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Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications,
415-554-6131

*** PRESS RELEASE ***

MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM AND SUPERINTENDENT CARLOS GARCIA LAUNCH
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM FOR SAN FRANCISCO'S STUDENTS



Mayor and Superintendent also announce hiring of the San Francisco Unified School District's first Director of Sustainability

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Today Mayor Gavin Newsom and Superintendent Carlos Garcia launched the Environmental Service Learning Initiative (ESLI) in San Francisco's schools. ESLI will encourage students to become engaged in environmental justice issues. Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience and teach civic responsibility.

"When people talk about 'Going Green' that's just a throw-away line," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "If we want to really see meaningful results, we have to educate our students in environmental stewardship so they understand the consequences of inaction and the benefits of conservation. That's how you change the dialogue across the country and cultivate our future environmental leaders."



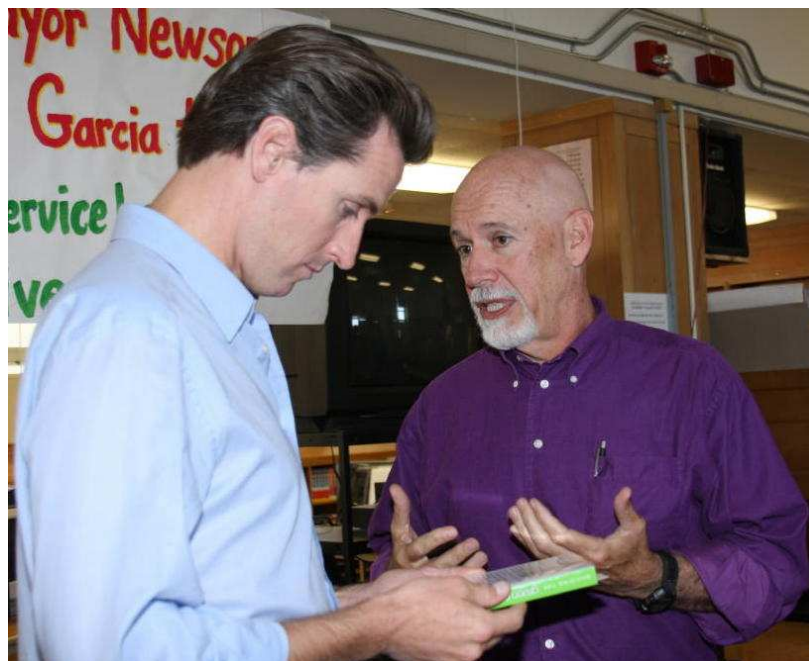
"It is imperative that we teach our students to be environmentally responsible," said Superintendent Garcia. "We will model this ourselves, by increasing the environmental sustainability of our entire district. At the same time, we will be giving students the opportunity to experience firsthand being stewards of their environment through service learning."

In December 2007, the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families (DCYF) solicited qualified community-based organizations (CBOs) to plan out a 2 year program to integrate environmental issues for San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) students through a service-learning model.

DCYF selected Community Educational Services (CES) & Global Exchange to be the lead agencies in delivering the program activities and allocated \$860,000 for the initiative.



CES plans to conduct school-based services, mini-grants, classroom learning & students-led projects for 500 youth across 7 SFUSD high schools: Balboa, Burton, Galileo, Lincoln, Lowell, Mission, & Washington. In addition, they will instruct teachers on how to integrate environmental justice issues and service learning into their curriculum through workshops and discussion groups. Global Exchange plans to do outreach targeting 2,300 youth, including environment-themed workshops for youth and green-job career fairs. They will emphasize the importance of careers in the environment, and encourage students to select green career paths.



Today Mayor Newsom and Superintendent Carlos Garcia also announced the hiring of the school district's first Director of Sustainability, Nik Kaestner, who has been tasked with developing an Environmental Master Plan for the school district and working closely with city departments to help SFUSD become more energy efficient and environmentally conscious.



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Photos by Bill Wilson Additional photos at www.billwilsonphotos.com

Joe Arellano
Deputy Communications Director/Sub-Director de Prensa
Mayor's Office of Communications
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 291
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.554.6608 Direct
415.554.6131 Main
415.554-4058 Fax
Joe.Arellano@sfgov.org