# EMPOWERED SOUNDS

## A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE EMPOWERMENT, INC.

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### **Our Mission**

The mission of Eagle Empowerment, Inc. is to enrich the lives of youth and families through education, mentorship and travel to broaden their thinking, enhance their insight, and visualize life's possibilities.

#### **Core Values**

- Educational Enlightenment
- Leadership Development
- Integrity Building
- Quality of Service to Others

#### **Our Motto**

EDUCATION IN MOTION

### 20<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration: Coping with a Virus

This year we celebrate 20 years since our first Youth Trek across the United States with students from the community of Watts in the City of Los Angeles. The lives of twenty-six children were forever changed. Today, many 2000 student participants have completed college. Some are now married with children; one is deceased, and all are pursuing their dreams. These adults have fond memories of the wealth of education they gained traveling to twenty-four states. They are giving back to our community in various ways, and we are thrilled to have three currently serving on



the Board of Directors for Eagle Empowerment. Our mission continues today as we've embarked on the necessity of living with COVID-19. This pandemic and its challenges definitely took us by surprise.

> Students we serve today through our programs have our assistance more than ever. The Student Advocacy arm of our organization supplied students with a computer and printer. We made sure each home has adequate Wi-Fi service to guarantee active participation during distance learning. We believe this year will be a great success for our students as they aspire to reach their academic goals.

#### **COVID-19 Teaching Challenge**

School teacher Todzia Houston shares her experience

The COVID-19 pandemic has definitely affected my day to day life! More specifically, in the area of education, the pandemic caused students and educators to leave their classrooms indefinitely. Teachers, at all levels, were forced to create a 100% virtual learning environment at a moment's notice. As an elementary school teacher, for Los Angeles Unified School District, I found the initial experience to be quite stressful because it wasn't the type of teaching I was used to. My heart also felt

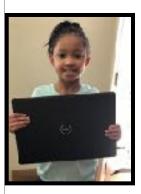


heavy for the many students who didn't have a device to connect with and for those students who couldn't get help from their parents or guardians because they are not computer savvy. What about the students who were already performing below grade level? How far would this type of learning set them back? This caused me to ponder!

From mid-March, when schools first closed, up until now, I have constantly reminded myself that as an educator I must be flexible. I set the tone in my classroom with a positive attitude and attainable expectations. With thoughtful and well planned instruction, students can be successful in this type of environment. Some challenges I may encounter going forward include students who may not log on regularly, students who are left to fend for themselves because their parents are at work, students who can't focus because they are hungry and students whose families have limited internet access. In spite of this, I will push forward and continue to do my best to educate students in the Los Angeles Unified School District. This *will* be a successful year!

#### **Student Advocacy**

It's Back-2-School season in Southern California and students of Eagle Empowerment have lots of mixed emotions for this 2020-21 academic year. Most students will be going through this year having a Virtual Classroom experience. Computers are essential for students. One college



student is experiencing in-person learning at the University of Iowa. There is enthusiasm among students as we commit to one-on-one encouragement of twenty-five students. Five students are in college, three second-year and two first-year. The remaining twenty students range from 3rd through 12th grades. All are determined to do their very best.



Board members are committed to helping students throughout the academic year. They will interact with students on a consistent basis to ensure learning continues effectively. One-on-One mentorship has been a great success through our Student Advocacy program. We've informed students and parents that we are in this COVID-19 pandemic challenge together! We will adapt to this new normal with triumphant determination. We are wishing our "happy" students a very fruitful and prosperous school year. Eagle Empowerment students have a smile on their face as they begin this journey.



#### JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS SUCCESS!

*Empowered Sounds - Eagle Empowerment, Inc.* A nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.



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