



ASPIRE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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About Us

Aspire Public Schools
operates

38 high-performing
public charter schools
serving over 14,600 students
in under-served communities
across California and
Memphis, TN.



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College for Certain Newsletter June 2015

Dear Friends,

This is the last newsletter of the current school year, and a little bittersweet as this is also my last school year as the CEO of Aspire. Earlier this month, our board named Carolyn Hack from Uncommon Schools as Aspire's new CEO, effective September 8th. I know Carolyn personally, and our organizations have worked closely together over the years. Carolyn brings a great deal of knowledge and passion from her nine years at Uncommon Schools, most recently as the Chief Financial and Operating Officer. Please join me in welcoming her to the organization. There is more about Carolyn and the transition in this issue, and you can also visit our [press room](#) for more information.

As we close our 16th year, we celebrate with graduation ceremonies, important milestones on the pathway to college. This year, Aspire graduated 500 seniors and for the 6th year in a row, 100% of them were accepted to a four-year colleges! I am so inspired by our students, their families, our teachers and the entire team who collectively make College for Certain possible for Aspire students.

We also celebrate and honor two Aspire alumni who were recently selected as the 2015 Don Shalvey Changing the Odds Award winners. Named for our founder, this award is given to outstanding Aspire alumni who demonstrate perseverance to be first in their family to graduate from college. The awards were presented in front of hundreds of school leaders this month at our Annual Aspire Leadership Retreat held in Los Angeles.

Lastly, as this school and fiscal year comes to an end, we invite you to support our College for Certain work by contributing to our College for Certain Fund. This fund makes our work possible and makes sure that next year our 15,000 students are prepared to earn a college degree.

Help our students
achieve college
readiness



Join me in congratulating all Aspire's graduates and everyone for a wonderful year. Thank you for your continued support!

Together we can!

James Willcox
Chief Executive Officer

Carolyn Hack of Uncommon Schools Named Aspire's New CEO

Earlier this month we announced that Carolyn Hack, Chief Financial and Operating Officer for Uncommon Schools in New York, was selected to be our new CEO. Carolyn will start on Sept. 8 and James Willcox will remain on as a special advisor to Hack for a number of months to support the transition.



"We are delighted that Carolyn will be the next leader of Aspire," said Aspire Board Member Jonathan Garfinkel, who led the Board's search committee for a new CEO. "Carolyn's deep experience at Uncommon Schools and alignment with Aspire's values and mission give her the tools to build on Aspire's success." [Continue Reading >](#)

100% of Aspire Graduates Accepted to College - Again!



Once again, Aspire Public Schools celebrated 100 percent of its graduating high school seniors being accepted to a four-year college. The 2015 class of 500 seniors attended our schools in Los Angeles, Oakland, Berkeley, Stockton, Modesto, East Palo Alto and Sacramento.

"Our graduating class demonstrates the success possible when students, families, teachers and school administrators work together to support College for Certain for all students," said Aspire CEO James Willcox. "I'm so proud of our graduates, who now have the chance to earn a college degree - an accomplishment that will give them many life opportunities."

Aspire seniors collectively received 1,387 college acceptances and plan to attend universities such as UC Berkeley, UCLA, Sierra Nevada College, University of Arkansas and Emory University. In addition, our seniors graduated high school with on average, 15 college credits. The students pictured in the banner above impressively graduated high school with an Associate's Degree and in most situations, will start college with a junior standing.

Congratulations to the Aspire Class of 2015!

Living our Mission: 2015 Don Shalvey Changing the Odds Award Winners

Each year Aspire recognizes two alumni who are recent college graduates with the Don Shalvey Changing the Odds Award, named in honor of our founder. Awardees exemplify tenacity in the pursuit of *College for Certain*, giving back to other Aspire students as well as their community, and are the first in their family to graduate from college.

This year's winners are Jocelyn Cachux from Aspire East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy and Hong Van Nguyen from Aspire Benjamin Holt College Preparatory Academy. [Continue Reading >](#)



Join the College for Certain Fund!

If you have not already made a gift, **it's not too late!** Please consider making a gift to our College for Certain Fund **before July 1** so that we can continue to provide our students with the highest quality education every child deserves.

Donate to the
College for Certain Fund



College for Certain

Founded in 1998, Aspire Public Schools is a national K-12 school system focused on improving public education by preparing underserved students for college, training highly effective teachers and sharing innovative best practices. Aspire serves more than 14,600 students in 38 open-enrollment public schools in underserved communities across California and Memphis, Tenn.

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