

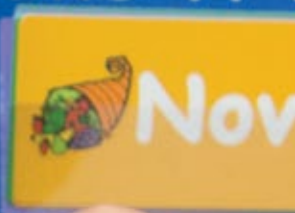


SYNERGY ACADEMIES
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

22
23
24
25
9



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IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO that I joined Synergy to open our middle and high schools. My goal was to return to the community where I first began teaching, to do something no one had ever done— create model STEM schools in South LA.

In 2015, we launched our vision for STEM education. We then expanded the program to reach all Synergy students, from kindergarten through 12th grade.

To us, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math is more than a curriculum. It's a mindset. Our purpose is simple— to empower our students to pursue the college or career of their dreams. And it's working. 90% of our graduating seniors were accepted to colleges and universities, including Berkeley, UCLA, USC, and Yale.

Moreover, 46% of our graduates planned to study STEM in college, compared to only 6% of students from similar backgrounds nationwide. In the next few years, we'll have our first college graduates.

I look forward to keeping in touch with our alumni. I expect big things from them.

Thank you for sharing and supporting our dreams. We couldn't have gotten this far without you.

Together, we can do anything.

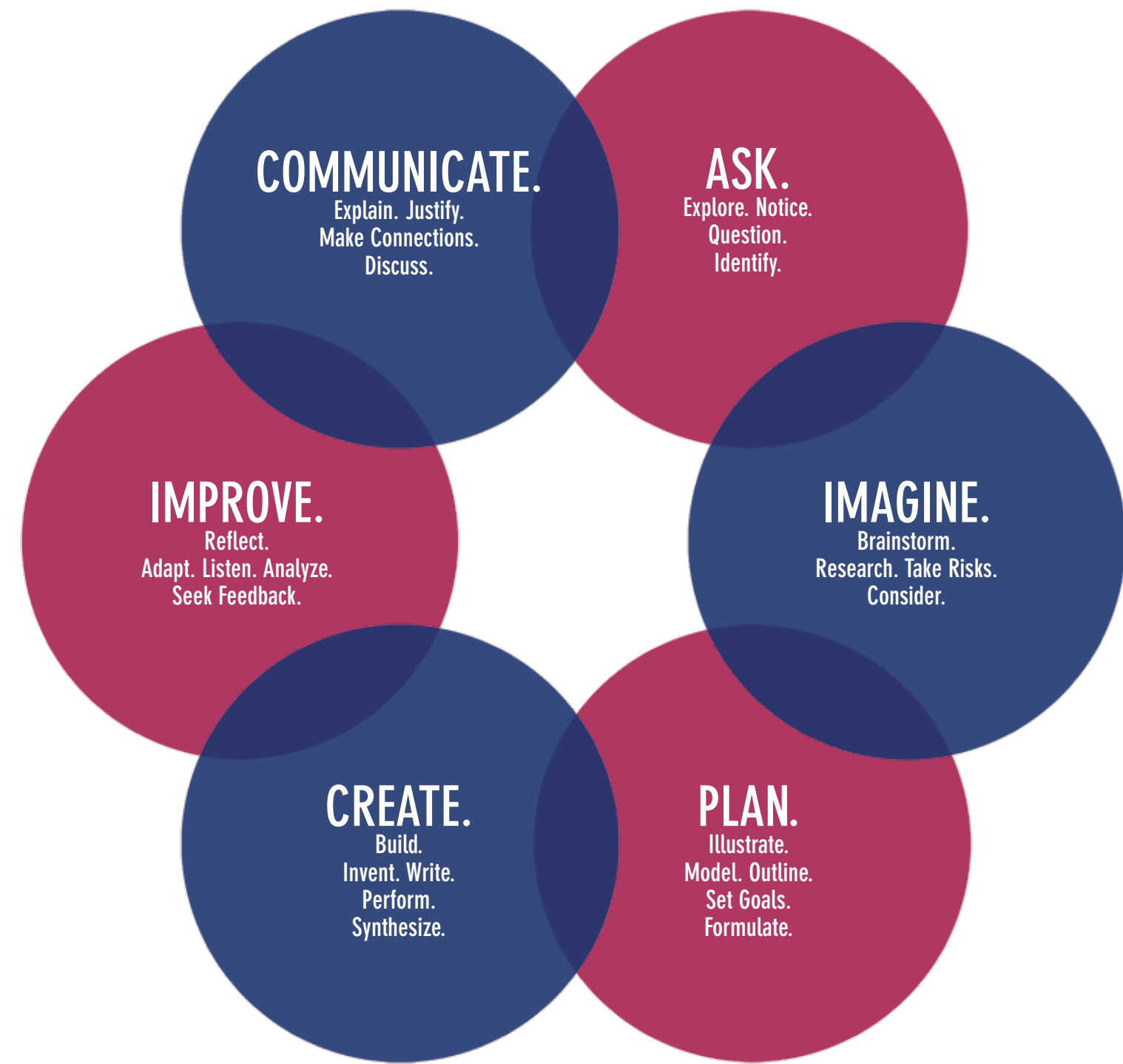
*Dr. Barbara Shannon
Co-founder and Director of STEM Education*



OUR VISION
**TO BUILD A MODEL
STEM SCHOOL.**

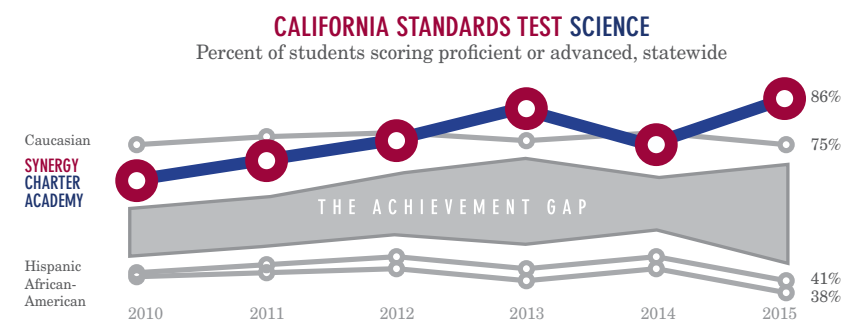


SYNERGY STEM. ENGINEERING THINKING WITH A PROBLEM-SOLVING MINDSET.



Synergy Academies is committed to providing a quality education to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Our STEM model is rooted in solving problems using critical thinking, communication, and perseverance. **OUR MISSION** is to create and share solutions that eliminate the achievement gap. **OUR VISION** is to build model STEM schools that will empower our students to be the next generation of problem solvers. For more details, go to WeAreSynergy.org/STEM.

SYNERGY CHARTER ACADEMY. At Synergy, STEM starts in kindergarten, where it's not too early to study biomedical engineering. Students are learning about the structure and function of the human body. Their design challenge: engineer a cast.

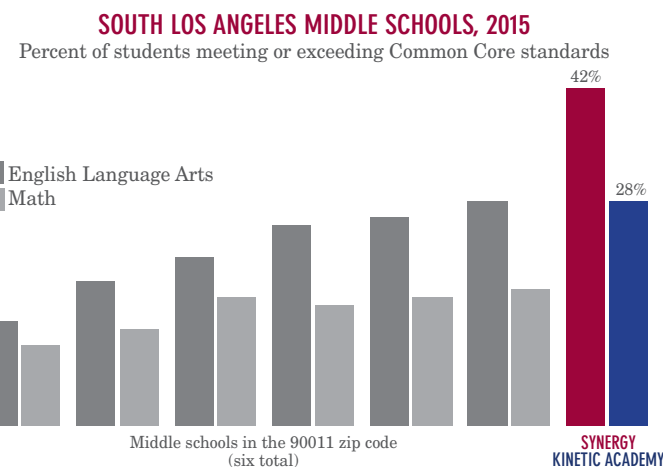


Synergy Charter Academy is one of the most highly-honored elementary schools in America, and is eliminating the achievement gap that has existed for decades between schools in the inner city and schools in more affluent neighborhoods.

“WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT TEACHING AT SYNERGY ARE THE ENTHUSIASTIC, HARD-WORKING STUDENTS. They continually teach me new things!” Lauren Levy is Synergy Charter Academy’s STEM Specialist. “If we teach STEM, we can help students become learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers– all things they’ll need for a future that we can’t yet even imagine!”

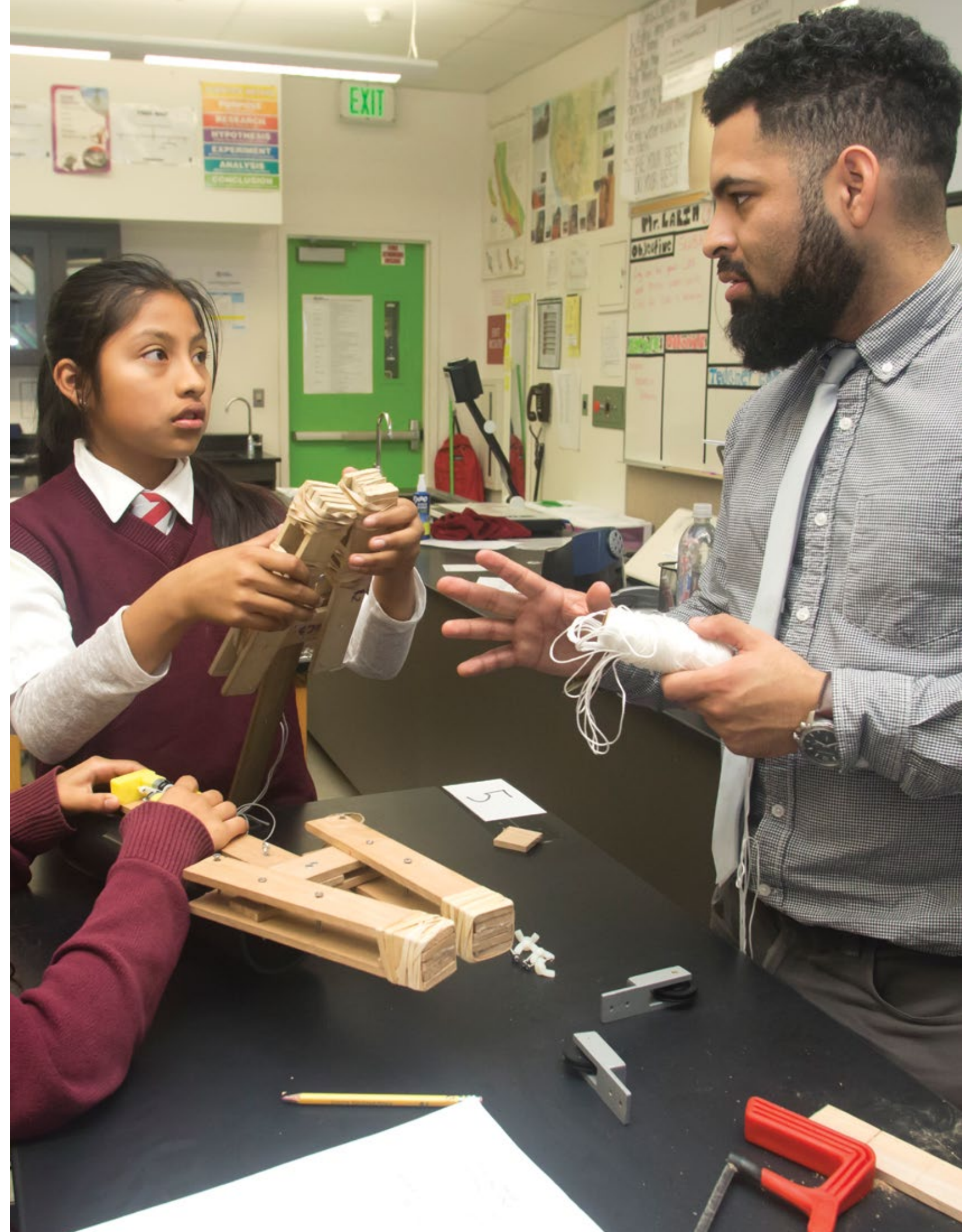


SYNERGY KINETIC ACADEMY. Our Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement team includes 45 students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade working on a variety of engineering projects, from building bridges out of popsicle sticks to creating prosthetic arms and programming the code that controls them. Synergy Kinetic students have participated in USC's MESA competitions each year since 2010, amassing a score of awards along the way, including 2nd place overall for their prosthetic arm.



Since 2010, Synergy Kinetic Academy has been the highest scoring 6th-8th grade school in Historic South Central, and continues to excel under the new Common Core testing.

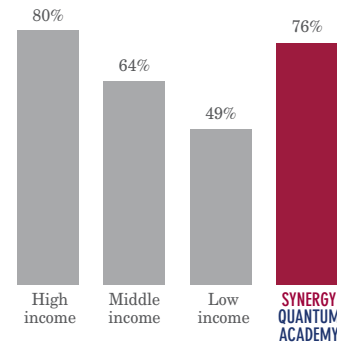
"I NEEDED TO COME BACK AND TEACH IN MY COMMUNITY." Brian Larin is an 8th grade science teacher at Synergy Kinetic Academy and a *Teach For America* corps member. "Sitting in freshman Biology at UCSB, I noticed I was one of only two Hispanic kids in the class. That's when I realized I needed to come back." Synergy's schools are teacher-powered. Teachers collaborate within and across grade levels and subject areas, and have input into schoolwide and organizational decisions.



SYNERGY QUANTUM ACADEMY. Synergy students in high school Biology participate in a dissection lab to discover the shared and unique structures of specific organisms. Through hands-on activities like this, they develop a greater appreciation for the complexity of life. Synergy Quantum Academy was named a 2015 Best High School by *US News & World Report*.



NATIONAL COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES, 2015



Over 95% of Synergy Quantum Academy students qualify for Free & Reduced Price Lunch, placing them well within the low income bracket. Yet they are enrolling in college at rates nearly on par with students from much more advantaged backgrounds.

"I'VE LOVED SCIENCE SINCE I WAS A KID." Matthew McKenzie teaches Biology and Physiology at Synergy Quantum Academy. Why is STEM education needed today? "There has been a surge in scientific breakthroughs along with the advancement of engineering techniques and technological platforms. All of these areas rely on problem solving and thinking outside the box."





SYNERGY ALUMNI

There is, of course, life after Synergy; preparing our students for success in college– and in life– is our ultimate goal. And so far, the Synergy Class of 2015 is doing very nicely at these colleges and universities:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Antelope Valley College | Mount Saint Mary's |
| Arapahoe Community College | Pasadena City College |
| Bucknell University | Sacramento State |
| California Poly, Pomona | San Francisco State |
| Cerritos College | Santa Ana College |
| CSU Bakersfield | Santa Monica College |
| CSU Dominguez Hills | UC Berkeley |
| CSU Fullerton | UC Irvine |
| CSU Long Beach | UCLA |
| CSU Los Angeles | UC Riverside |
| CSU Northridge | UC San Diego |
| CSU San Bernardino | UC Santa Barbara |
| East Los Angeles College | UC Santa Cruz |
| El Camino College | University of New England |
| Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University | University of Southern California |
| Georgia Gwinnett College | West LA College |
| Glendale Community College | Westminster College |
| Hawaii Pacific University | Yale University |
| Los Angeles City College | |
| Los Angeles Trade Tech | |

ESTEBAN, KAREN, AND HAZEL ARE IN THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR

AT UC IRVINE. Karen is enrolled in the School of Social Sciences with a double major in Sociology and Psychology, and a minor in Statistics.

“I grew up in what many call a ‘bad neighborhood’ with ‘bad schools.’ My mother decided to enroll me in Synergy in 9th grade. I remember not liking it at first because they gave too much homework and the teachers cared too much and everyone actually did their work. But, now I’m grateful because I can honestly say that Synergy Quantum gave me the tools to not only get into college but also to succeed in it.”



HELP ELIMINATE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP. JOIN A CIRCLE.

The achievement gap is more than just test scores. Our students also face a gap in life experience. They're less likely to have technology at home, visit museums on the weekend, travel during the summer, and attend art or music classes. Synergy's Circle Campaign aims to fill these gaps, as we strive to provide the best educational program both inside and out of the classroom. Please, *click here* and join the donors below. You'll be in the best of circles.



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Candy & Ken Deemer
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FINANCIALS

	Synergy Charter Academy	Synergy Kinetic Academy	Synergy Quantum Academy	Synergy Central Office	TOTAL
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	2,380,834	3,159,369	2,504,450	426,313	8,470,966
Accounts receivable	291,922	484,043	612,703	-	1,388,668
Prepaid expenses	8,676	23,035	22,607	6,255	60,573
Total current assets	2,681,432	3,666,447	3,139,760	432,568	9,920,207
FIXED ASSETS					
Property, plant, equipment net	-	2,270	13,597	-	15,867
Total long-term assets	-	2,270	13,597	-	15,867
Total assets	2,681,432	3,668,717	3,153,357	432,568	9,936,074
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Accounts payable	52,053	239,305	248,656	13,661	553,675
Payroll liabilities	21,138	29,409	49,788	24,826	125,161
Total liabilities	73,191	268,714	298,444	38,487	678,836
NET ASSETS					
Unrestricted	2,600,614	3,390,922	2,830,843	366,817	9,189,196
Temporarily restricted	7,627	9,081	24,070	27,264	68,042
Total net assets	2,608,241	3,400,003	2,854,913	394,081	9,257,238
Total liabilities and net assets	2,681,432	3,668,717	3,153,357	432,568	9,936,074

JUNE 30, 2015



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SYNERGY ACADEMIES

SYNERGY CHARTER ACADEMY ELEMENTARY, SYNERGY KINETIC ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL,
SYNERGY QUANTUM ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL.

To learn more, and to donate, go to WeAreSynergy.org.
Help us eliminate the achievement gap. For good.