



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Los Angeles Education Partnership (LAEP) partners with Jurupa Unified School District (JUSD) to Support High-quality Teaching & Learning, Resilient Educators**

JURUPA VALLEY, CA — September 14, 2022 — The Jurupa Unified School District (JUSD) has selected [Los Angeles Education Partnership \(LAEP\)](#), a longstanding educational equity nonprofit, to provide educator coaching and professional development in support of the district's recent California Community Schools Partnership Program grant award.

For the past two years, LAEP has been providing its [CORE \(Cultivating Organizational Resilience & Empowerment\)](#) coaching in Jurupa Valley through the California Department of Education and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence's statewide [21st Century California School Leadership Academy \(21CSLA\)](#) program. Now, two dedicated CORE coaches will serve full-time at Troth Street Elementary School, Mission Middle School and Rubidoux High School to support the creation of an environment of wellness and resilience for school leadership and staff.

LAEP will also place a dedicated instructional support staff member at each of those three Jurupa Valley schools to support teaching and learning. This staff will use an observation, feedback and cognitive coaching cycle to support leadership in helping them act on their vision and mission as well as strategically plan for and implement positive change.

The current widespread educator shortage is most strongly impacting students of color and those of lower socioeconomic status. LAEP's CORE work is designed to create resilient, healing-centered school environments to support staff retention and well-being in order to better support this student group, and its instructional support work builds school staff capacity to collaborate around and implement culturally responsive instructional practices. Both components of the work help school leaders make their equity-centered school visions a reality and build on the whole-child model to create a whole-school approach that addresses educational inequities.

"To bring out the best in our students, we must bring out the best in our educators," said Michele Broadnax, LAEP president and chief executive officer. "We are thrilled to be continuing in Jurupa Valley to create sustainable, systems-level transformation that includes structures to support teacher and student well-being as well as ensuring equitable instructional practices for our most at-promise learners."

Drawing on decades of experience in public schools, LAEP has identified six core elements of schools that create the conditions to ensure children thrive: centering educational equity, high-quality instruction, teacher leadership and collaboration, college and career readiness, families as partners and empowered students. All should be present in effective community schools like the ones JUSD is building with the recent community schools grant funding. LAEP's contract will support ensuring the first three – those around equity, instruction, and teaching – are met at partner schools, working

alongside JUSD community school coordinators to support the building of effective community schools where all six elements will ideally be present.

Education leaders across the country today are struggling to balance the plethora of demands on their time. One way LAEP's team supports educators through this is by building more avenues for staff and student voice and choice, which empowers the entire school community, cultivates organizational resilience and creates collaborative leadership, a pillar of community schools. The organization also uses practices such as instructional coaching, non-evaluative teacher observation, strategic planning, professional development and implementation of wellness-centered practices for school staff.

Founded in 1984, LAEP has a deep-rooted history of supporting education leaders through innovative approaches to school improvement, including the Humanitas interdisciplinary curriculum, the community schools model, and strategies based upon school system coherence.

LAEP's CORE work emerged out of the organization's national work with Kaiser Permanente's Resilience in School Environment (RISE) initiative. RISE transformed policies and practices to create trauma-informed environments that positively impacted resilience among students and staff, data showed. Ina Ar buckle Elementary in Jurupa Valley was one of 20 schools across three states that received the RISE work.

Through 21CSLA, LAEP has provided CORE programming to 572 educational leaders in Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial, Orange and San Diego Counties over the past two years.

"Using our equity lens, our goal is to promote rigorous, culturally relevant, and standards-aligned instruction that supports students' academic achievement and social-emotional well-being," said Broadnax. "Now more than ever, it is important to understand how healing can re-shape school environments post-pandemic and to build capacity for organizational resilience using healing-centered and distributed leadership practices."

#### ***About Los Angeles Education Partnership***

*[Los Angeles Education Partnership \(LAEP\)](#) is a nonprofit organization that advances educational equity. Together with families, schools and the community, LAEP facilitates access to and opportunities for quality educational and wellness practices so that children thrive from diapers to diplomas. Founded in 1984, LAEP was the first nonprofit in Los Angeles to focus exclusively on educational equity and among those at the forefront of the educational transformation movement nationwide.*

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