



NEWS RELEASE

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Fontana Unified Parent Leadership Pilot Program to Receive National Roll-Out

FONTANA, CA – A Summit High School pilot program designed to support parents as they transition into their first year as high school parents will be used by peer mentoring provider The Boomerang Project to be implemented by high schools across the nation, beginning in 2020-21.

Inspired by Summit High's Golden Bell award-winning Link Crew program, in which juniors and seniors act as mentors to incoming freshmen, the Boomerang Project selected the school to be the first in the nation to implement an adult version of the program, titled Parent Link Crew.

"The Boomerang Project came to us with the idea for Parent Link Crew, asking us to help develop the program," Summit Link Crew Coordinator Jennifer Karpinski said. "We provided feedback and assisted in the editing process. It was such an honor and we have worked so hard to achieve our goals of meeting all levels of parent engagement."

Summit High is one of just two high schools in the United States – along with Hatboro-Horsham High in Pennsylvania – to pilot Parent Link Crew in 2019. The pilots proved so successful that the Boomerang Project, which provides Link Crew curriculum to more than 3,700 schools in the U.S. and Canada, will make it available to all of its member schools next year.

In April, Summit recruited 18 parents for its first Parent Link Crew team, the majority of whom were parents of current Link Crew student leaders. After a training session, Summit's first Parent Link Crew orientation was held July 29, with 220 freshman parents in attendance.

The Parent Link Crew mentors introduced themselves, then split into groups of eight to 10, reviewing rules and advising parents on what to expect over the course of the school year; meanwhile, student Link Crew members gave campus tours and supervised younger children.

Heather Mead, a seventh-

"Parent Link Crew is already bringing our community closer together," Karpinski said. "I had one Parent Link Crew mentor tell me that they were recognized at the supermarket. They are like rock stars now. We couldn't ask for anything more." d baid.6 (u) prPareK krl.5 (b)ra.7 (r)3.2-9.3 (o)-9.6 (r7MC -6 (.)-2 ()1.9 (s)10.5L-18.F