



Welcome to our new look for Insight!



Dear Alexandra,

I hope you had a restful Thanksgiving! We are now well into the 2009-10 school year. Our plans for this year are ambitious at every level. We will refine our [Core Service Model](#), raise over \$2 million in philanthropic contributions, and launch a fundraising campaign to support our growth plans. Today, PartnersSI serves 5 districts, 53 schools and 24,000 students. As you know, it is only because of your support, and through partnerships with other organizations and individuals, that we can effectively work to eliminate low performance in our targeted areas

for growth.

Throughout the year we will share with you our plans to expand our reach to underserved districts beyond the Bay Area. Please meet with us at our various events, follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and support our fundraising efforts. Get into the dialogue! Addressing the extensive achievement gap requires all hands in!

Finally, President Obama has made education the priority you and I have always known it should be. Because of the support of advocates, friends and colleagues like you, PartnersSI is well positioned to impact the most vulnerable students and schools. Thank you for your continued commitment to our efforts toward a thriving democracy where each and every child may realize academic achievement, and be prepared for success in college and life.

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WE'RE ON NPR!

Be sure to listen to our interview on



Derek S. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Spotlight on Results: 2008-2009

Last year, across three diverse districts (San Francisco Unified, San Jose Unified and Oakland Unified), our strong partnerships with leaders and teachers and the substantial implementation of our Core Service Model significantly narrowed the achievement gap.

- Partner schools that substantially implemented our Core Service Model outperformed the literacy gains on the 2009 California Standards Test in English Language Arts compared to their respective districts, similar schools around the state, and the state as a whole.
- English Learners in these schools outpaced the reading growth of their fluent English speaking peers.

VIEW THE COMPLETE RESULTS [HERE](#)

2009-2010: By the Numbers

	Core Service Model	Strategic Services*
Districts	3	2
Schools	12	41
Students Impacted	4,640	19,427
Students of Color	83%	67%
Students who are English Learners	61%	48%

NPR's Morning Edition.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



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LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE?

We seek diverse candidates with a relentless drive to narrow the achievement gap. Learn more [HERE](#)

WISH LIST

Please [contact us](#) if you or someone you know can help us acquire any of the following:

Conference room table and chairs that seat up to 20

Upholstered or leather chairs and couch for sitting area

Students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged**	82%	77%
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*Our Strategic Services include various components of our Core Service Model, tailored to serve the needs of our partners.

**Based on their eligibility for the Federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program

2009-2010 Partnerships

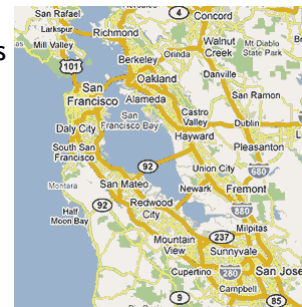
San Francisco: We continue to play a key role in San Francisco Unified as it strives to implement a strategic plan to raise the bar for student achievement district-wide. Our [School Innovation Partners](#) are working on-site at five low-performing [elementary schools](#).

Oakland: This marks our second year working with principals from national school reform organization [New Leaders for New Schools](#) (New Leaders) to bring about accelerated student achievement in three Oakland Unified elementary schools: Brookfield Elementary, New Highland Academy and RISE Community School. Our partnership with New Leaders has allowed us to implement our approach with well-trained and vision-aligned principals, thus accelerating student learning.

San Jose: We are excited to be entering the third year of formal partnership between PartnersSI, San Jose Unified School District and Applied Materials, Inc. to bring about dramatic student learning gains in downtown San Jose. There continues to be substantial enthusiasm to create a thriving network of schools to serve the downtown San Jose community. We are working on-site at four low-performing [elementary schools](#).

Daly City: In line with launching our strategic growth plan, we have expanded our services to include Jefferson Elementary School District (which comprises 14 elementary and middle schools). In addition to being a geographic expansion, our work in Daly City marks the launch of our new Strategic Services model - a customizable subset of our [Core Service Model](#).

Alum Rock: We will partner for the first time with Alum Rock Union Elementary School District in San Jose, offering Strategic Services to build district capacity to improve leadership, teaching and learning across the 27 schools district-wide.



Meet the Chiefs

For 15 years we have been working hard to transform public elementary schools in high-poverty Bay Area communities into true learning environments for every student. We are now ready to extend our impact beyond the Bay Area, and have articulated a strategic vision to expand to ten districts in five years! Here are the leaders who will play very important roles in making our vision a reality!



[Eric Barela, Ph.D.](#) (Chief Organizational Performance Officer):

For the past 7 years, Eric worked as a Senior Educational Research Analyst for the Los Angeles Unified School District where he led several studies designed to determine best practices from high-performing, high-poverty schools. Eric was also an Adjunct Professor with California State University, Los Angeles, preparing teachers and administrators to improve urban student achievement through effective research. Additionally, he serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the American Journal of Evaluation and is co-editing a book on the use of qualitative inquiry in evaluation to be published by Wiley/Jossey-Bass in 2010.



[Jeri Howland](#) (Chief Development Officer):

Jeri brings over 25 years of experience in education, including 16 years of fundraising for education organizations. She comes to PartnersSI from Envision Schools, a charter management organization, where she was VP of Development and Marketing. For 13 years, Jeri was Director of Development at the Katherine Delmar Burke School, an independent K-8 school for girls in San Francisco. Jeri's work at the high school level also included teaching and admissions at the Putney School in Vermont, and developing a national model for expansion of San Francisco University High School's Summerbridge Program.



[Sumi Paik](#) (Chief Business Officer):

Prior to joining PartnersSI in 2002, Sumi worked for Sylvan Ventures, a venture capital fund investing exclusively in education companies, where she evaluated potential investments and assisted portfolio companies with strategic planning. Her other work experience includes investment banking and corporate treasury.



[Malika Starr](#) (Chief Program Officer):

Malika has over 15 years of experience facilitating organizational learning, building teams and developing executive leaders. Over the last 10 years, Malika has focused her skills and experience in the education reform sector. More recently, Malika served as the Organizational Development Program Manager for the Stupski Foundation, providing strategy and leadership development, performance management and executive leadership coaching to urban school district leaders in implementing systemic reforms.

SPONSOR A SIP

Do you believe that every child deserves a high quality education? Invest in the next generation of educational leaders working to close the achievement gap!

[School Innovation Partners](#), or "SIPs", are PartnersSI's team of site-based staff who work side-by-side with teachers and leaders to accelerate student achievement and transform schools. Our SIPs have outstanding track records as former teachers and school leaders and represent the next generation of educational leaders working to close the achievement gap.

To find out about all of our sponsorship opportunities, please [email](#) Tasha Pura, Director of Development & External Relations or call 415.824.6196 x110.

FUNDER SPOTLIGHT



PartnersSI is thrilled to continue partnering with [Applied Materials, Inc.](#) and San Jose Unified School District. Applied Materials, Inc. is committed to making a positive social contribution in communities around the world through targeted support of strategic education efforts focused on student academic achievement, teacher professional development and specific university projects. We are grateful to Applied Materials for continuing to invest not only in PartnersSI, but also in the children of San Jose and the Bay Area.



The [Severns Family Foundation](#) has been a committed supporter of PartnersSI over the last four years. This year the Severns Family Foundation is sponsoring our School Innovation Partner (SIP), Viviana Cabrales, and her work at Olinder Elementary. The Severns Family Foundation's mission to support education with a focus on early literacy aligns well with our own work and we are extremely appreciative of their continued support of our work.



The [Sobrato Family Foundation](#) has been supporting PartnersSI since 1999. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing programmatic funding and also for their donated office space at the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits in Milpitas (valued at \$5,742).

CEO CLOSING COMMENTS



While the kick-off of our strategic plan is top priority, engaging in the larger school reform debate is of great importance to me. It gives me great pride to announce my appointment to the [California P-16 Council](#), a statewide council formed by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, and comprised of representatives from preschool, kindergarten through grade twelve, higher education, business, philanthropy and community members. I will join the "P-16 Subcommittee to Fully Implement Recommendations," charged with advancing the Council's 14 Recommendations and providing guidance to the California Department of Education (CDE) and the education field at large.

I am also thrilled to announce my appointment to the [Stuart Foundation](#) Education Leadership Advisory Council, which meets regularly to grapple with questions such as "how do we find, recruit and support educational leaders?" Based in San Francisco, the Stuart Foundation is a highly reputable philanthropic organization working to fund and disseminate innovative programs that contribute to effective public policy to improve conditions for young people in California and Washington.

Finally, I invite you to listen to my recent joint interview with our Encore Fellow Leslye Louie on [NPR with Rachael Myrow](#). We were given the opportunity to not only discuss the great work being done through the [Civic Ventures Encore Initiative](#), but also to share our own story of leadership transition as we embark on our 5-year strategic vision.

As you can tell we have a tremendous amount of activity heading into 2010 with great potential

for ever growing success. Thanks for reading through the newsletter, and remember to stay in touch through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Derek S. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Partners in School Innovation
renewing the promise of public education

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