



Irvine Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IUSD to hold Service-Learning Share Fair to celebrate this year's projects *The May 18 event will feature an awards ceremony for students and teachers*

IRVINE, Calif. – The Irvine Unified School District will hold its inaugural “Service-Learning Share Fair” on Tuesday, May 18, to celebrate 16 ambitious service-learning projects completed by IUSD students and teachers this year.

The event, to be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the University High School gymnasium, will include an open house, student performances and an awards ceremony from 5 to 5:30 p.m. to recognize the students and staff behind this year's projects.

- **WHAT:** The Irvine Unified School District will hold its first-ever “Service-Learning Share Fair” to recognize service-learning projects completed throughout the year.
- **WHO:** In addition to participating teachers, students and their families, attendees will include IUSD Board of Education members, Irvine City Council members, project advisors and community members.
- **WHEN:** 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18
- **WHERE:** The gymnasium at University High School, 4771 Campus Drive, Irvine
- **CONTACT:** Abby Edmunds, IUSD Service Learning Facilitator, at (949) 936-5126 or aedmunds@iusd.org.

About IUSD's service-learning program

In 2009, IUSD and the nonprofit group Team Kids were awarded a three-year, \$86,000 grant enabling students to serve their communities and boost their academic skills at the same time. Funded by the state Department of Education, the “CalServe Initiative” was designed to promote service-learning, which meshes community service projects with standards-based instruction.

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IUSD ... providing the highest quality educational experience we can envision.

The grant was specifically intended to support a school district and a nonprofit partner. In IUSD, Team Kids was already well established at many elementary schools, connecting students with police officers, firefighters and other community role models to address real-life issues, such as hunger, homelessness and the environment.

Under the CalServe Initiative, selected fifth- and sixth-grade teachers from Alderwood Basics Plus, Deerfield, Eastshore, Springbrook and University Park elementary schools, as well as Vista Verde School, trained in the principles of service-learning before developing a menu of potential projects. All IUSD schools were then eligible to apply for “mini-grants” to support their own site-based projects. Ultimately, more than 2,000 students participated from the training schools and the campuses that received mini-grants, including South Lake Middle School, University High School and Northwood and Turtle Rock elementary schools.

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