Detracking: A Strategy for Educational Excellence, Equity, and the Public Good

Scott Barton – Principal/Director
Jan Gabay – Staff Developer/English Department Chair
Anne Artz – Science Department Chair

Preuss Alumni
Bruce Alvarez, Milana Edwards,
Miriam Million and Jake Sticka

The Preuss School UCSD
Educational Challenges and A Viable Solution

- Educational Challenges
  - Achievement gap
  - Drop out rates
  - Underrepresentation in college and universities

- Detracking: A Viable Solution
  - Rigorous Curriculum
  - Academic and Social Supports (“scaffolds”)

- Exemplary Model: The Preuss School UCSD
Preparing Students for College at The Preuss School UCSD
What is The Preuss School UCSD?

- Chartered by SDUSD with oversight from UCSD
- A college campus-based public charter school
- Preparing low-income students for college admission (especially UC)
- Grades 6-12 – serving 825 students
- 14th year of operation
- 9 graduation classes
How Do Our Students Perform on College Enrollment?

- More than 90% of 780 students in the first 9 graduating classes (2004-2012) were accepted to 4-year universities.

- Several graduates have enrolled at such prestigious schools as Harvard, Georgetown, Stanford, Duke, Emory, Brown, and Johns Hopkins.

- An average of 80% of students from the 9 graduating classes have enrolled in 4-year colleges.

- The 80% rate compares favorably to the approximately 35% average for CA high school graduates.

Source: http://create.ucsd.edu
How Do Our Students Perform on State Tests?

- **API:** 892 – Fourth highest in San Diego County; outscoring high schools with many fewer low-income students
- **CAHSEE (California High-School Exit Exam):** 100% pass rate for classes of 2008 - 2012
Recognition

- 2012 NASSP Breakthrough School
- #1 Transformative High School in the Nation – Newsweek June 2011 & June 2012
- National Blue Ribbon School, 2010
- Ranked in top 50 among America’s top high schools for six consecutive years
- California Distinguished School
How did the Preuss Class of 2012 do?

ADMISSIONS and ENROLLMENT

- 95% were admitted to a four-year college or university.
- 29% enrolled at a UC campus.
- 34% enrolled at a CSU campus.
- 18% enrolled at a private or out-of-state school.
- 19% enrolled in a two-year college with the intent of transferring to a four-year college.

For the sixth year in a row Preuss graduates have been recognized as Gates Millennium Scholars (24 over 6 years).

- 2 Questbridge Scholars – 10 over 5 years.
What Policies and Practices Contribute to the Success of Our School?

- A Single, Specific Mission
- School Structure
- A College-going Culture of Learning
- Personalization
- Professional Development
- Parent Involvement
- UCSD Support
How are Students Admitted?

1. Student is from a low-income family (Free & Reduced Lunch Program)
2. Student’s parent or guardian has not graduated from a four-year college
3. Have motivation and potential to succeed
4. Selected by lottery
What Do We Look Like?

- 67% Hispanic/Latino
- 19% Asian/Indochinese
- 11% African American/Black
- 3% White
We Have A Single, Specific Mission

- Prepare students of color from low-income backgrounds for college
School Structure

- School Day................ 8:55-4:00 pm
- Longer Year.............. 198 days
- Longer Week............ After School Tutoring
  - Saturday Classes
- Longer Classes......... 95 min per class
- Students enrolled in 8 classes (A/B Schedule)
Preparing Under Represented Students for College

- A rigorous curriculum of a-g and AP courses
- “Scaffolds” to support students learning
- Reduced student-teacher ratio (tutors)
- Shared values: All personnel believe all students can succeed in rigorous courses, provided the appropriate academic and social supports
- Science fair projects for all students in grades 7-11
- School-wide exhibitions of student work
- Research, internships and service learning
Preparing Under Represented Students for College (Scaffolds)

- College Advisor, HS Counselor, Psychologists
- Advisory Teachers act as counselors
- 6th grade Literacy Enrichment course for all 6th graders
- Middle school and high school Literacy and Math Enrichment courses
- EHS (Exercise and Health Science)
- World language (Spanish) begins in 7th grade. Supports literacy in two languages
Preparing Under Represented Students for College (Scaffolds)

- College application workshops for students and parents
- College application process in Advisory
- FAFSA workshops for students and parents
- College essay writing built into curriculum
- Early warning system for At-risk students
- Saturday and after school tutoring
Personalization

- Advisory Program
  - Students stay together from 6th-12th grade
  - College prep curriculum
  - Tutoring
  - Character development
  - Teachers are academic advisors
  - Teachers write letters of recommendation
Professional Development

- Two hours per week within the school day
- Lesson Study
- Researched based “best practices”
- Analyze data
- Collaboration
- Daily prep periods of 95 minutes
- Individualized Professional Development Plan
- Portfolios
Parental Involvement

- Monthly Parent Meetings
- Parents have mandatory service hours
  - 15 hours per year per student
  - Completed over 12,000 hours last year
- 98% of Parents involved
Collaboration with UCSD

- UCSD students as tutors and interns
  - > 100 per quarter
- Senior internships on UCSD campus
- Professors work with teachers & students
- Students enroll in University courses
- Faculty serve on Board of Directors
- CREATE provides research and evaluation assistance (http://create.ucsd.edu/)
Challenges

- Fundraising
- Sustain the Longer Year
- Transportation
- 100% of Student Enrolling in 4-year Colleges/Universities
- Following Graduates to College
http://preuss.ucsd.edu
sbarton@ucsd.edu, jgabay@ucsd.edu, aartz@ucsd.edu