gauntlet of obstacles, we strive to be thoughtful and deliberate about how we teach and support them while maintaining high standards of excellence.

For the past 19 years, Camino Nuevo educators have made significant progress closing gaps in achievement and opportunity. Our schools have been recognized as models for educating English language learners, students with special needs, and students affected by trauma. While we are proud of our accomplishments, we know there is so much more to do. Our high school graduation and college matriculation rates are strong, but only a third of our graduates finish college. This is above average for low-income students, but it is well below our ambitious goals.

Preparing students to be truly college-ready takes a tremendous amount of work. The good news is we are closer than ever to making this happen. We are implementing a richer, more challenging K–12 curriculum, fostering a stronger culture of collaboration across our schools, and developing teachers to be more effective. We are also expanding programs and opportunities that build the skills and mindsets that students need to overcome social-emotional challenges and blossom into lifelong learners. By giving our students a stronger foundation, they will be better prepared for the rigors of college and life. Their success depends on us.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. Ana Ponce, who during her tenure as Chief Executive Officer championed a culture of college and career readiness at our schools. Interim CEO Tammy Stanton and the Senior Leadership Team are now leading this work, and we have full confidence that they will keep our schools on a trajectory toward excellence while we search for a new leader. We expect to name a new CEO by the start of the upcoming school year.

This impact report—our first ever—covers our work in support of our mission over the past year. Of course, this work would not be possible without you. Thank you for fully believing in our students and their potential to succeed. We believe that few things are as satisfying as helping young people realize their college dreams.

Sincerely,

L. Michael Russell
Chair, Pueblo Nuevo Education and Development Group

Cindy Lee Smet
Chair, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy
OUR MISSION

We educate students in a college-preparatory program to be literate, critical thinkers, and independent problem solvers who are agents of social justice with sensitivity toward the world around them.
WE BELIEVE ALL KIDS HAVE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

WE BELIEVE A QUALITY EDUCATION CAN LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR OUR STUDENTS.

WHO WE SERVE

95% of our students are Latino

96% of our students are eligible for federal free or reduced-price meals

79% of our students have been designated as English learners

12% of our students receive special education services

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We cultivate enduring partnerships to ensure organizational sustainability and create an environment where our students can learn.

Located in Central Los Angeles, our eight Camino Nuevo Charter Academy schools are deeply rooted in their communities, where they have been providing a life-changing education since 2000. Though each school has a unique history and community, all eight schools are united by a common approach to teaching and learning, as well as a shared commitment to excellence.
OUR TEAM, OUR VALUES »
We believe that educating children is everyone’s job. Across our schools, nearly 500 staff members, from custodians to teachers, work hard to create safe and welcoming spaces for our students to learn. Our team is motivated by five core values or anchors: excellence, equity, community, innovation, and joy.
Ms. Aguirre shines a light on areas of a student’s life that may be the missing link to success. She visits their homes and builds strong, authentic relationships with families. It is not uncommon to see her office filled with parents, students, and alumni who rely on her support and friendship year after year.

COMMUNITY

EXCELLENCE

Mr. Soto values the school environment as a lever for change, and constantly goes above and beyond to make sure students thrive in a space that is beautiful and clean. He helps make our school a place where students can learn and people want to work.

RON ESPRITU
Head Custodian

RON ESPRITU
Ethnic Studies Teacher

CLAIRE SCHMIDT
Third Grade Teacher

ICARE BROWN
Principal

Ms. Espiritu puts all students and their identities at the center of his work. As a leader of the Ethnic Studies for All initiative, he is working to implement an ethnic studies curriculum across grades and disciplines that connects learning to students’ identities and increases student investment and achievement.

EQUITY

Mr. Espiritu’s thoughtfulness and innovative approach to teaching have pushed our thinking on planning and instruction. Her third-graders are buzzing about reading, embracing feedback, and using multiple strategies to solve math problems thanks to her fresh ideas.

INNOVATION

In the midst of challenges, Ms. Brown chooses joy and cultivates the same spirit in all of us. She was able to take our school community and knit it together so that we know we all matter, we are all seen, and that we are all capable of doing hard work with grace and a smile.

JOY
A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH TO TEACHING

Our teachers are trained to track not just academic progress but also overall well-being. When emotional or behavior issues come up, a student is referred to a counselor for support. The Jeri Weiss Mental Health Program at Camino Nuevo gives students and families access to a variety of supportive services like individual therapy and peer support groups, so they can regain their well-being and focus on learning.

“If our schools are to be truly embedded in the communities they serve, we have to recognize the challenging and traumatic circumstances that our students and their families face. We have to help them meet these challenges head-on.”

ANA PONCE
Former CEO
GIVING CHILDREN A STRONG START»
Every child deserves a fair chance in life, and that begins with quality early education.

Every year, 120 four-year-olds at our Early Childhood Education Center receive a strong foundation to start kindergarten ready to learn. The school’s play-based bilingual approach fosters curiosity and self-regulation while developing literacy and other kindergarten-readiness skills.

“Over the years, I have seen many children in our preschool make great growth. I remember a student who had autism and struggled with basic skills. By the time he left our program, he was able to interact with peers, accept change, take care of his bodily needs, and even write his name.” — KARINA RODRIGUEZ, Preschool Teacher
ENRICHING STUDENTS’ LIVES

We are committed to exposing students to meaningful learning experiences outside the classroom. These experiences build their confidence and resilience, and help them discover what is possible and open to them beyond their neighborhoods.
“I was really dreading going to see a three hour play. I thought I would be bored to death, but seeing Hello Dolly on Broadway changed my thinking. It was one of the best experiences of my life. I never imagined that theater could be so cool. It made me want to try out acting in high school.”

IRMA

“Exploring the East Coast gave me a lot of confidence. I was nervous about being so far away from home without my parents—especially flying on a plane without them. But while on the trip, I was able to manage my money, find my way in unfamiliar cities, and represent myself well even though my parents were thousands of miles away.”

MATTHEW

“I am thinking about a career in politics. My internship with the O.C.A. Civic Engagement Program helped me become a more effective leader and advocate. I was able to help my community better understand the importance of voting and persuaded many of my peers to pre-register to vote.”

ALICIA

“Before the trip, I thought that I would likely stay in Los Angeles for college. Now that I’ve seen so many different colleges outside of Los Angeles, I realize that I should be looking at colleges based on what they have to offer me more than how close they are to home.”

MICHAEL

EXPANDING HORIZONS

DISCOVERING THE ARTS

EXPLORING COLLEGES

EXPOSURE TO CAREERS
Growing up in a working-class neighborhood with few opportunities, I knew that college was my path forward. I was motivated academically, but had doubts about being smart enough, so I’m grateful to Camino Nuevo teachers and staff for encouraging and guiding me along the way.”

ALEX
Freshman
UC Berkeley
A college degree is a gateway to a life of opportunity.

But only 1 in 10 students from low-income families finish college within six years.

Camino Nuevo alumni are graduating college at three times the national rate for low-income students.

Our graduates are now leading productive lives and making a difference in their communities.
It’s not enough for our students to get into college. We want them to thrive and earn a degree.

That is why we do more than guide students through the college admissions and financial aid process; we also offer them scholarships and mentoring in college. Our college success initiatives help students make the transition to college and stay on track to graduate. We are proud of our results, but our work is far from done.
REACHING SUCCESS TOGETHER »
Camino Nuevo convenes the leading voices of early childhood education at our preschool for a forum on expanding access to quality programs.

Mayor Eric Garcetti joins us to celebrate the fifth anniversary of our Jane B. Eisner Middle School and to thank one of the school’s biggest supporters, Eisner Foundation president, Jane Eisner.

A reporter from The Economist tours the Sandra Cisneros Campus to study how our bilingual program is keeping Spanish alive and giving our students an advantage over their monolingual peers.

Celebrated author Julia Alvarez discusses her novel In the Time of Butterflies with Camino Nuevo book club families.

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools announces the induction of CNCA into the National Charter School Hall of Fame.

LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner and Board of Education President Monica Garcia recognize our high school seniors at their graduations for their hard work and achievements.

MacArthur Fellow and writer Ruth Behar talks with our sixth graders about how to use life-changing experiences to write personal narratives.

The 2018 Success Conference, our professional development summit, kicks off with the first Anchor Awards ceremony honoring Camino Nuevo staff members who model excellence, equity, community, innovation, and joy.

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Sustainable Neighborhood Schools

Camino Nuevo has built a strong network of public charter schools to last into the future, and we implement sound financial policies to support the long-term fiscal health of our organization. Philanthropic contributions help support critical enrichment opportunities and services that we cannot provide with public dollars alone.

2018 Statement of Financial Activity

Assets

Revenues
- State Revenue $30,476,432
- Federal Revenue $4,522,055
- Contributions $1,423,471
- Total Unrestricted Revenue $47,240,676
- Net Assets Released from Restriction $45,672
- Total Assets and Revenues $47,286,348

Expenses
- Program Services $44,139,082
- Management and General $2,628,143
- Fundraising $208,438
- Total Expenses $46,975,663

Other Income (Expense)
- Change in Value of Interest Swap Agreements $240,167
- Income Tax Provision $279,126
- Net Assets Transfer from Merger ($194,760)
- Total Other Income $324,533
- Change in Unrestricted Net Assets $635,218

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets
- Other State Revenue $1,119,667
- Net Assets Released from Restriction ($45,672)
- Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $1,073,995

Change in Total Net Assets
- Net Assets – Beginning of Year $76,460,697
- Net Assets – End of Year $78,169,910
THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

We appreciate the generous foundations, corporations, and individuals who make our work possible.

$100,000 and Above
William H. Hurt Foundation
NewSchools Venture Fund
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$25,000 – $99,999
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Patricia Artigas and Lucas Etchegaray Audacious Foundation
The William C. Bannerman Foundation
The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation
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The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
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Kayrene Lunday
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
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John and Gillian Wagner

$5,000 – $24,999
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
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Ric and Suzanne Kayne Foundation
Victor and Lisa Kohn
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Antoinette Moeadli Arango
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Up to $999
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Inspired by his mother, who taught him that education was the only way forward, David Gidlow applies his love of literature and writing to help students discover that their lives and stories are meaningful and deserve to be heard. He works closely with high school students on their college application essays, always giving them advice and assurance that they have his support. He helps them see that a life beyond what is before them is possible. Along the way, he has discovered patience he didn’t know he had and has built meaningful relationships with students that persist long after senior year.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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*Grupo Nuevo manages real estate property holdings for CNCA schools.

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*Pueblo Nuevo supports and advances the work of CNCA by providing centralized management, securing resources, and building impact across the organization to achieve greater impact.

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