

Winter 2007

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cityscape

the newsletter for City High School & Tucson Small School Project

Students Step Out into the World

City High School strives to be a community of learners in which all members use their minds well. We engage with challenging academics and the unique resources of our city and region to become active citizens and responsible stewards of our world.

Tucson Small School Project (TSSP) is dedicated to supporting City High School and to promoting professional development and community dialogue that foster smaller and more equitable learning communities for all students in southern Arizona. TSSP is a nonprofit corporation with 501c3 status.

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**learning. working.
creating. connecting**

City High School launched a new internship program this year with our first class of seniors. The program is an outgrowth of our City Works program and provides students the opportunity to work in the community and explore career paths as well as individual passions and interests.

Students are required to work for 6-8 hours a week at their internship sites and to regularly report on their work via weekly reflections. Students also participate in an internship seminar that meets daily.

Students are pursuing their internships at a variety of sites throughout the Tucson community, including BICAS (Bicycle Inter-

Community Art & Salvage), Rocks and Ropes, Environmental Systems Product, Lucky Street Studios, Infotech Strategies, Tucson Humane Society, Tucson Children's Museum, the UA Radiocarbon Laboratory, Sonoran Glass Art Academy, University of Arizona Steward Observatory, KXCI radio station, and City High School itself.

As a culmination to the program, City High is sponsoring an Internship Showcase Night on April 18th to highlight the work of the students. The event will be open to the Tucson community.

~Elliott Lax, Community Partnerships Coordinator



Top: Senior **Linda Haro** with her mentor Ginger Doran and other staff at KXCI radio station. Right: Senior **Nick Cuny** photographed at City High with a bicycle he rebuilt at BICAS.



Words from the Mentors:

"Linda's greatest strengths are her flexibility, inquisitive mind and positive attitude. She is full of curiosity and open to working with all types of people."

~Ginger Duran, DJ, KXCI Radio

"Nick has shown an eagerness to work with others in a variety of settings ... He has been learning mostly by 'teaching' others, which illustrates his exceptional problem-solving skills and a willingness to learn from his own mistakes."

**~Daniela Diamante,
Education Director, BICAS**

City High School Career Day – Highlight of Intersession

City High held its inaugural Career Day as part of the Intersession Week activities the first week back from Winter Break. The half-day event on January 10 brought in community members representing an array of careers. Among the guests were educators, architects, lawyers, biologists, musicians, artists, authors, politicians, health industry workers, restauranteurs, and even a world champion professional athlete.

M. TwoFeathers, the owner and proprietor of Epic Café on Fourth Avenue, delivered a keynote address that riveted the students. His main message: love what you do, work hard, be patient, and give back to

the community.

We were excited to invite these community members to share their perspectives on education and the world of work with our students. The guests, in turn, seemed to enjoy meeting with students and learning more about the City High School’s curriculum and mission.

Thanks to everybody who participated in making Career Day a success, especially the many guest speakers and the twelve student ambassadors who helped coordinate the event. Our goal is to continue this tradition every year.

–Amy Rude, English Teacher & Career Day Organizer



City High Parent and Downtown Business Owner, Noël Chester, addresses a group of students during Career Day.

City High School and Voices Plan Building Renovations

In the summer of 2004, City High School worked with G+F Architects and a local contractor to renovate the 2nd floor of 48 E. Pennington St. The project – Phase I of a plan to renovate the entire 22,000 square foot building – involved building out 7 classrooms and 4 bathrooms, as well as installing heating and cooling units, and a Class A fire alarm system. This spring, along with our community partner and sub-lessee, Voices, Inc., we are making plans to move ahead with Phase II of the building renovation project and make improvements to the first floor and basement of the building. Much of the construction will take place this summer.

A group of students, teachers, parents, board members, and Voices youth and staff, have been meeting over the past few months to discuss what kinds of spaces would best serve the needs of both organizations as they grow and build their programs. This stakeholders group has developed a “space program,” which architects G+F Architects Blake Goble and Ira Frazin are using to develop a plan for the two floors. The next step is a public meeting on February 9 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for more community members to see and provide feedback on the plan and preliminary drawings. (See sidebar.)

We are excited to be working with Voices, Inc. in this next round of renovations. City High School and Voices have been together at the downtown site since November 2003 and have collaborated on several projects that serve youth over the past few years. While sharing space can be challenging, the benefits of reducing the cost of overhead and making collaboration easier have helped both organizations thrive and develop their programs.

–Brett Goble, Director of Operations

Join Us
February 9
5:30-7:00 p.m.

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for refreshments,
tours of the building,
discussions of future
plans, an opportunity
to share ideas and
give feedback

◆◆◆

48 E. Pennington St.
the historic
Cele Peterson
building
in the heart of
downtown

◆◆◆

RSVP 623-7223 x301

In the News...



*Ted Ranney, CEO,
Pima Heart Physicians*



FAREWELL TO BOARD PRESIDENT

For the past four years, Ted Ranney has played an important part of our school community, serving on the Tucson Small School Project Board of Directors. Ranney was a founding member of the board in 2002 and was elected President in 2004.

Ranney is CEO of Pima Heart Physicians. He brought considerable expertise in the areas of finances, facilities, and organizational management during the school's early years. As the father of two school-aged children, he also shared the insights of a parent while serving on the board.

This past fall, with the arrival of a third child, Ranney resigned from his position on the board to spend more time with his family.

Ted Ranney has always been supportive of the educational opportunities that charter schools offer and believes that City High School began with, and still has, a great philosophy. "I've been delighted to play a part in the vision of the school," he says. He leaves with the positive outlook that the school will continue to build on its early successes.

Meanwhile, the TSSP Board chose Dr. Mary Jo Ghory to be the next president.

City High would like to commend Ted for all of his hard work while working with the TSSP Board and City High School. **Thank you, Ted!**

-Andres Cano. Class of 2009

CITY HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION STATUS

City High School's first senior class will be graduating from an accredited high school! In line with its hopes for a three-year "fast track" approach to accreditation, City High School was recommended for accreditation status to be finalized this spring.

On Wednesday, January 24, a visiting team representing the North Central Accreditation Association spent the day at City High School. The purpose of the team's visit was to observe classrooms, understand the overall mission and educational program, review the School Improvement Plan, and meet with students, staff, and parents. The team was made up of representatives from three local charter schools: Paulo Freire Freedom School, BASIS School, and Pima Partnership High School. Chairing the team was Suzanne Ashby, an ambassador from the North Central Association.

The team members were impressed with the school's program, especially CityWorks and the emphasis on Place-Based Learning. They felt, overall, that we were doing some amazing things for such a young school. Next steps for City High School include a school wide push to use data regularly to inform school improvement.

The site visit concluded with a meeting between the visiting team and the school staff at which the team shared the exciting news that they would be recommending City High School for accreditation.

-Eve Rifkin, Academic Director

OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 18

Prospective students and their parents are invited to an Open House on Sunday, February 18 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The Open House is an opportunity to learn more about the City High School program - tour the facility, meet teachers, talk with students and parents. Interested eighth graders are also invited to visit for a half-day. For more information, visit the school website.

VISITING DAY FEBRUARY 20

ENROLLMENT DEADLINE MARCH 1



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Yvonne Montoya
Leslie Cho Newman

Carrie Brennan,
Ex Oficio

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...	
<u>February</u>	
2/1 5:30-7:00	TSSP Board Meeting
2/7 6:30-8:00	Healthy Choices Workshop #1
2/9 5:30-7:00	Community Meeting Re:Renovations
2/13 6:00-7:00	City High Parents Meeting
2/18 2:00-4:00	Open House for Prospective Students
2/20	Visiting Day for Prospective Students
2/22-23	Rodeo Break - No School
<u>March</u>	
3/1	Initial Enrollment Deadline for 07-08
3/1 5:30-7:00	TSSP Board Meeting
3/7 6:00-7:30	Community Advisory Council
3/8 6:30-8:00	Financing College Workshop
3/13 6:00-7:00	City High Parents Meeting
3/16	Make-Up Day for Snow Day
3/28 6:30-8:00	Healthy Choices Workshop #2
3/27-30	Ninth Grade Fieldtrip to Mexico
<u>April</u>	
4/5 5:30-7:00	TSSP Board Meeting
4/2-6	Spring Break - No School
4/10 6:00-7:00	City High Parents Meeting
4/18 time TBD	Senior Internship Showcase Night
4/25 6:30-8:00	College Information Night

Check out the school website for updated event info:
www.cityhighschool.org