



Los Angeles Unified School District  
Educational Service Center, North

***John F. Kennedy High School***

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**Alberto Carvalho**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Dr. David Baca**  
Local District Superintendent

**Oscar Vazquez**  
*Principal*

March 3, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend the Future Leaders Program under the leadership of Mark Winkler. Future Leaders program has made a significant and positive impact on the students and families at Kennedy High School since 2022. We have integrated their program into our supports for students who are engaging in substance use and fighting behaviors through weekly sessions during lunch. The students who complete the 10-week group have developed skills to decrease their substance use. They receive individual check ins with Gavin and Stephanie, and the students all reports positive feelings about being heard and understood. They are able to connect with our students and support them in healthy decision-making.

Many of our students have made great progress and have positive outcomes of resolving their substance use behaviors. For the students and families who need additional support, they are also able to engage them into outpatient treatment for substance use. They are a great partner to our school community and an asset during the vaping epidemic amongst teens. I feel confident referring our students and families to their services due to the positive outcomes we see in our students. We are fortunate to have them as our community partner.

I highly recommend their services to any school community. If there are any further questions, please contact me via email at [Nina.DeVillar@lausd.net](mailto:Nina.DeVillar@lausd.net).

Sincerely,

*Nina DeVillar*

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