

# mta CONTACT

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## PARS Retirement Incentive Heats Up!

More than two hundred eligible retirees attended one of two informational meetings on the PARS Retirement Incentive. MTA and AMSA members found that if twenty-one or more complete all the paperwork by Tuesday, November 15, eligible retirees will receive an annuity worth sixty-five percent of final year compensation beginning August 1. The count is on! The thermometer will be kept current on [Montbelloteachers.org](http://Montbelloteachers.org). PARS personnel, district benefits specialists, and MTA staff will be available to answer questions and collect paperwork **Monday, November 14** at the Montebello Intermediate School library from **2:30-4:30 p.m.**



## HOW ARE DUES CALCULATED? WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Members of our Association pay a minimum of four types of dues for a total of \$201.50 per month, ten months per year. The breakdown is as follows for fulltime category 1 members:

<b>NEA</b> .....	17.80/month	<b>CTA</b> .....	64.70/month
<b>MTA-RSHP</b> .....	100.00/month	<b>MTA</b> .....	19.00/month

Members also donate various amounts on a voluntary basis for political action MTA-ABC (Association for Better Citizenship - our local political action fund) and NEA-PAC. Members also make voluntary contributions to FACT which is a disaster relief fund. NEA and CTA set their dues apart from MTA. The MTA Retiree Supplemental Health Plan (MTA-RSHP) is also separated from MTA dues. MTA-RSHP is commonly known as the Trust Fund. These funds are used to provide health coverage beyond the age at which the District stops paying for coverage (age 67). Since 1986 all eligible retired members have had lifetime health coverage. Members who resign may receive a rebate from the Association for up to \$1500.

## Past Superintendent Norm Kirschenbaum Honored by Montebello High School Alumni Association

The Montebello High School Alumni Association will induct Marshall Ezralow (Class of 1955) and Norm Kirschenbaum (Class of 1958) to the Hall of Fame **Thursday, November 10**. Norm was a student, teacher, principal, division head, and ultimately the superintendent of the Montebello Unified School District. He retired from MUSD in 1999. He is currently the superintendent of Tri Cities ROP.



The event cost is \$25 per person and runs from 4:30-7 p.m. More information is available at (323) 271-9432 or at [www.mhsoileralumni.org](http://www.mhsoileralumni.org).

**CTA CALSTRS ENDORSEMENTS**

The Cal STRS ballots for the Board election are arriving at members homes. CTA has endorsed:

**Dana Dillon**  
**Harry Keiley**  
**Phyllis Hall**

For more information go to [www.calstrs.com](http://www.calstrs.com) or [cta.org](http://cta.org).

# College Bound Today Builds Paths for Students

[Collegeboundtoday.org](http://Collegeboundtoday.org)



College Bound Today is a program for the parents and students of Montebello Unified School District, Schurr and Bell Garden High Schools.

Students join College Bound Today in the 10th grade. During the five semester program, students:

- work with volunteer mentors monthly
- visit area colleges
- learn about financial aid
- prepare for the SAT
- become part of a college support group
- learn to prepare a strong college application
- take part in special events each year

In February 2009, 10 teams totaling 70 students began work with 30 mentors. In most California high schools, there is one counselor to 1,000 students and no special programs that assist students with preparing college applications.

We now have 75 mentors working with 200 students at Schurr and Bell Gardens high schools in the Montebello Unified School District. We are recruiting 40 new mentors to join the program in February 2011.

Parents are encouraged to participate in all general meetings so that the entire family learns about going to college. Each meeting, before the students arrive, mentors meet with the college counselor and program leaders to prepare for each session. Detailed discussion guides for each session are provided. Special orientation sessions for mentors are also held.

Sessions focus on different themes at each meeting including on-line practice to improve test scores learning about colleges and preparing for college visits, learning how to complete financial aid applications, and discussing practice essays designed to improve writing skills. A special SAT preparation program is also provided.

Students attend college fairs at which a number of colleges make presentations. Mentors also take the students on their teams on at least 4 campus visits. The program includes three all-day campus visits to major colleges and universities in the Los Angeles area.

Creative Education Partners (CEP), is sponsored by Community Partners, a Los Angeles 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Funds for the program are raised through contributions and foundation grants. A program advisory committee meets regularly with staff and provides regular oversight.

Mentors are recruited, trained, assigned and supervised by CEP, with the support of MUSD. Mentors must provide MUSD with a Live Scan background check from the California Department of Justice. Parents provide written permission for their children's involvement in the program and for any local travel connected with program activities.

The program was founded by Todd Clark, President of CEP and Emeritus Executive Director of the Constitutional Rights Foundation and Daniel Clement, Esq., Senior Fellow, Community Partners, formerly Senior Counsel at the Sempra Law Department.

Volunteers interested in becoming mentors should contact **Dan Clement at (213) 346-3281 or by email at [dclement@communitypartners.org](mailto:dclement@communitypartners.org)**. Mentors must have college or post-secondary educations. They must commit to attend all meetings and work with their assigned students at least until they graduate from high school.