



LAUSD
UNIFIED



Sponsored by the **GATE & Magnet**
STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

IGNITE Student Leaders Summit

Unleashing Your Passion

Ramon C. Cortines School of VAPA

450 N Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Saturday, May 30, 2026

9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Student Integration Services/Magnet Programs
Gifted/Talented Programs
Advanced Learning Options
Office of Special Education and Specialized Programs

Conference Schedule

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Registration and Refreshments
9:30 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks
9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Keynote Address: Dr. Jacqueline Sanderlin
10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Break and Passing Period
10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Panel or Presentations
11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	Breakout Session 1
1:10 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Breakout Session 2

Opening Session Meet the Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jacqueline Sanderlin is an author, educator and inspirational speaker. Today, Dr. Jackie will empower participants to build meaningful community partnerships through the 5 C's: Community, Collaboration, Capacity, Connection, and Creativity. This engaging session will inspire attendees to strengthen relationships, expand impact, and turn passion into purposeful action.



Student College Panel

Theatre 10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

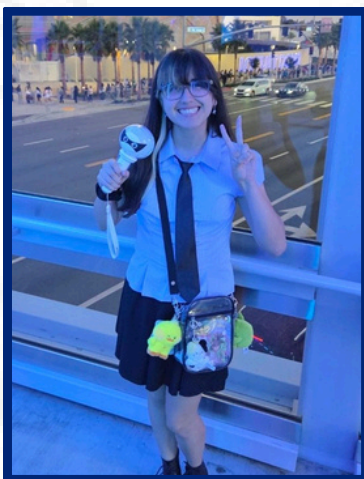
Join a panel of LAUSD graduates as they reflect on their freshman year experiences and share honest insight into the transition from high school to college. Students will also share what they wish they had known while still in high school, while highlighting the skills and experiences that helped them feel prepared for college life and success in the classroom. This session is designed to provide high school students with practical guidance, encouragement, and a realistic perspective on the college transition from those who have recently experienced it firsthand.



Chloe Yong
Graduate of
Chatsworth High School



Emmanuel Nwalozie
Graduate of
Narbonne High School



Miranda Betancourt
Graduate of
Kennedy High School



Yoshi Ordonez
Graduate of
Cleveland High School

Student Presentations

Blackbox Theatre 10:50 – 11:50 a.m.

CA Seal of Civic Engagement MSAC Projects

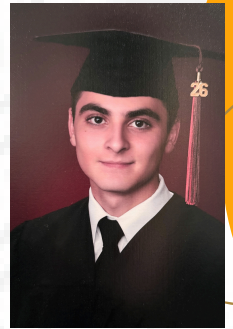
Be inspired by innovative LAUSD students who have earned the prestigious California Seal of Civic Engagement through meaningful projects that created positive change on their campuses and in their communities. Students will share their experiences, challenges, and successes while showcasing real-world projects that can be adapted and implemented at any school site. Whether you are looking to launch a new initiative, grow student leadership opportunities, or inspire greater community involvement on your campus, this session will provide creative examples, actionable strategies, and student-driven inspiration to help turn ideas into impact.

Moderated by MSAC Students Aryaman D. and Serena E.

AP Capstone Tutoring Project

Learn how students support other students through AP Seminar with feedback and support from students who passed the exam.

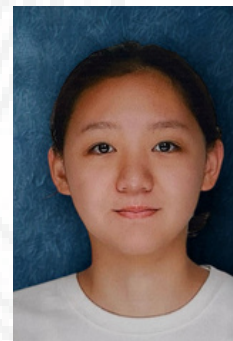
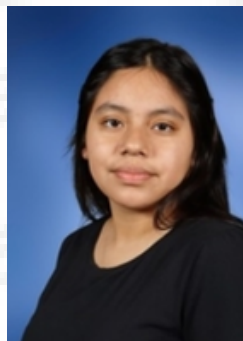
- James A., Fernando L. and Gor P.,
Grant HS College Prep and Digital Arts Magnet



The Student Empowerment Project

Learn how to organize a club and events to provide useful information and resources for improving student mental health and maximizing student's ability to academically and emotionally thrive.

- Evelyn A. and Ashley S.,
John Marshall HS Gifted Magnet



Equity, Early Project

Discover ways to counter discrimination and promote equity on campus. A project collaborated with the USC Race and Equity Student Leadership Academy facilitates important conversations to eliminate structural barriers to equity.

- Max L.,
Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies



Breakout Sessions

Session 1: 12:30 p.m. – 1:05 p.m

Session 2: 1:10 p.m. – 1:45 p.m

Beyond Limits: A Vision Board Journey for All and Multilingual Language Learners*

Presented by: LAUSD MMED
Manny Barajas
Erika Coronado

Unlock the power of visualization in this hands-on, creative workshop! Designed specifically for Multilingual Language Learners, this session goes beyond traditional goal setting by encouraging you to dream beyond limits!

Located in Room 203 (overflow in 202)

***There will only be one of this workshop and it spans SESSIONS 1-2 from 12:30 – 1:45 PM**

Budget Like a Boss: Real-Life Money Moves

Presented by:
Jamil Bryant (Everfi Customer Success Manager)
Guadalupe Morales & Andrew Griffiths (City National Bank)

Ever wonder where your money actually goes and how to make it work for you? In this interactive workshop hosted by Everfi and City National Bank, you'll learn simple budgeting skills you can use right now (and for your first job, college, and beyond). You'll practice making real choices with limited money, just like adults do every month. You'll leave with a clear, actionable game plan for managing money—plus the confidence to make choices that match your priorities.

Located in Room 220

Build Your Brand

Presented by:
LAUSD EdTech
Renee Sanchez (Instructional Leadership Support Specialist)
Maria Franco (Readiness and Integration Specialist)

Your digital presence matters and LinkedIn can help you stand out before you even apply for a job or internship. In this interactive workshop, students will learn how to create a strong LinkedIn profile that shows their skills, experiences, leadership, and interests. We'll explore how LinkedIn can be used for networking, learning about careers, and finding opportunities while still in school. Students will leave with simple tips to start building a professional profile today. This session will give you the tools to take your next step toward future success.

Located in Room 218

Breakout Sessions

Session 1: 12:30 p.m. – 1:05 p.m

Session 2: 1:10 p.m. – 1:45 p.m

From Idea to Impact: Our TEDx Journey

Presented by:

Natalie Berghoudian (Magnet Coordinator)

Taft HS Students

This workshop will guide participants through the process of planning and executing a student-led TEDxYouth event. From securing the license to building a team, selecting speakers, and managing logistics, we will share our first-year experience, challenges, and key takeaways. Attendees will leave with a clear, actionable framework to bring a TEDx event to their own school.

Located in Room 204

Student Empowerment and Rights

Presented by: Jerry Yang (LAUSD Student Board Member)

Please join 2025–2026 LAUSD Student Board Member Jerry Yang in an interactive activity, where he not only talks about his own motivations and experiences in public service, but also aims to help other students understand how to use their voices, raise awareness, and find their passions.

Located in Room 206

Telling Your Story in the College Application

Presented by:

Dr. Maria Rodriguez (Associate Director of Outreach, USC)

In this session you will learn about what selective colleges who use holistic admission look for, such as your academic record, test scores, activities, and essays. You will then hear about the importance of telling your story and how you can present your best self through the application and the different components you will have to submit. There will be a short brainstorming activity for the college essay.

Located in Room 221

Unleashed Voices: The Art of Passion-Driven Speaking

Presented by:

LAUSD Beyond the Bell

Dr. Neena Agnihotri

This workshop brings passion to life through student-delivered speeches that inspire, inform, and motivate. Participants will experience different speech styles, including motivational, advocacy, and storytelling, and break down the elements that make them impactful. The session encourages students to tap into their personal passions and transform them into compelling messages that drive change.

Located in Room 209

Los Angeles Unified School District Administration

Andres Chait, Acting Superintendent
Dr. Karla Estrada, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction
Anthony Aguilar, Chief of Special Education and Specialized Programs
Dr. Lorena Franco, Director
Student Involvement, Empowerment, and Development
Antonio Pascencia, Senior Director of Student
Family and Community Engagement

Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options

Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann, Director
Rasienna Forss, Specialist
Susanna Furfari, Coordinator & GATESAC Advisor
Kevin Kilpatrick, Coordinator
Dr. Nicole Niederdeppe, Coordinator
Michelle Papazyan, Coordinator
Maria Pineda, Specialist
Wynne Wong-Cheng, Coordinator
Laura Interiano, GATE Psychologist
Jimena Del Pozo, GATE Psychologist

Student Integration Services and Magnet Programs

Dr. Keith H. Abrahams III, Executive Director
Song Lee, Coordinator
MaryJane Lira-London, Coordinator & MSAC Advisor
Hermineh Markosyan, Coordinator
Hector Verduzco, Coordinator

Gifted and Talented Education Student Advisory Council

President: Yanna K.
Vice President: Mariyah W.
Secretary: Sami T.

Magnet Student Advisory Council

President: Ivy C.
Vice President: Aryaman D.
Secretary: Evie E.
Social Media Coordinator: Serena E.

A Special Thank You to All of Today's Presenters and Speakers, and Especially to the Staff at Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts for the Arts for Hosting the Summit.



GATESAC Planning and Conference Support

Roberto A.	Selena E.	April L.	Aarnav S.
Jayleen A.	Pilar F.	Tania L.	Caleel S.
Maximiliano A.	Nicholas F.	Deborah M.	Avriel S.
Jaz B.	Angela G.	Delilah M.	Samian S.
Sebastian C.	Christina G.	Raymundo M.	Allyson V.
Katie C.	Isabella G.	Nathalie N.	Nico W.
Jazlin C.	Angelica G.	Angel O.	Marlon Z.
Tyler C.	Julia G.	Vinzcrisobal P.	
Kaiden C.	Erik G.	Sonny P.	
Yunah C.	Alexis G.	Nysha P.	
Antonio C.	Ixtli H.	Alexander R.	
Allison C.	Bailey H.	Sarina R.	
Marlo C.	Truman K.	Jonah S.	
Alinson D.	Milan L.	Avi S.	

MSAC Planning and Conference Support

James A.	Deily H.	Gor P.
Evelyn A.	Akshita I.	Amber R.
Cassandra A.	Pranav K.	Kalyn R.
Keanna B.	Max L.	Kamora S.
Mayaluna B.	Olivia L.	Ashley S.
Maxwell B.	Fernando L.	Phoebe S.
Nathan C.	Jason L.	Chaitra S.
Natasha C.	Lundan M.	Sidy T.
Alyssa C.	Victoria M.	Will T.
Jazlin C.	Elle P.	Jocsan T.
Nandini C.	Samuel P.	Paria V.
Christina G.	Arthur P.	Sophia V.
Kenadie G.	Madison P.	Kinger X.
Allison G.	Tsion P.	

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jacqueline Sanderlin

Panel Guests

Chloe Yong
Emmanuel Nwalozie
Miranda Betancourt
Yoshi Ordonez

Student Presenters

James A.
Evelyn A.
Max L.
Fernando L.
Gor P.
Ashley S.

Breakout Room Session Presenters

Dr. Neena Agnihotri
Manny Barajas
Natalie Berghoudian
Jamil Bryant
Erika Coronado
Maria Franco
Jessica Golden
Andrew Griffiths
Guadalupe Morales
Dr. Maria Rodriguez
Renee Sanchez
Jerry Yang