

# Heartset® Blast

February 2020



## 30 YEARS AND COUNTING!

As we launch our 30th year, EduCare continues to develop and implement programs that inspire, guide, and empower young people to develop their innate skills and gifts, and to grow into the leaders of the future.

- Our Growth Heartset Certification Course is helping teachers and school staff to deepen their skills as compassionate educators, as you'll read below.
- For the first time, Bell High School (where EduCare has provided afterschool programs for many years) took first place in the Academic Decathlon.
- We are offering afterschool programs to several new schools.

**2020 is off to a great start, and we wish you all a wonderful year!**

## CONGRATULATIONS, BELL HIGH SCHOOL!



We are delighted to announce that the nine-member team from Bell High School took first place in the 2020 Academic Decathlon for the Los Angeles Unified School District! With 55 teams taking part, this is an outstanding victory for Bell High School.

While Bell High School has competed in the Decathlon a number of times, this is their first time coming out on top. Team member Diego Mora won medals in five categories, and three others took medals in four categories apiece. Congratulations to all decathletes, and to Heather Wilson and Matthew Moreno, the coaches who worked with them for months in preparation for the competition. Kudos to school administrators who adjusted schedules to make it possible. Top teams in all categories will go on to compete in the state Academic Decathlon, taking place in Sacramento on March 26-29.

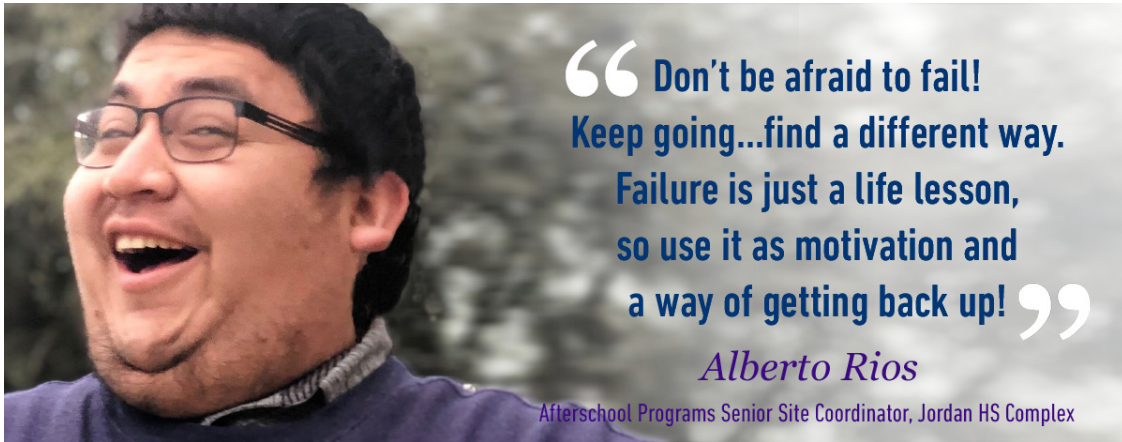
## SAN FERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL MAKES BEAUTIFUL MUSIC



Congratulations to José Ocampo (left) and Carlos Olivo! These two talented musicians attend San Fernando High School, where they have been active participants in EduCare’s afterschool programs. We are delighted to announce that José and Carlos placed first and second, respectively, in the Instrumental Competition held by the LA5: Rotary Club of Los Angeles. José will now go on to participate in the Pageant of the Arts Rotary Competition. The Pageant – an annual combination of four competitions for high school students in the categories of dance, art, music, and speech – will be held at Loyola-Marymount University on March 14. Bravo, José and Carlos!

## SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

An occasional feature on the amazing people who make EduCare thrive



**“ Don’t be afraid to fail!  
Keep going...find a different way.  
Failure is just a life lesson,  
so use it as motivation and  
a way of getting back up! ”**

*Alberto Rios*

Afterschool Programs Senior Site Coordinator, Jordan HS Complex

The first thing you notice when you speak with Alberto is his utter dedication to his work with students.

And that level of enthusiasm is essential – Alberto oversees afterschool programs for three Los Angeles Unified High Schools that together comprise the Jordan Education Complex: STEAM Legacy High School, David Starr Jordan Senior High School, and Animo College Prep Academy.

The fourth of five boys born to parents who immigrated from Mexico in 1982, Alberto encountered EduCare at Bell High School (where Gerardo Mungaray, now one of our Regional Managers, was Afterschool Site Coordinator). As he gained confidence in his abilities, he joined EduCare’s leadership program. After he graduated high school, he applied for the position of Assistant Site Coordinator at Esteban Torres High School – and the rest is history. From afterschool student to Afterschool Site Coordinator, Alberto has been part of EduCare for a decade! Now he coordinates enrichment activities and academic support for more than 1,500 students. From show choir to color guard, from DIY to TAC (Beyond the Bell’s Take Action Campaign), from English Language skills to sports, students in these three schools have numerous opportunities to grow their skills, their leadership, and their academic capabilities.

He feels that he’s lucky to have such a close, loving family, and knows that this isn’t always the case for

the students he works with. “When kids don’t have a close family, EduCare helps fill that role to provide support.” Many moving moments have resulted. One of his students, with divorced parents, asked Alberto to stand in for his father and accompany him to an important school ceremony. Other students – those who have gone on to attend top-flight colleges like U.C. Berkeley and Harvard – frequently return to speak with current students about the value of education and the positive influence of EduCare.

A native of Los Angeles, Alberto, his four brothers, and his parents form a close, loving family. When his three older brothers started – but did not finish – community college, Alberto determined that he would get his college degree, and would encourage his younger brother to do the same. Now, in addition to a full schedule with EduCare, he’s studying for his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees (in teaching and counseling, respectively) simultaneously! The little spare time he has is spent giving back to his community: he volunteers at the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and other charities, bringing his younger brother along whenever possible.

We can’t say enough about your loving, enthusiastic work, Alberto – and we look forward to hearing from many more of the students whose lives you’ve touched!

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**This workshop/training was great, and it was nice to hear about amazing ways to connect more with myself, our students, and others. I think Growth Heartset is the most essential way to build up students.**

*Comment from a participant in the Growth Heartset Certification Course*



*In October 2019, EduCare Foundation commenced a year-long certification course for 30 afterschool leaders throughout California. The course, Growth Heartset: Establishing a Culture of Caring Certification, is being co-sponsored by the California Department of Education Expanded Learning Division.*

We are midway through the Growth Heartset Certification Course for the 2019-2020 academic year. The current cohort includes staff, regional supervisors and regional leads from school districts throughout the State of California. We already know that educators who participated in the first Growth Heartset programs have passed along what they learned with colleagues, allowing the effective teaching principles at the core of Growth Heartset to positively influence more schools, educators, and students. Each participant is making a difference, and we will continue to update you as this exciting program evolves.

## EVENTS: Social Justice Humanitas Academy



*Eleventh graders from SJHA visited several Southern California colleges*



*Enthusiastic SJHA students at Teen Insight in December 2019*

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## Training the Leaders: EDUCARE STAFF TRAINING



If you've ever wondered who's behind all the programs and workshops and afterschool magic – in other words, who is the face of EduCare at all those high schools and middle schools – here we are, following our very own Hearset staff training in December!

## AFTERSCHOOL

### Four New Schools Join the EduCare Family

We are delighted to announce that EduCare is now providing Afterschool Programs for three more high schools and one middle school in Los Angeles Unified School District.

#### San Fernando Institute of Applied Media

*Site Coordinator*  
Gerardo Olea

#### STEM@Helen Bernstein High School

*Site Coordinator*  
Rocio Rodriguez  
*Assistant Site Coordinator*  
Sandra Chavez

#### Sylmar Biotech

*Site Coordinator*  
Viancha Carehi  
*Assistant Site Coordinator*  
Yolanda Montero  
*Assistant Site Coordinator*  
Julio Avina

#### Panorama High School

*Site Coordinator*  
Robert Gonzalez  
*Assistant Site Coordinator*  
Paola Herrera

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*Upcoming EduCare Events*

### TAKE ACTION CAMPAIGN

**Saturday, February 22**

**MTAC: Road to College #2**  
UCLA

**Saturday, February 29**

**MTAC: Road to College #3**  
Pomona College

**Saturday, March 7**

**TAC: Students Serve LA**  
Regional Food Bank, LA River Cleanup,  
Heal the Bay, Arbor Day

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Advocates for Healthy Choices**

**(AFHC) Conference**

**Saturday, February 29**  
Pomona College

**AFHC Student-Led Conference**

**Saturday, March 14**  
Loyola - Marymount University



### EduCare Foundation's Mission

Inspiring and empowering young people  
to become responsible citizens,  
compassionate leaders, and to live their dreams.

[www.educarefoundation.com](http://www.educarefoundation.com)