



Altus CEO Newsletter

FALL 2009



Altus Announces the Grand Openings of New Westfield Learning Centers!

Altus Schools are proud to continue partnering with Westfield Shopping Centers, the world's largest listed retail property group. This year, the Schools have opened new learning centers at: **UTC (CSSD)**, **Horton Plaza Annex (CSSD)**, **North County Fair, Escondido (Audeo)**, and **Parkway Plaza, El Cajon (CSSD)**. Students at these centers can study and learn at convenient locations where work opportunities will also be available. Westfield has interests in 55 centers in major metropolitan areas across the U.S. The feasibility of a Westfield expansion is currently being explored.



Horton Plaza Annex (shown above)

ALTUS THANKS ROBERT HERSCU, A GREAT COMMUNITY LEADER, FOR HIS GENEROUS SUPPORT OF MIRUS SECONDARY SCHOOL!

This Fall, Mirus opened a new Learning Center in Hesperia off of Main Street & Topaz.



CSSD is pleased to introduce **Larry Cornellison** as our Chairperson for WASC accreditation. Larry has had three distinguished careers as an aero-space software systems designer, a small business owner, and as a secondary school math teacher, which he has done for the past 18 years. Larry holds MBA and Doctor of Education degrees. He has served on WASC accreditation committees for the past 10 years. CSSD is thrilled to have him on board.

Changes in the Administrative Offices and Learning Centers...

All Altus Schools are pleased to announce the launch of **School Pathways**, which provides two new programs to our faculty and staff that will revolutionize the way work is done in our learning centers. The new **Student Information System** collects, reports, and makes a variety of data more available for staff for informational and instructional purposes. The new **Report Writer** program enables teachers' work to be more efficient, reducing their paperwork and giving them more time with their students. Thank you to Tim Tuter, Arline Dimaculangan, and Charlotte Fajardo for their guidance as we integrate Pathways into our daily work.



CSSD has added new **Instructional Lead** positions in order provide for an increase in academic growth and positive students outcomes. These positions will support the instructional department in the delivery of more focused instruction and provide for our plans for growth in the next two to three years. **Alissa Tuter**, former teacher at Pacific Beach, will manage the North Region. **Arline Dimaculangan**, former teacher on Special Assignment, will manage the Central Region. **Rachel Thomas**, former counselor, will manage the South Region.

The Access site has become Audeo's **Kearny Mesa Learning Center**. Access formerly co-housed CSSD and Audeo students, but is now Audeo's first solo site (recently joined by Audeo's second solo site, North County Fair). Eighty students were transferred from CSSD to Audeo, a transfer consistent with plans to bring Audeo to an enrollment of approximately 600 students in San Diego County. This will be a trend to watch.



Visit us at our new, interactive websites!

www.charterschool-sandiego.net

www.audeocharterschool.net

www.altus-mirus.net

www.altusinstitute.net

Update on Financial Crisis from Altus Chief Financial Officer, Lynne Alipio



The bumpy 2009-2010 State Budget revision rollercoaster ride appears to have come to a halt with the Legislature and Governor reaching agreement on how to close an estimated 26 billion revenue shortfall through a combination of cuts to virtually all State programs including education, additional funding deferrals, major borrowing from local governments, and other accounting tricks and one-time solutions.

In an effort to manage the State's cash and minimize cuts to educational programs, the State continues to utilize deferrals for the apportionments due to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) like us. There are 6 cycles of apportionment deferrals for the fiscal year 2009-2010. They are as follows: July 2009 was deferred to December 2009, August 2009 to October 2009, November 2009 to January 2010, February 2010 to July 2010, April and May 2010 to August 2010 respectively. This means that we need to ensure that we have the cash flow to cover payrolls. We definitely will experience fiscal drought this year.

The Altus Schools observe effective financial management such as cash flow management, budget controls, revenue enhancement and expenditure controls. We are dealing with these challenges by revisiting our multi-year projections and re-doing cash flow. We are curtailing expenditures and making reassessments of our priorities in relation to the major initiatives of the Schools. We will refine, integrate, and utilize all available resources to directly support student achievement and enhance capabilities. With the Governor's proposal of reducing the school year by 5 days or the equivalent number of instructional minutes from 2009-2010 through 2012-2013, Altus is exploring this avenue as well as the feasibility of adopting a multi-year calendar in order to increase revenues and services.

Altus Founder, President, & CEO Mary Searcy Bixby Wins 2009 "Women Who Mean Business" Award!



Congratulations to Mary Searcy Bixby, who received the 2009 "Women Who Mean Business" Award from the San Diego Business Journal. Alongside other prestigious recipients, Mary was chosen from 167 nominees for this honor recognizing local women for their outstanding contributions to business, the government, and the San Diego community. This is the San Diego Business Journal's 16th year presenting these awards. The award was given at a banquet presentation Tuesday, October 27th, where former eBay President & CEO and California gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman gave the keynote address.

IN THE MEDIA:

- ◆ Mary Searcy Bixby, Altus Founder, President & CEO was recently identified as a "Woman of Distinction" by *San Diego Woman Magazine*. Bixby's achievements were profiled alongside Lynelle Lynch (wife of William Lynch), philanthropist and President of three San Diego County beauty schools. *San Diego Woman Magazine* is the premier magazine in the County highlighting women's exceptional achievements and inspirational leadership.
 
- ◆ Support Team members Ginesse Quann, Tim Tuter, and Tiffany Yandell were profiled in Point Loma's *Viewpoint Magazine* "Inspired to Influence" article.
 
- ◆ CSSD student and ballerina Rachel Ireland was profiled in "Student Spotlight" section of the *Union Tribune*.
- ◆ Audeo announcement of North County Fair grand opening was listed as a headline story in the *North County Voice.com*.
- ◆ Mirus's new Topaz Learning Center was profiled in the *Victor Valley Daily Press*.
- ◆ Look for our advertisements in San Diego Magazine, San Diego Family Magazine, East County Gazette, and the Union Tribune.
 