

THE IMPACT



**SPRING
2014
EDITION**

***“If college is the question,
then PACT is the answer”***

Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING is HERE!

In this edition of The IMPACT, we bring you the most up-to-date PACT news, important events and changes to our organization. This newsletter provides a glimpse into the lives of the students we serve and the lives of those who have made a positive influence.

We welcome you to “The imPACT!”



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Message from PACT President and Co-Founder, Everett Brandon

Our mission to continue guiding students towards graduating from high school and receiving a college degree remains intact. Serving first generation, underserved and minority students is a mission we embrace. The PACT Inc. organization is devoted to fulfilling its vision that began about 50 years ago.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we feel invigorated to do even more these coming years. We want to thank you for your participation in PACT's Talent Search program and for your continual support.

- Everett Brandon, J.D.



Chinna Ford

We would like to introduce Chinna Ford, our newest addition to the PACT Team. Chinna has been serving as the Educational Advisor at Jesse Bethel High School and Vallejo High School. Chinna was hired to carry the position Sharon Arvie vacated, whom was promoted to Programs Manager.

Chinna is a recent graduate from Cal State East Bay who will continue her goal to help change the lives of low-income, underserved minorities. We at PACT are excited to have Chinna as part of the PACT family!



Jessica Calderon

Jessica is one of the more recent additions to the PACT Advising Team. Jessica has already made an immediate impact at Richmond High School; she speaks Spanish and has been assisting the heavily populated low-income, first-generation college bound students at Richmond High. Jessica graduated from UCSD and received her Masters from Cal State Easy Bay.

Jessica is very passionate about assisting youth and devotes her time to assist students. Her passion and knowledge is a great addition to continuing the family of difference makers at PACT, Inc!



SiMone Andrade

One of the newer faces of PACT is SiMone Andrade who currently works as an Educational Advisor at Philip & Sala Burton High School and Lowell High School. SiMone recently graduated from U.C. Berkeley in May of 2013. Her main focus is to help young adults attain and graduate with postsecondary education; especially low-income, first-generation youth.

SiMone's bilingual ability allows her to target Spanish-speaking youth and assist them in their path to obtaining a college degree. PACT is thrilled to see her contributions in the school as well as in the community!

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." (Malcolm S. Forbes)



Cassandra Anderson, Administrative Assistant



When I recap the past 11 years as an employee at PACT Inc., a recurring word that comes to mind is “opportunity”.

Opportunity: *“a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something”*

I have had the greatest opportunity to work with outstanding men and women who have a passion for making a difference in the life of young people. I have also had the opportunity to see young people’s dreams become a reality. Often, college was viewed before PACT as a thought and lofty goal. However, after great mentoring, advising and counseling, those same individuals continually find themselves on college campuses getting that “opportunity” to make a difference in their lives and in this world.

PACT East Bay Office

PACT’S East Bay office was opened in Vallejo, California in 2002 in response to a staggering need for services in that area. We expanded our program services to the cities of Richmond and Vallejo, California.

The dedicated East Bay staff includes Cassandra Anderson (Administrative Assistant), Diedre Carter (Assistant Tutorial Coordinator), Jessica Calderon (Educational Advisor) and our newest addition, Chinna Ford (Educational Advisor).

PACT East Bay is located within the facility of Georgia Street Plaza in Vallejo.



“The best and most important part of every man's education is that which he gives himself.” (Edward Gibbon)





PACT's Hurlbut-Johnson Scholarship

PACT, Inc. has been awarded with another scholarship from Hurlbut-Johnson; which will eventually be awarded to a few PACT students. PACT would like to thank Hurlbut-Johnson for their generous contribution as well as helping us provide assistance to the youth. In the next edition of the ImpACT, we will announce the recipients of the Hurlbut-Johnson award!

UPCOMING COLLEGE CHECKLIST



Seniors

- Check financial aid office to ensure paperwork is completed. Submit requested forms.
- Narrow school choices, make campus visits and look for acceptance letters.
- Compare financial aid award letters and make final school decision with mail deposits, as required.
- Check with the school you've chosen about returning financial aid award letters.
- Be aware of any summer orientation sessions that you must attend which require you to enroll.
- Finalize summer job plans, and make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings.

Juniors

- Start/Continue your college search and attend any college fairs or events.
- Make note of SAT/ACT deadlines to sign up for and remember to keep your grades up!
- Save money, volunteer during the summer and/or look for summer jobs.
- Sign-up for the PACT Summer Academy program! ***(Please contact us for more details)***

Sophomores/Freshmen

- Start your college search and start studying for the SAT/ACT; Sign-up for SAT/ACT workshops.
- Join clubs, build your resume and start volunteering for non-profit organizations to build experience.
- Make sure you keep your grades up and periodically meet with your counselor to discuss classes.
- Sign-up for the PACT Summer Academy program! ***(Please contact us for more details)***

"Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)



Accounting Career Awareness Program – Internship



ACAP offers a one-week summer residency program at UC Berkeley. For the calendar year 2014, the residency program will be held from July 13-18, 2014. Deadline for the program is May 5, 2014.

→ Visit www.acapsfbayarea.org for more information.



Amnesty USA – San Francisco Internship

Interested in social justice and world affairs? Amnesty USA's San Francisco offer two youth internships.

→ Visit www.amnestyusa.org/getinvolved for more information.



Inroads – Paid Summer Internship

Inroads provide minority high school and college students with a 3.0 GPA or greater with paid summer internships with private employers.

→ Visit www.inroads.org for more information.

SAT Test Dates (Includes Subject Tests)		
Test Date Registration	Deadline	Late-Registration
May 3rd	Apr 4th	Apr 18th
June 7th	May 9th	May 23rd

ACT Test Dates		
Test Date Registration	Deadline	Late-Registration
April 12th	March 7th	March 21st
June 14th	May 9th	May 23rd

"The kids in our classroom are infinitely more significant than the subject matter we teach." (Meladee McCarty)



PACT Tutor Devi Zinzuvadia Honored by S.F. District Attorney George Gascon



PACT Tutor, Devi Zinzuvadia, was honored along with other Mentoring for Success SFUSD in-schools colleagues at a "Thank a Mentor" event, with a special commendation from San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon.

A few individuals from James Lick Middle School were honored on January 16th, 2014 at 1300 Fillmore where folks from San Francisco Unified School District, various CBO's, USF's School of Education, and the District Attorney's office gathered together to celebrate the importance of mentoring youth in our community. Devi Zinzuvadia was nominated by Harini Madhavan and was honored together with Christine Loughran, James Lick's PE teacher, and Jamestown Afterschool Coordinator Cindy Aguilar.

The event is a testament to the great work our PACT Tutors have been provided this past year. Congratulations to Devi Zinzuvadia and all other partners for the great honor.

(Photo credit: Annie Schuler)

This summer, PACT will hold its' 5th annual Summer Academy. PACT will offer FREE workshops to students such as How to Better Your SAT Scores, Completing College Applications, Building a Resume and many more. If you are a PACT student, make sure to sign up for this program.

Please contact PACT for more information!



"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives." (Robert Hutchins)



“Weird Science, Weirder Classes and the Weirdest Students”

By Nathaniel Dizon



As a part-time Tutor at James Lick Middle School, I have been given the opportunity to host several hands-on science workshops weekly during the after school program’s enrichment classes. While most of my workshops have the students replicating experiments, most of these experiments expand their critical thinking skills and focus. If students are able to reproduce their results multiple times, I push them even more to expand upon the lesson learned to a greater degree. PACT students Tyler Van Fleet Kingery and Jesus Cruz are two who accept these challenges. Tyler is one who can solve almost any puzzle thrown at him. Even though most of his classmates are content in only replicating the experiments, Tyler sees the workshops as an opportunity to expand his skills and create his inventions like a mad scientist.

Jesus, who is an unsuspecting scientist, is very passionate about soccer so at times, he is not able to attend my classes. However, when he is present, he shows a lot of enthusiasm with his results and often takes them a step further. In one of my workshops, we utilized gravity to siphon water from one cup to another. Jesus was able to siphon water from one cup, through three more, and out a spout which he cut from the bottom of the last cup, streaming the water seamlessly. Tyler was able to do the same but utilized the classroom sink to sustain an endless siphoning cycle. Nevertheless, both these students continue to show a lot of promise along with many others at James Lick Middle School. With how they respond to the class, I am very excited to see them succeed in the future.



“Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.” (William Butler Yeats)



“Life as a James Lick After School Tutor”

By Esteban “Leo” Vasquez

At James Lick Middle School, there are a large number of students, mostly from Latin America, who migrated to the U.S. within the past year or two. Given the cultural barriers that they experience, I am impressed by their perseverance and drive. As a tutor and mentor, there is a tricky balance in trying to figure out how to best guide them. The struggle is knowing exactly how much to push them towards self-reliance versus how much help they receive in order to feel supported. At the end of the day, I realize to credit their own self-direction, instilled by hardworking immigrant parents, which helps their progress the most.



Counseling and teaching them is a part of a rewarding contribution. At times, I would call on some of the bilingual students who I work with to help me tutor some of the Spanish-speaking students. Moreover, as they demonstrate solidarity, I see them work on their interpersonal skills as well. The opportunity to connect is actually my motivation behind encouraging collaboration since I feel it is a frequently unmet need.



As if the transitioning phase of middle school was not enough, many of the students at James Lick face familial and financial hardships of all sorts. They need to be heard and they need to connect with others, but find it difficult to know how to. For our Spanish-speaking population, communication, or lack thereof, heavily relies on their gradual acquisition of English. One of my kids at James Lick, for example, frequently comes to me with witty and casual sense of humor and yet his personality goes unappreciated by some of the teachers he interacts with because of a language barrier. Moises is another one of my students who comes almost exclusively to me with his mischief, partially because of our shared language and my recognition of his catharsis. He feels comfortable enough to ask me for help on homework that was only explained to him in English and has managed to funnel a lot of his restlessness into school work. With the amazing potential he and many other students display, I am inspired by the adversities they overcome.

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself” (John Dewey)





Brittany Ford

Brittany tutors at Balboa High School and has been a star tutor at the high school since January 2013. Brittany primarily offers her help in the Algebra, Chemistry and Biology classrooms. Staff has continually praised the efforts of Brittany and her invaluable presence tutoring students who need more one-on-one assistance. Because of her desire to help, Brittany helps students cope with their personal problems as well.



Chloe Badger-Harp

Chloe tutors at James Lick Middle School during school hours and in the After School Program. Chloe is a dedicated tutor who pushes kids to enrich their skills and expand their goals. Chloe has tutored at James Lick for over four years and has developed many relationships with the students, teachers and staff. Her growth as a tutor is attributed to her strong desire to help students reach the best of their abilities.



Devi Zinzuvadia

Devi is a leader who guides not only her students, but her colleagues as well. Devi embodies the characteristics needed in that of a tutor. Devi has made a big impression as she was recently honored by San Francisco's District Attorney, George Gascon. A writer at heart, she uses her passion to not only inspire, but to teach youth how to positively enrich their lives. Devi has also tutored in James Lick's After School Program and at Balboa High School.



Emily Diab

Emily started working for PACT this past year but has already made considerable impact assisting lives of students through mentoring and tutoring. Emily is very passionate about exercise which exhibit health, determination and focus. Emily works just as hard in helping young students as she does in the YMCA. Emily is a great addition to the program and PACT is glad to have her on board!

"Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends." (Benjamin Disraeli)





Esteban "Leo" Vasquez

Leo is the most recent addition the PACT Tutorial Team but has already made great gains in the few months of being a tutor. Leo, who is bilingual, assists during the After School Program and has recently begun working during school hours with English Language Learner students. Leo says *"The teachers I remember the most growing up are those who had the highest hopes for me, so I try in this way to make them realize their potential."* Truly, his desire to help out students who had similar backgrounds plays an important part in his role as a tutor.



Nathaniel Dizon

A black belt scientist? Yes, Nathaniel tutors exclusively in the After School Program and teaches an enrichment class called "Weird Science." Nate creates engaging science-related experiments which tests the student's mind, intelligence and ingenuity. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and Nate's class is one of the favorite enrichment classes offered during the After School Program. Nate continues to not only be a role-model, but also a mentor who is a positive voice for the low-income youths he works with. PACT is glad to have him along with others who want to make a change.



Jesse Simmons

Jesse has tutored at James Lick Middle School for the past two years and has helped primarily in the After School Program. Jesse assists students with their homework and helps out students who struggle academically. Jesse is currently a student at USF and has used his tutorial experience to make great gains as an influence to the young students he serves. Jesse has recently found another position but PACT would like to thank him for his contributions as a tutor. We wish Jesse good luck and success in his future endeavors!

"Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends." (Benjamin Disraeli)



A look at PACT through the years...



Early 1960's – PACT, Inc. started when Everett Brandon and Henry Lucas created a program for assisting young adults in San Francisco.

1963 – PACT begins its' mission as an educational clearinghouse; primarily assisting African-American youth in San Francisco to obtain jobs.

1965 – PACT receives funding from the U.S. Department of Education as part of the Educational Talent Search (ETS) program under an umbrella of TRiO programs.

1990 – PACT celebrates its' 25 years as a TRiO program.

1993 – PACT diversifies its' mission by launching the Tutorial Program.

2002 – PACT expands the reach by opening the East Bay Office in Vallejo, CA.

2012 – PACT celebrates 10 years in the East Bay.

Coming Soon 2015 – PACT will celebrate its' 50th year as part of ETS and TRiO!

"Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends." (Benjamin Disraeli)



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Cassandra Anderson
Administrative Assistant, EB

Contact Information:

San Francisco Office
635 Divisadero St.
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415) 922-2550 (Office)
(415) 922-6305 (Fax)

East Bay Office
301 Georgia St., Ste. 222
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 556-9357 (Office)
(707) 556-9387 (Fax)