



College for Certain Newsletter | February 2016

Dear Aspire Friends,

This year is Leap Year, so today is an "extra day". Thinking about this extra day reminded me how everyone I've met at Aspire goes the extra mile for our students. We are constantly thinking what more can we do to help our students on their path to *College for Certain*. Never satisfied with just meeting standards, our teachers keep pushing to find new ways to support our students and help them succeed. Teachers like Mark Montero, at Aspire ERES Academy, who has found new ways to use technology to teach math. Mark's creative approach to keeping his students on task is just one example of the innovation and passion I've seen at our schools.

All of our staff members have also shown their steadfast dedication to Aspire and their passion to serve our students in the best way possible. Staff like Nickolaus Manning, Memphis Regional Director of Strategic Partnerships, who not only works to support Aspire, but who is working with other Memphis leaders to best serve all students in the region.

Some of these teachers and staff members have been with Aspire from the very beginning, sticking with us as our organization grew and as it continues to stay strong through our charter renewals. I'm happy to note, all our charters up for renewal were approved. Thank you to everyone for your support and continued dedication to going the extra distance for our kids. Your commitment to our students and communities help make *College for Certain* possible for every student.

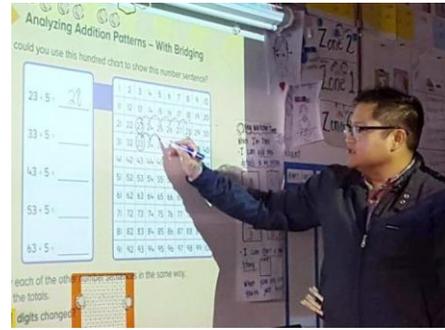
Thank you,
Carolyn Hack
CEO, Aspire Public Schools

Adaptive Learning is all about...

by Peter Burrows for EdSurge

"The first thing that struck me was the calm," Peter Burrows said of the second grade classroom at Aspire ERES. "Half of the class was reading or working in workbooks. The others were sitting on two sides of the classroom, clicking away on their Chromebooks."

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All Children, One City

by Nickolaus Manning for *The Commercial Appeal*

Our very own Memphis Regional Director of Strategic Partnerships Nickolaus Manning wrote an op-ed that was featured in *The Commercial Appeal*. In the piece, Nickolaus asks the Memphis community to, "Imagine the impact if we spent time joining forces. I propose all school districts, charter management organizations, single-site charter schools and elected officials take a back seat and allow what we do for children to drive our decision-making."



Thank you to Nickolaus and the entire Memphis team for working so diligently with their community to bring people together to make *College for Certain* a reality for our students.

[Read the full article >](#)

Leaping into the Future: Charter Renewals

This year was full of hard work on the part of our home office and regional staff to get our charter renewals approved. We are very proud to report that 100% of our charter renewals were approved! From the Central Valley to Los Angeles, every charter was submitted, had a public hearing, and was approved. This means our students at those schools can be certain they will be able to continue at their high-quality Aspire school for years to come. Check out the full list of charter renewals below.



Congratulations to each school on their successful 'leap' into the future!

- Aspire Alexander Twilight Secondary Academy
- Aspire Alexander Twilight College Preparatory Academy
- Aspire Inskeep Academy
- Aspire River Oaks Charter School

- Aspire Slauson Academy
- Aspire Summit Charter Academy
- Aspire Tate Academy

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The graphic features a purple background with a photograph of students in a classroom. The text is overlaid on the purple area, and the Aspire Public Schools logo is in the bottom right corner.

Trends in Education

[Districts' Leaders Anticipate Higher Math Scores this Year](#)
Ed Source

[The Myth of a Hero Teacher](#)
The New York Times

[A Closer Look at the Charter School Movement: Schools, Students, and Management Organizations, 2015- 16](#)
Report: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools



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Founded in 1998, Aspire Public Schools is one of the nation's largest highest-performing, college-preparatory public school systems. Aspire delivers a rigorous K-12 *College for Certain* education to 15,000 students in 38 open-enrollment public schools in California and Memphis, Tenn. Currently in our 17th academic year, Aspire is one of the nation's first charter school systems.

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