



### **About Alliance for Linked Learning**

The Alliance for Linked Learning is a collaboration between the Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) and the Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) to provide our region's employers with employees who meet their needs in the global economy. In 2014, OUHSD was awarded a \$6 million grant from California Career Pathways Trust grant. VCCA serves as the intermediary to recruit and manage employer and community involvement. The Linked Learning academy model, supported by the National Academy Foundation, provides OUHSD resources, tools, curriculum and professional development to teach college and career readiness skills. Employers' involvement, both in the classroom and the workplace, allows students to refine those skills. For more information, visit [www.AllianceforLinkedLearning.org](http://www.AllianceforLinkedLearning.org).

### **About OUHSD**

The Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) serves Oxnard, Camarillo and Port Hueneme. Founded in 1905, the district currently operates 10 schools (seven comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school, one middle college school and one adult school). More than 300,000 residents live within district, which employs over 700 teachers and oversees the education of over 20,000 students with an annual operating budget of over \$170 million.

### **About VCCA**

The Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) is a regional collaborative of civic leaders representing a balanced mix of 3E — economic, environmental and social-equity perspectives. Its mission is to work together with our community to promote a healthy and sustainable future for Ventura County. VCCA is an initiative of the Ventura County Community Foundation. For more information about the Alliance and how to join, go online to [www.CivicAlliance.org](http://www.CivicAlliance.org).

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# Summer at City Hall Program Description

**The Vision of Summer at City Hall (SACH) is that communities and schools collaborate to prepare students for college, career and civic life. All engaged with SACH will find professional growth and outcomes through participation. This model supports the Linked Learning model established by the Oxnard Union High School District and adopted by the City of Oxnard in March 2015.**

## **Mission is to:**

- Create strong partnerships between school districts and local governmental entities to offer students opportunities to gain 21<sup>st</sup> century work skills;
- Provide tools to become civically aware and engaged; and
- Bring a youth voice to authentic city issues.

## **Need:**

The success of our nation and state depends on educated, informed, and active citizens and residents. However, we are not preparing our diverse residents with the civic knowledge, skills and values they need to succeed in college, career and civic life.

## **Facts:**

- The United States recently ranked 139th in voter participation of 172 democracies around the world.
- Less than half of eligible young people ages 18-24 are registered to vote in California and less than 8% actually voted in the 2014 primary election.
- In California, less than 50 percent of high school seniors surveyed viewed being actively involved in state and local issues as their responsibility.
- Furthermore, local governments will be facing hiring needs in the future as baby boomers retire and, the diversity of that workforce needs to better match the make-up of its citizens.

**Benefits.** We have much to gain by revitalizing civic learning.

The chief benefits for youth of civic learning are:

- a vibrant and informed civic life;
- a democracy and a healthy society;
- acquisition of skills needed for the 21st century workplace, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, initiative and innovation;
- preparation of a more informed and engaged adult citizenry;
- recruitment of a more diverse group of young people considering careers in public service.

**Program Objectives:**

Goal	Outcomes
<p>Students will learn how local governments operate, their governing structure, function, roles, current issues and politics.</p>	<p>90% of students will be able to demonstrate awareness and knowledge of how municipal governments work and its role in the community.</p> <p>Students will know whom to contact at the city to address neighborhood concerns.</p>
<p>Students’ interest will be ignited to become more civically involved in making their community a better place to live, work and play.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students will learn what it means to be an active citizen: voting, volunteering, advocating, leading, fundraising and philanthropy.</li> <li>2. Students will experience advocating for a change in their neighborhoods, learning the steps and skills needed to do advocacy, and reflecting on how they can use advocacy skills in their daily lives.</li> <li>3. Students will locate ways to volunteer in the community, potentially complete a service project and reflect on its impact on themselves and their community.</li> </ol>	<p>90% of students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to identify ways they can impact their community and act on them;</li> <li>• Be aware of local issues facing their communities; and</li> <li>• Become inspired to continue their involvement in their community.</li> </ul>
<p>Students will learn about the election process, election issues and how to vote.</p>	<p>90% of the students will express a commitment to register to vote and vote when of age.</p>
<p>Elected officials will have a better awareness of youth-focused concerns, and understand the impact of municipal policies and practices on youth.</p>	<p>Elected officials will find it easier to recruit youth to fulfill the City Youth Council and see more youth engagement through work-based learning opportunities with city employees.</p>
<p>Expand the pool of the next generation of civic employees and leaders.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students will explore and experience careers in municipal government and gain work experiences that informs college and career choices.</li> <li>2. Adults in the organization will be more connected to the youth in their community and better understand the</li> </ol>	<p>90% of the students will have made connections with adults in municipal government and with community stakeholders.</p> <p>City employees will become more engaged with high school students through a variety of work-based learning opportunities as defined</p>

<p>community through the lens of youth, and strengthen intergenerational relationships.</p> <p>3. Adults in the organization who supervise student interns will strengthen their skills as supervising the next generation of workers.</p> <p>4. The program creates pipelines for future workforce that better reflects the diversity of the community.</p>	<p>in the Linked Learning model and adopted by the city in March 2015.</p> <p>90% of students will be able to demonstrate development of 21<sup>st</sup> century and civic skills that will help them in school, life and work.</p> <p>Students will become interested in careers in local government.</p>
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As part of the SACH experience, students may:

- Meet local advocates and city, county, and special district leaders;
- Attend city council, board of supervisors and special district meetings to see policy-making in action;
- Participate in volunteer projects that positively impact their community;
- Intern or Job Shadow in a municipal department, or for a community partner;
- Earn school credit;
- Apply 21<sup>st</sup> century skills during SACH, such as public speaking, work readiness /professionalism, listening, writing, collaboration, project development, networking, problem solving, research, interviewing, and social media;
- Participate in field trips to city-wide places of interest such as municipal service sites, engineering facilities, museums, public venues, etc.; and
- Advocate for issues at a public hearing or through a mock city council meeting.

### **Design Options for SACH:**

The timing, duration and intensity of the program depends on the city’s capacity and desire for engagement.

SACH can be:

- A one day field trip to the municipal entity;
- A two week summer program;
- A six week summer program; or
- A program offered during the school year as an after school program.

To date, SACH has been accomplished through the leadership of both the cities and school districts; but it can also be accomplished independently by cities or other municipal entities. The joint effort is preferred as it helps leverage funds and expertise from both entities.

**Budget:**

The cost for each student depends on the type of engagement for the program. It can range from nearly \$0 out of pocket to \$1,000 per student for the six-week program. We have identified a number of sources for funding depending on the program desired.

**Strengths:**

Oxnard Union High School District	City of Oxnard
Teaching students in civics and 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills	Imparts insight as to the operation of the city
Access to students for program recruitment	Access to internships, job shadows, and other work-based learning opportunities
Preparing the future workforce for retiring population	How to address local issues that impact our youth

**Summer at City Hall Program:**

*Background:* In 2010, Sacramento created Summer at City Hall program, where 30 high school students attended a six-week summer program at city hall to learn about local government, careers in local government and how to advocate for community change. Students attended classes in the morning at city hall and had internships in the afternoons. The program ended with students presenting advocacy projects they had developed over the summer, to a panel of city council members and community leaders. In year 5 of the program, 100 students attended an eight-week summer experience at city hall, including a leadership camp on advanced advocacy skills. In addition, sixty (60) 11<sup>th</sup> graders attended a field visit to city hall during the past school year to spend a half-day learning about local government and presenting advocacy projects developed during school to a panel of city council members.

*Funding:* The project was possible through a partnership with the City of Sacramento, Way Up Sacramento and Sacramento City Unified School District.

*Expansion:*

- ✓ The City of Elk Grove and Elk Grove Unified School District recently started SACH, who began in the summer of 2015 with a two-week SACH program that included job shadows and a mock city council meeting where students presented ideas on how to solve real city issues studied over the course of the two-week class. Their goal was to expand to a six-week program in summer 2016.
- ✓ West Sacramento has adopted SACH and provides internships to both high school and college level students to expose them to careers in local government.

## **Collaboration:**

The designer of this program is Bina Lefkovitz, from the City of Sacramento. She is working with the Institute for Local Government, a research and capacity building non-profit for cities, counties and special districts is supporting municipalities in expanding the model around the state. Her contact information is: **Bina Lefkovitz** [blefkovitz@gmail.com](mailto:blefkovitz@gmail.com) or (916) 213-9679.

At no charge they will:

- Assist, and work alongside, the city in developing a strong program concept;
- Engage other community partners;
- Provide templates and tips for program budgets, student recruitment, program design, class curriculum, program evaluation, and student and adult recognition;
- ILG would post city as a SACH city on its website and spotlight the program developed on the website, may include the program in articles in future newsletters it sends to its membership, invite to talk at conferences where ILG makes proposals to present on SACH;
- Provide knowledge of technology-based student recruitment, internship administration and management support;
- Offer for-fee services if desired; and
- Provide connections to other communities working on engaging youth as active citizens.

Requests of Collaborator:

- The name “Summer at City Hall,” works in Sacramento, but the program can be named by the locality. It has been called Summer of Civic Engagement in Elk Grove and STEPS in West Sacramento.
- If the SACH model were adopted, they would be listed as a partner with other agencies.

**PROPOSAL TO CITY OF OXNARD**  
**Summer, 2016**

1. Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) and the City of Oxnard (City) would enter into a Summer at City Hall (SACH) internship project for the Summer of 2016.
2. Up to 12 students from the Law and Public Services Academy from Oxnard High School would participate in SACH for 2016. These students are generally between 15-18 years old.
3. The SACH program would run from June 27 to July 28, 2016, Monday through Thursday only.
4. Students would receive instruction at OUHSD in the morning, lunch at OUHSD, and arrive at City Hall at 1:30 p.m. to begin their internship. The internship day would end at 4:30 p.m.
5. This is an unpaid internship and students will be assigned meaningful projects during their internship.