TIE-INS (Together In Education In Neighborhood Schools) began as a collaboration among UCLA and Nora Sterry Elementary School, Emerson Middle School, and University High School. Chancellor Gene D. Block announced it May 18, 2009. Brockton Elementary School was added in 2010 to absorb elementary students whom Nora Sterry could not accommodate.

The collaboration enables children of UCLA employees who live outside the attendance area to go to these four public schools, which are near the UCLA campus. In exchange, UCLA — with guidance from the schools’ leaders — provides assistance and enrichment in support of high achievement for all students in these schools.

The participating schools are in Los Angeles Unified School District Local District 3, and each has a rich history with UCLA. Any UCLA employee’s child who is selected by UCLA for enrollment in any of the TIE-INS schools is guaranteed the opportunity to attend through high school graduation so long as the child meets the usual expectations for academic performance, attendance, and citizenship. Once part of TIE-INS, there is no need to reapply each year in order to continue to participate, as is required by many other programs.

This report provides a summary experiences and accomplishments during the first year and a half of TIE-INS.

1. Recruitment, Application, and Enrollment
   - For the first year, 2009-10, full operation was announced for Nora Sterry Elementary. Emerson Middle and University High were slated to begin in 2010-11, but UCLA faculty and staff were told that early participation in 2009-10 was possible. In spring 2009, TIE-INS received 212 UCLA application of which 80 completed enrollment. Forty one enrolled at Nora Sterry Elementary, 23 completed enrollment at Emerson Middle School, and 16 enrolled at University High.
   - In the second year, the application process was redesigned and applications were submitted online. The main website was revised to better describe TIE-INS, report first year progress and second year plans, and provide information about application procedures, school visitation opportunities, and UCLA contacts. Communications from the Chancellor’s Office in November 2009 provided faculty and staff with information about the website and the application process. Follow up announcements were made in January and March 2010 as reminders to complete the applications by March 31, 2010.
   - UCLA’s School Relations Liaisons met with Brockton Elementary Principal, Kim Lattimore, to arrange possible enrollment for applicants who might not be accommodated because of space limitations at Sterry Elementary. Parents unable to enroll at Sterry have been offered space at Brockton Elementary.
Susan Shahoda and team developed a marketing calendar which identified activities from September through August for recruitment during the 2009-10 school year as well as application and enrollment dates and procedures.

As of March 31, 2010, 241 applications were received for TIE-INS. Enrollment requests are distributed as follows: 119 for elementary (Nora Sterry Elementary or Brockton Elementary), 67 for Emerson Middle School, and 53 for University High School.

2. TIE-INS Parent Communication
   - Meetings were held at UCLA in October 2009 for parents who enrolled in TIE-INS for the 2009-10 school year and in February 2010 for potential applicants and parents of those already enrolled. Parents of students currently enrolled in TIE-INS were invited to share their experiences at each meeting or by email if they could not attend a meeting. Children were welcomed at both events, and current TIE-INS students also shared their experiences at the February meeting for new applicants.
   - Parents in October and February were enthusiastic about their experiences and their children’s experiences with the TIE-INS schools.
   - Comments included:
     - “I am very happy that my daughters are going to Nora Sterry Elementary School. The Principal is there to help the kids at lunchtime.”
     - “At Emerson Middle School, the Principal is wonderful as well as the faculty. This was a great choice.”
     - “My son is at University High School and I am very happy. University HS went out of their way to help me with carpool information.”
   - UCLA parents requested a parent directory for contact information of other parents at UCLA who were enrolled in TIE-INS at their school site. The directory was emailed to participating parents on February 2, 2010.
   - School Relations Liaisons met with Mark Lipschutz and Randy Hoo, representing One LA, regarding the goals of TIE-INS and coordination with One LA plans for outreach and community meetings. They also met with the UCLA Academic Senate Faculty Welfare Committee and separately with its Chair Mitch Wong (who was active in a local parent group seeking to improve educational opportunity at Emerson Middle School).

3. UCLA Parent Participation
   - Parents at Nora Sterry Elementary have offered assistance with the website, offered computers, and presentations in astronomy and science.
   - Melanie Rome, parent at University High, has participated on the School Site Council and has also offered workshops and consultation on college advisement.

4. MOU
   - Drafts of a Memorandum of Understanding for the TIE-INS Program were shared with LAUSD in July 2009. LAUSD responses were incorporated in September 2009. A copy signed by Superintendent Cortines was received in March 2010. UCLA would like to an original document with original signatures for both LAUSD and UCLA.
5. Support for Facilities and Beautification

- Beginning in spring 2009, meetings were held with Board member Marlene Cantor in order to secure discretionary bond funds for beautification projects on the campuses of Nora Sterry Elementary, Emerson Middle School, and University High School. School Relations Liaisons met with Principals of each school regarding their priorities and incorporated these requests into a plan for utilization of the Board member bond funds. In June 2009, the Board of Education approved a Board Report allocating $100,000 to Nora Sterry Elementary, $75,000 to Emerson Middle School, and $50,000 to University High, for the beautification programs.

- Subsequently, a meeting was held at the Local District 3 office on July 28, 2009, attended by Lainey Rogers (Operations-LD3), George Stewart (LD 3 Facilities), Gregg Johnson (Facilities), James Hancock (Facilities) and Andy Cazares (UCLA). The discussion centered around the scope of the beautification projects at each school site, and the defining statement by Facilities personnel that the projects would be completed by winter break, at the middle and senior high schools; and at the end of winter break or thereafter at Nora Sterry, as beautification project entailed work in the auditorium which was in use until the break.

- In January, 2010 Principals were informed the projects could not be completed with the budgets allocated, thus they were to “descope” the projects and were requested to resubmit pared down projects. Subsequently, Principals at the middle and senior high schools were informed the projects would begin March, 2010. Nora Sterry Elementary's projects would start in the summer of 2010, as the auditorium is needed until June 2010.

On March 22, 2010 the Principal at Emerson Middle School was notified by Facilities there was no official starting date for the Beautification Projects.

- To date, bungalows have been removed from the Emerson campus.

- In November 2009, Sue Santon, UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor, Capital Programs, and UCLA Architect Todd Lynch, met with Emerson Middle School Principal, Kathy Gonnella, regarding a beautification and landscape plan that would restore the original elements of the Neutra architecture to the main buildings at Emerson. Todd Lynch has been conducting research on the Neutra plan and presented a report to the Principal on April 20. The hope is to secure community funding and volunteer support for this project.

6. Support for Curriculum and Instruction

a. At University High School:

i. The Curtis Mathematics Center will be providing expertise on administration of the Mathematics Diagnostic Test and how to use results.

ii. The Anderson School of Management will be providing mentoring and expertise for the Business and Finance small school.

iii. A planning meeting has taken place regarding the possibilities for Mandarin language instruction in 2010-11.

iv. Bill Layton provides physics teaching support to two science faculty at University High.

v. Merle Price is serving as an advisor to the Renaissance Academy for Performing Arts and Humanities.
vi. UCLA faculty will be solicited to advise the Principal and faculty of a new Digital Media Magnet at University High School.

b. At Emerson Middle School:
   i. Mandarin language instruction is being conducted four days per week for an “X period” class.
   ii. Center X is working with Emerson’s mathematics department in order to provide a plan for the 2010-11 school year targeting needs of underperforming and marginalized students who need to prepare for 8th or 9th grade algebra.
   iii. Frequent meetings with the Principal and administrative staff are conducted in order to identify programmatic needs of the middle school and identify UCLA contacts and resources.
   iv. Herb Alpert School of Music faculty and graduate students are implementing world music enrichment and possible “X period” course at Emerson Middle School.

c. At Sterry Elementary School:
   i. Planning meetings have taken place to identify Mandarin language instructional opportunities for fall 2010.
   ii. Teachers will be provided mathematics professional development opportunities and courses in pedagogy and content through the Curtis Mathematics Center. Course credit for teachers will be offered through University Extension.
   iii. Added enrollment allowed the Principal to maintain staffing for the 2009-10 school year, thereby preserving two teacher positions.

d. At Brockton Elementary School
   i. For the 2010-11 school year, Brockton will enroll TIE-INS second and third graders.
   ii. Brockton will be invited to participate in Curtis Mathematics Center activities including observation by math majors and professional development offered by the Curtis Center.

7. Professional Development
   • Sharon Sutton, Director of Technology and Outreach, UCLA Lab School, has offered workshops on project-based learning.
   • Center X will provide professional development to Emerson Middle School’s mathematics department.
   • University High School will receive professional development from the Curtis Mathematics Center on the use of the Mathematics Diagnostic Assessment.
   • The Emerson Middle School Principal received media training from UCLA Communications; the University High School Principal has asked for similar training, which will be arranged.

8. Enrichment Opportunities
   a. Sterry Elementary students have participated in the Confucius Institute sponsored Yue Opera Performance to celebrate the Chinese New Year.
   b. Emerson Middle School students participate in MESA activities, including the spring competitions.
c. Emerson Middle School 7th graders participated in Brain Awareness Week at UCLA.
d. University High students participate in summer enrichment programs.

9. Additional UCLA Support
   - On UCLA Volunteer Day 2009, several hundred students participated at University High School in painting murals, assembling planters and benches, landscape plantings and beautification projects, and stenciling and painting school logos in the outdoor quad.
   - Nora Sterry Elementary School was one of the sites for training of volunteer team leaders and had some painting projects completed as part of the training.
   - MESA provides academic support to students who are interested in mathematics and science at Emerson Middle School and University High School.
   - BruinCorps provides tutoring support to students at Nora Sterry Elementary School.
   - UCLA Volunteer Day will include Emerson Middle School and University High School with volunteer projects on September 21, 2010.

10. TIE-INS Identity Package
    - Cindy Cordova, Assistant to the Dean, UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies (GSE&IS), is working with Ann Paultier, UCLA Director of Creative Service, on a color trifold for TIE-INS, complete with a tag line, map of the schools, additional schools information, and application procedures.

11. Coordination and Communication
    - The two UCLA School Relations Liaisons have had most all of the responsibility for coordination and communication among the four TIE-INS Schools, LAUSD Local District 3, the LAUSD School Board member within whose district the TIE-INS schools are located, LAUSD, and UCLA. The GSE&IS Dean has also participated and usually taken the lead in administrative coordination and communication within UCLA.
    - In 2009-10, to promote productive, satisfactory operation of TIE-INS for all concerned, UCLA held one meeting of UCLA TIE-INS leaders, Principals (and any others each chose to bring) of Nora Sterry Elementary School, Emerson Middle School, and University High School, and the LAUSD Local District 3 Superintendent and some of her senior staff.
    - The UCLA GSE&IS Dean and two UCLA School Relations Liaisons also met in 2009-10 met with the Local District 3 Superintendent and with the relevant LAUSD School Board member and have meetings with each scheduled for the end of 2009-10.

12. UCLA Staffing for TIE-INS
    - In 2008-09 and 2009-10, three paid staff were designated for support of the TIE-INS program: two School Relations Liaisons and one Coordinator.
    - In 2010-11, UCLA expects to hire a full-time Coordinator to be the point person for the program.
    - Other UCLA employees who have contributed significant time to the organization and management of TIE-INS include the GSE&IS Dean, the Executive Director of
Center X, the Coordinator for UCLA’s Academic Preparation and Educational Partnership Programs, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Human Resources and three of her staff, and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel and one of his staff.