



News from  
Mayor Ron Dellums

## **MAYOR & GOVERNOR ANNOUNCE COLLABORATION TO REDUCE GANG VIOLENCE & CREATE 70 JOBS FOR EAST OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*Project to Simultaneously Address Education and Crime Prevention*

**OAKLAND** - Mayor Ron Dellums and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy today announced a grant to fund a pilot program to reduce gang violence, increase high school graduation, and create a new opportunity to train the next generation of Oakland's teachers and social workers.

"Too many of our young people are dying as a result of gang violence," said Mayor Dellums. "This Collaborative will allow us to wrap our arms around youth at two of our high schools with afterschool jobs, career pathways, and youth leaders who can create the caring 'family', of which, climate educational institutions should aim."

The \$382,639 grant from the California Gang Reductions, Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CalGRIP) will fund the High School Career Pathway and Community Collaborative (Collaborative), which includes: Laney College, Oakland Unified School District, the Hewlett Packard Foundation, Leadership Excellence, Libre, All City Council, California School Age Consortium, and Youth Together.

"The goal of these grants is to provide more resources to assist our local partners efforts in reducing gang violence and making our communities safer places to work and live," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "Oakland is showing they are committed to this goal and taking a great step today by providing tools for their local youth to stay on the right track and become successful members of their community. I look forward to seeing the great successes from this pilot project."

"This project has the refreshingly high but reasonable expectation that gang-involved youth have what it takes to complete high school and college and embark on a teaching or social service career, if there is effective support," said Paul Seave, director of the Governor's Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy.

Building on the breadth of experience and successful track record of the respective partners, the five goals of the Collaborative, include:

- **Create 70 jobs and career pathways for youth:** The grant will create a pathway to teaching and social service careers. Youth participating in the program will be placed in jobs in after school programs or social service agencies as the first step in a continuing educational pathway leading to post-secondary education and employment as teachers and community workers.
- **Career Center on Campus:** Establish physical homes in East Oakland high schools (Fremont and Castlemont) that will provide both students and adults in the local neighborhood with career guidance;
- **Youth & Community Center on Campus:** This initiative will help our schools to serve as the focal point in the community for the residents of Oakland. The centers will serve as community resource centers where various job, health, and mental service providers can bring their services in the late afternoon and evening. Provides two youth engagement coordinators housed on-site at the two high schools;

- **Summer Bridge Program:** In the summer of 2010, students will enroll in a 6-8 week intensive Summer Bridge program through a cohort-based model to enhance their math and literacy skills. The Bridge program will also incorporate training classes to prepare them for employment with after-school/community-based employers.
- **Evaluating the Effort:** The collaborative will include youth in evaluating and fine-tuning the effort as it goes forward.

The Collaborative hopes to achieve the following outcomes: provide 70 part-time jobs over the two-year period; a 75 percent reduction in gang involvement and violent activities; significantly increased high school graduation rates; eighty-five percent of students moving into systems of higher education; more students choosing careers as teachers and social service providers; serving at least 2,000 residents of all ages in the local communities adjacent to the high schools, through Youth and Community Centers; higher visibility for the importance of schools in our community as neighborhood community centers; and planned replication of the program to at least two other high schools by the end of the grant period.

Laura Moran, chief services officer for the Oakland schools said, “We are excited about doing some different, more systemic work to address the impact of gangs on our kids and our schools. We do not want to replicate the prison system where people are separated by gang affiliation. We want every young person to feel comfortable in every school in the city, no matter their neighborhood and country of origin.”

Lilia Celhay, interim dean for partnerships and workforce development at Laney College, said, “Programs that connect education, job training, counseling and mentoring, and provide a supportive environment are key in motivating students to stay in school.”

Castlemont High School student leader, Nikita Mitchell refers to gangs as “different families faced with oppressive conditions and dealing with them with ineffective coping mechanisms. What is needed is to educate them about their culture and spirituality.”

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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Paul Rose, Mayor's Office: 510-388-6721

Laura Moran, Chief Services Officer, Oakland Unified School District: 415-309-2619

Raquel Jimenez, Youth Engagement Specialist, Oakland Unified School District: 510-703-4825

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