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## **UCLA School Management Program Awarded \$100,000 for Los Angeles Schools**

The UCLA School Management Program, a team of school-site and district educators dedicated since 1992 to partnering with learning communities to ensure high achievement for every student, has received a \$100,000 grant from State Farm Insurance to fund a new Like a Good Neighbor initiative.

Over the next year, the grant is intended to support the program's partnership with Los Angeles Unified School District's Local District 4 in creating a professional learning community at John Liechty Middle School and one of its main feeder elementary schools, Ezperanza Elementary. Liechty Middle School will open in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles in September 2007. The initiative will focus on professional development and community building programs to increase student achievement in the two high-poverty locations, which are populated predominantly by English learners.

"The initiative will apply knowledge, experience and program support to enhance students' learning in areas where we need it the most," said Local District 4 Superintendent Richard Alonzo.

The grant from State Farm Insurance will provide an opportunity to customize specific continuous improvement plans for each school.

"We are proud to invest in the education of the children who will be the leaders of the future," said Robert Villegas, public affairs specialist for State Farm Insurance.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to bring together a company that cares about the community, schools that desire support in achieving their goals and a center at UCLA with a track record of real success in supporting increased student achievement," said Dan Chernow, executive director of the UCLA School Management Program.

The UCLA School Management Program is an initiative of the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies that collaborates with public school teachers and school

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administrators to improve education. Its mission is to ensure that students achieve the highest quality education. Working with educators, administrators and community members, the program creates well-managed schools, enhances teacher effectiveness and improves student achievement through professional development and community building.

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