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SUCCESSFUL ALLIANCE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SUN VALLEY IS NAMED AFTER MILT & DEBBIE VALERA, SUPPORTERS OF HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

Successful community members have found opportunities to foster change in the Northeast San Fernando Valley by supporting a successful public charter middle school that prepares scholars for college.

March 7, 2019 (LOS ANGELES) – Alliance College-Ready Public Schools, a nonprofit network of high-performing public charter schools in the Los Angeles area, today named its Sun Valley middle school the Alliance Milt & Debbie Valera Middle Academy, after successful local residents Milt and Debbie Valera. The middle school, housed within the Alliance Marine-Innovation Technology 6-12 Complex, offers sixth to eighth grade scholars a college preparatory education in a safe and nurturing environment.

Milt and Debbie Valera believe that all students, regardless of zip code or family background, can achieve academically. “Public education is something everyone has an absolute right to pursue without prejudice or discrimination,” says Milt Valera.

Milt Valera grew up in Kauai, Hawaii, on a sugar plantation, where his parents, neither of whom finished high school, were strict proponents of education. He attended public schools from kindergarten through college, earning an Associate of Arts degree in journalism from Los Angeles City College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from California State University, Northridge.

“I was proud of my public school education,” Milt Valera says, “but I saw the challenges some of the public schools—and students—faced.”

Debbie Valera grew up in a small town near Pittsburgh. Her parents were college graduates who emphasized the importance of education. She studied at Syracuse University where she earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and journalism. She worked as a reporter, journalist, and editor for newspapers in Pennsylvania and Los Angeles.

In addition to supporting high-quality K-12 public schools, Milt and Debbie Valera are active benefactors at California State University, Northridge, where Milt Valera serves on the Board of the CSUN Foundation and on numerous advisory committees. As a first-generation college student, Valera hopes to increase access to opportunities for young people in the way he benefited.

Like Milt Valera, 85% of Alliance scholars are first-generation college students. To support its alumni to college completion, Alliance has developed college success initiatives and curated a list—the Power 150™ Index—of the 150 colleges and universities with a graduation rate of 75% or higher for underrepresented minorities. Read more about Alliance’s college matching initiatives and the [Power 150 Index](#).

About Alliance College-Ready Public Schools: Alliance College-Ready Public Schools is one of the largest and most successful nonprofit charter school networks in the nation, operating 25 high-performing, public charter middle and high schools that educate nearly 13,000 students from Los Angeles’ most underserved communities. Alliance schools have been recognized as among the best in the nation by *US News & World Report*, *Newsweek*, the U.S. Department of Education and the California Department of Education. Since opening its first school in 2004, 95% of Alliance students have graduated from high school and been accepted to college. For the class of 2018, 73% of scholars were admitted to a four-year college.

[About Alliance Marine-Innovation Technology 6-12 Complex](#)

Alliance Marine - Innovation & Technology 6-12 Complex scholars are ALWAYS READY. They are innovative thinkers and doers, challenge seekers, and lifelong learners. They relentlessly strive to improve themselves while respecting and caring for others. They graduate from our school equipped with the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind needed to succeed in college, compete in a technology-rich global economy, and make a positive impact on the world.

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