

ACADEMIC BOWL 2021

YOUTH TEAMS GO HEAD TO HEAD IN ANNUAL SCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

The twenty-first Annual Academic Bowl was held May 27th, 2021. Six teams of high school students from six Road to Success Academy schools competed in events related to the 2020 Census theme: "Count Me In, My Voice Matters." Each team was led by a coach and had been practicing since February to compete and participate in three events: a site presentation (a choice between an art expression, oral presentation, or PowerPoint presentation) and the Super Quiz. This year the contest was co-sponsored by the Los Angeles County Board of Education, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Probation Department, LACOE Technology Services, and the Award Winners Company. The annual contest was held virtually for the first time.

Competing teams were the Camp Afflerbaugh Historical Thinkers; The Barry J. Nidorf Aztec Eagles; the Central Juvenile Hall Panthers; the Dorothy Kirby Center Rams; the Campus Kilpatrick Mustangs; and Camp Rocky's One Team, 1 Mission.

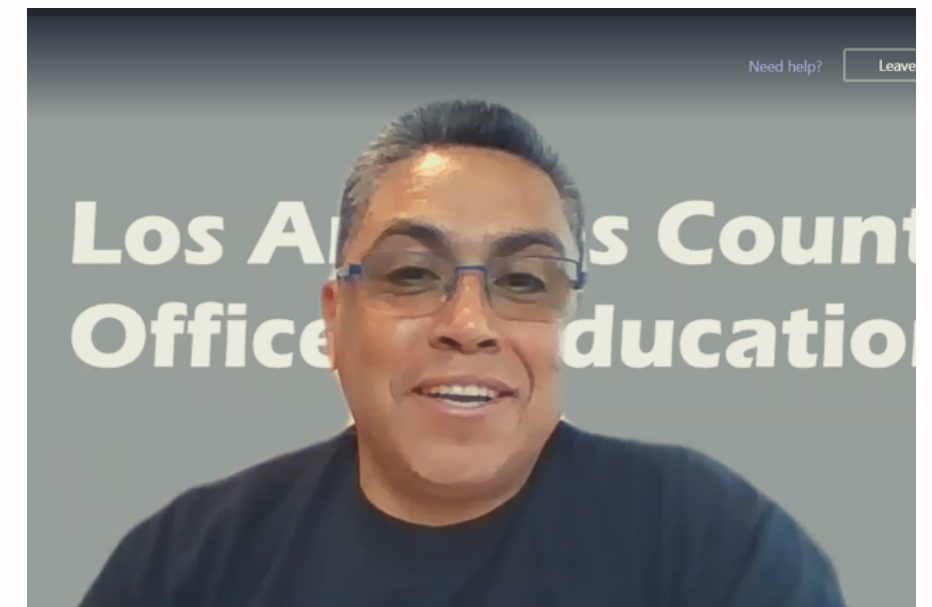
Hosted by Daniel Ruiz, Project Director II with Los Angeles County Office of Education, the event was a technical feat. The tech team from LACOE made sure the transitions of audio and video went smoothly. Before the match started several invited guests, including Superintendent of Schools Dr. Debora Duardo and Chief of Probation Dr. Adolfo Gonzales, took a moment to share encouraging words with the contestants.



Daniel Ruiz – LACOE Project Director II hosted



Superintendent of schools Dr. Debora Duardo



Master of Ceremonies, Ruben Caranza, principal at Campus Kilpatrick

The first event was the site presentation competition. After a sparkling introduction by Master of Ceremonies and Campus Kilpatrick principal Ruben Caranza, the teams performed live and prerecorded skits, lectures, and songs on the theme "Census 2020 - Count Me In, My Voice Matters". The fun and energetic performances got the bowl off to an inspiring start. "The purpose was to give the students the opportunity to showcase their talents," said Mr. Ruiz, "and they knocked it out of the park."

After the rousing openings, Senior Program Activity Specialist with the Division of Student Programs for LACOE Tosan Balagun hosted the Super Quiz. Questions focused on the Census and US history. At the end of the quiz the judges tallied the scores. Opening performances were judged on creativity, teamwork, knowledge of subject and content, the focus on theme, and energy of the performance.

ACADEMIC BOWL 2021 (CONT)

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While scores were being confirmed, Keynote speaker Luis J. Rodriguez addressed the youth. Mr. Rodriguez is a world-renowned author of the bestselling *Always Running La Vida Loca: Gang Days in LA*, as well as 15 other books of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, children's literature, and essays. He was the Poet Laureate of Los Angeles from 2014-2016, and the founder of Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural bookstore, art gallery, and meeting place.

He spoke about being a young man growing up in the gang life of Los Angeles and finding his way out. "To have mentors, guides who can show you the way. They don't save your life, they give you the tools, the connections, the resources to save yourself," he said. His sharing stories of his life, one shared by many of the youth he was speaking to, gave weight to his words. "When you learn [how] being creative, artistic, having a mastery of your voice, having a mastery of your skills, and getting some education under your belt [can help], you become quite formidable as a human being without hurting anybody or hurting yourself," he said.



Tosan Balagun, LACOE Senior Program activity specialist hosted the Super Quiz



Keynote speaker, author Luis J. Rodriguez



Dena Davis, LACOE Sr. Program Specialist, led the Academic Bowl committee

After Mr. Rodriguez spoke it was time to find out the winner of the Academic Bowl 2021. But wait! It was a tie. The Barry J. Nidorf Aztec Eagles and Kilpatrick Mustangs had to go head-to-head one more time. After a three-question tiebreaker the winning team was named. Congratulations to the Campus Kilpatrick Mustangs, Champions of the Academic Bowl 2021.

Mr. Ruiz said, "The Academic Bowl highlights our students' talents, knowledge, enthusiasm and ability to understand and present information they have learned in a creative and fun way." Trophies and medals were presented to the 1st through 4th place winners. All participants received an Academic Bowl t-shirt, certificate of participation, a copy of Mr. Rodriguez's book "Always Running", and a medal.

The results: First place: Campus Kilpatrick Mustangs. Second Place: Barry J. Nidorf Aztec Eagles. Third Place, Dorothy Kirby Center Rams. Fourth Place: Camp Afflerbaugh Historical Thinkers. Fifth Place was Central Juvenile Hall Panthers. And Sixth Place was Camp Rockey's One Team, 1 Mission.

Congratulations to all the youth who participated!

Probation News