

Press Conference, Full-Service Community Schools

Los Angeles, CA – On March 3, 2010 The Youth Policy Institute (YPI), Mónica García, LAUSD Board President and Kevin de León, California State Assemblymember, hosted a press conference at 10:00 AM at the Los Angeles Unified School District Headquarters announcing the award of a \$2.5 million *Full-Service Community Schools* grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The YPI Belmont Full-Service Community Schools Program provides wrap-around education and community services to assist youth and families attending four schools in the Pico-Union/Westlake community of Los Angeles. YPI received one of only ten grants awarded in the U.S. Department of Education's first round of FSCS. This is a five-year grant in partnership with the Belmont Education Collaborative and other community-based partners.

"We look forward to implementing our Full-Service Community Schools model at these schools because we know that there is nothing more fundamental in the fight against poverty than increasing academic achievement, said Dixon Slingerland, Executive Director, Youth Policy Institute.

"We are excited to be a part of the Full-Service Community Schools model and know that with the YPI collaboration, Gratts and Esperanza Elementary and John Leichy Middle School students and their families will benefit greatly from our partnership," said Ramon Cortines, Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District. "This is the type of program that will help us improve student learning and success for all."

"The historically underserved Belmont community is transforming itself into a portfolio of high-performing schools, and today that progress is rewarded by this grant, one of only ten awarded nationwide. This investment will enable us to weave a stronger safety net around our families with services that support student achievement. Youth Policy Institute has shown tremendous leadership in bringing this grant to the District, and we thank them for their partnership in striving for 100% graduation for our students," said García.

"I am excited to witness the development of an impressive collaborative by LAUSD and the Youth Policy Institute. The Belmont Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) Program will streamlining access to existing resources and launching new programs for students and families based on assessed needs. These 'wrap around' programs and resources will no doubt contribute directly to student success and achievement," de León said.

Targeted schools include Monsenor Oscar Romero Charter Middle School, Gratts Elementary School, Esperanza Elementary School, and John Liechty Middle School. Community partners include LAUSD Local District 4, Belmont High School, the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF), Families In Schools (FIS), Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Central City Neighborhood Partners (CCNP), Centro Latino, Inner-City Arts, Music Center and Clinica Oscar Romero.

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About YPI

The Youth Policy Institute (YPI) provides education, technology, and training to lift Los Angeles families out of poverty. With an annual budget of \$34 million, YPI has over 1,100 staff based at 95 program sites throughout Los Angeles. YPI partners with more than 70 schools, LAUSD and charter schools, while serving 25,000 youth and adults in Los Angeles each year. For more information, please go to www.ypiusa.org.