



A Partnership between the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles Unified School District

SPOTLIGHT ENTRY # 6

1. Please enter your contact information:

2. Please enter your partner's contact information:

Name: - Linh Huynh Company or School: - West Adams Preparatory High School Title - Chief of Staff	Name: - Scott Heimlich Company or School: - Amgen Title: - Senior Program Manager for Amgen Foundation
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1. How did you meet your business or school partner?

Other (please describe) - In 2007, the Amgen Foundation board recognized the significant need for education reform in South Los Angeles and approved a \$4 million grant over three years to MLA Partner Schools (MLA) to provide a first-rate education to students and create an infrastructure that supports and breeds innovation.

2. What activities does the business partner participate in at the school?

- Classroom Speaking
- Career Fairs
- Hosts Job Shadowing Opportunities
- Serves on Advisory Board
- Sponsors Student Activities
- Donates Goods or Services
- Other (please describe) - Amgen's support of MLA and West Adams Prep goes beyond grantmaking with a focus on teacher and student development. For the past two years, students at West Adams Prep were introduced to the Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program, a flexible hands-on, inquiry-based experience using some of the same materials, tools and techniques used by professional scientists. Students from West Adams also had the chance to participate in a Power Lunch at Amgen with Amgen executives and scientists. Additionally, Amgen scientists are active participants in the school's annual career fair. Scientists travel to the school site to share their experiences and inspire students to pursue a career in the sciences. Amgen executives and staff members are also working with MLA to design an Executive Leadership Institute for Principals, which is an executive training program for principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders.

3. How often do these activities occur?

Once a month
Varies

4. What has been the result of your partnership?

(For example, students have been placed in internships, student academic achievement has improved, etc.)

As a result of Amgen's investment (not only financial investment, but also access to Amgen's human capital), West Adams Prep has made strong progress relative to the district. West Adams Prep had a 1 year drop out rate of 2.3%. Neighborhood schools ranged from 8-9%. LAUSD had a 1 year drop out rate of 6.7% and the state of California was 4.9%. Additionally 75% of seniors at West Adams Prep reported that they are going on to a 2/4 year college. 48% of students at a neighborhood comparison school indicated they were going on to a 2/4 year college. West Adams Prep also saw an increase of 31 points in their API (554

API). This was a bigger gain than any other comprehensive high school in South Los Angeles, and it was also more than double the gains of LAUSD as a whole.

5. How has this partnership helped students?

As a result of Amgen's support, West Adams Prep offers a first-rate education to every student. Students in the small school of "Science and Technology" were able to participate in the Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program, a flexible hands-on, inquiry-based experience using some of the same materials, tools and techniques used by professional scientists. Additionally, Amgen has hosted multiple field trips and has given many students the opportunity to speak one-on-one with scientists.

6. How has this partnership helped the educator(s) achieve their instructional goals?

Amgen has provided Professional Development and support for our teachers in Science and Technology. West Adams Prep teachers who participate in the Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program attended a multi-day training to refine their expertise in the sciences.

7. How did you initiate this partnership after initially meeting your partner?

After a one-on-one meeting between Mike McGalliard, President of MLA Partner Schools and Kevin Sharer, Amgen's chief executive officer, Kevin Sharer sent out a team of his top executives to study MLA's work. The Amgen team interviewed staff members, studied MLA's education reform model and visited the schools. Because of Amgen's recognition of the significant need for education reform in South Los Angeles and their belief in MLA, Amgen approved a \$4 million grant over three years to MLA Partner Schools.

8. What was the biggest challenge you had to overcome?

Many private companies have invested in public education and have not seen a return on their investment. Our biggest challenge was demonstrating to Amgen why investing in MLA's work at West Adams Prep was a promising investment.

9. What would you say are the greatest achievements of the partnership?

West Adams Prep has made significant progress as a school because of Amgen's support. As stated earlier, West Adams Prep had a 1 year drop out of 2.3%. Neighborhood schools ranged from 8-9%. LAUSD had a 1 year drop out rate of 6.7% and the state of California was 4.9%. Additionally 75% of seniors at West Adams Prep reported that they are going on to a 2/4 year college. 48% of students at a comparison neighborhood school indicated they were going on to a 2/4 year college. West Adams Prep also saw an increase of 31 points in their API (554 API). This was a bigger gain than any other comprehensive high school in South Los Angeles, and it was also more than double the gains of LAUSD as a whole.

10. What are your short-term goals for further developing the partnership?

MLA is currently working with Amgen executives and staff members to design an Executive Leadership Institute for Principals, which is an executive training program for principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders. A short term goal is complete the design of the program with Amgen and launch the executive training program for our school leaders.

11. What advice would you give schools that want to start a similar partnership program?

A clear plan for ongoing performance management and data collection is key in developing the trust of the private sector.