

Fontana Unified School District

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ARGOSY PARTNERS WITH FOHI TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

FONTANA, CA – Throughout the month of September, Argosy University has partnered with Fontana High School to engage students in discussions about suicide prevention and mental health. Each week, Argosy has promoted awareness through lunchtime activities, such as video diaries, hopes and beliefs jar, information booth, and a creative arts contest. Today they held their culminating activity, two schoolwide assemblies which focused on the signs of someone who may be contemplating suicide and making known different avenues where help is available for students.

As students entered the gym for the assembly, the Fohi ASB handed out backpacks provided by Argosy containing mental health/suicide prevention material donated by the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health, along with the number for the Suicide Hotline. One in four of the backpacks had green ribbon representing that one in four individuals will experience mental illness in a year.

During the assembly, Argosy staff showed a short film comprised of the lunchtime video diaries made by Fohi students sharing how mental health issues and suicide have touched their lives. A PSA video created by Fohi student Cherish Johnson, was also presented during the assembly. As winner of the creative arts contest, Cherish was awarded a scholarship from Argosy. A second scholarship will be awarded to an additional arts contest winner in late October.

“We are grateful to Argosy University for partnering with Fohi during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month,” said Superintendent Dr. Leslie Boozer. “By working together, we can increase awareness of the mental health issues our students face and hopefully reduce the number of suicides.”

Dr. Penelope DeLeon, Chief of Schools – Secondary, agrees. “Educating our students, providing them with resources, and offering them support is paramount.”

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 3,000 people on average commit suicide daily. Suicide rates are at an all-time high for veterans, and for every person who commits suicide, more than 20 others attempt to end their lives. About one million people die by suicide each year.

“What it really comes down to is that we want all students to know they are valued and their lives matter,” said FUSD Board President Barbara Chavez.

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