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Redwood City 2020 Tuesday Tidbits

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Redwood City Together Dialogue and Big Lift Panel Discussion

Redwood City Together Dialogue: Undocumented Students in Education

Storytelling is a powerful tool for building empathy and understanding and inspiring positive change in our community.

Redwood City Together is a Redwood City 2020 initiative that builds empathy, understanding, and supportive action to bridge social divides such as race, class, and immigration status in order to create a welcoming environment for all in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks.



Redwood City 2020, in partnership with Stanford University and the Sequoia High School Dream Club, facilitated a community dialogue of storytelling and discussion about the experiences of undocumented students in our community. On Wednesday, April 25 at El Centro Chicano y Latino at Stanford, students from the Sequoia High School Dream Club shared their personal stories and art with 40 students, educators, staff, and other community members. Moved by the bravery and authenticity of the Dream Club students, there were small group discussions in which attendees, undocumented people and allies together, shared their personal stories and perspectives and brainstormed how we, as individuals and as a school and larger community, can best support undocumented students. It was a powerful, timely event that ended in tangible action steps shared by Stanford Advocates for Immigrants' Rights.

Many thanks to the Sequoia High School Dream Club students for sharing your personal stories, to the High School Support Initiative of the Haas Center for Public Service for your leadership in organizing this event, and to our co-sponsors (listed alphabetically) Asian American Activities Center (A³C), Black Community Services Center (BCSC), El Centro Chicano y Latino, The Markaz: Resource Center, MEChA de Stanford, Native American Cultural Center (NACC), Stanford Advocates for

Immigrants' Rights (SAIR), Stanford First-Generation and/or Low-Income Partnership (FLIP) for your outreach and support.

Big Lift: Panel on Restorative Justice Practices and Teaching Pyramid



In partnership with the Redwood City School District, Redwood City 2020 co-leads our local Big Lift effort in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks. The Big Lift is a county-wide social venture that aims to transform early learning. It combines high-quality and connected learning experiences from preschool to third grade, with a focus on reducing chronic absence and summer learning loss, and engaging families and the broader community to support learning in school and at home.

Once per month, Redwood City 2020 convenes Big Lift partners to align efforts, engage in professional learning, examine data, and focus on the pillars of Big Lift programming. Last month's Big Lift partner meeting was particularly interesting as the group hosted a panel of local experts to discuss the applications and similarities between [Restorative Justice Practices \(RJP\)](#) and the [Teaching Pyramid](#), two approaches that educators use as alternatives to punitive approaches to school discipline. Our partners from San Mateo County Health Policy and Planning and the San Mateo County Office of Education have been supporting the implementation of restorative justice practices in schools across the county. Many partners working in early childhood education use Teaching Pyramid strategies.

Many thanks to our panelists, Thomasina Russaw (Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, Engaging Communities Initiative Director), Cecilia Canale (Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, Strengthening Families Initiative Manager), Jamie Hui (Cañada College, Retention Specialist/Early Childhood Education Instructor), and Cynthia Fong-Wan (San Mateo County Office of Education, Early Learning Quality Improvement Initiative Coordinator), who enhanced Big Lift partners' knowledge of Restorative Justice Practices and the Teaching Pyramid and shared ideas about how to increase positive results by leveraging success, coaching, and family engagement.

Missed a previous edition? Find it on our [Resources page](#).

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