**Berkeley Public Education Foundation**

**2013 Annual Luncheon Honorees**

**Tamara Friedman, World Languages and English Language Development Teacher, Berkeley High School**

If the accomplishments of distinguished educators were more widely known, Tamara Friedman would be renowned well beyond her classroom walls and District boundaries. As it is, here in Berkeley students and faculty have been the fortunate beneficiaries of her single-minded focus on teaching and learning. For almost 20 years, Tamara has taught Spanish and English Language Development (ELD) at Berkeley High, and has diligently pursued ways to improve the rigor of her practice to benefit her students.

In the past several years Tamara has been involved in Professional Development in the World Language department and has worked to close the achievement gap in language classes. Many of the methods she has used have informed school-wide Professional Development efforts.

She’s also been working on instructional preparation for the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which the District will adopt in 2014. The standards use a specific academic language, so Tamara, along with her ELD colleagues, provides training for teachers in all content areas to learn this terminology so central to the CCSS.

Last year, she received National Board Certification, a voluntary certification that enhances standards for, as well as perceptions of, the teaching profession. Only three percent of teachers in the US earn this prestigious certification.

Building respect for the profession of teaching represents a driving force in Tamara’s work. Upon hearing of her award from BPEF, her first comment was, “For every nominated teacher of the year, there are at least 10 others deserving of this award!"

**Janet Huseby, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, Berkeley High School**

How lucky for students, staff and families to have the support of someone like Janet Huseby, who has put her heart and talents into improving Berkeley Public Schools for over thirty years. Janet’s service as PTA co-President at Cragmont, Columbus, King and Berkeley High clearly demonstrates her dedication, but it only begins to tell the story of of her many contributions.

In 1995 and 1996, Janet wisely conceived of and co-wrote the award-winning Guide to the Berkeley Public Schools that explained the new school choice system to parents. Always mindful of parent engagement, she co-founded the Berkeley High School e-tree in 2000 as a vital forum for communication between the school and parents. But her biggest passion is helping students with college essays, for which she has organized lunchtime volunteer readers for 17 years. She is currently working on the third edition of the Berkeley Book of College Essays.

For the past 9 years, Janet has served as the Berkeley High Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, being compensated at last for her tireless organizing of parent support for multiple needs. No one believes more than Janet that Berkeley High is an exceptional school, and her passionate commitment to its community surely has made it so.

**Belinda McDaniel, Program Assistant, Berkeley High School**

Everybody wants to know Belinda McDaniel’s secret. Starting at 7 a.m. every morning, she greets every student and visitor in the front office at Berkeley High with constant and genuine upbeat charm. She will make your day and never seems to have a bad one of her own.

Belinda has worked in the District, mostly at Berkeley High, since 1989, soon after she graduated from the school herself. As a Program Assistant in the front office, Belinda must make sure that all classes have a teacher – on some days she has to find 30 substitutes. She writes the Daily Bulletin, assists all administrators, cheerfully helps parents and volunteers, registers new students, handles transfers, and sets counselor appointments.

Belinda doesn’t stop there. She knows kids can go “either way,” so she mentors students and helps those in crisis. Belinda led a Life Academy girls group that focused on behavior, attitude and attendance, and now she advises students at the Student Parent Resource Center. With her keen and caring eyes she spots and watches out for kids with the most challenges at home, making a difference for them, their families and most certainly for the entire school community.

**Teri Goodman, Counseling Department Chair, Berkeley High School**

With humility and earnestness, Teri Goodman describes her job as providing students with “whatever help they need. She starts by raising their expectations: Teri has a fierce commitment to fostering the “college-going assumption” for all students at Berkeley High. In her second year as a counselor, she started the 1st Step Scholarship program to help low-income students reach the first step in their college education. These funds are ready when those "small" initial costs hit, expenses such as housing and tuition deposits – all required before a student starts school and taps any additional financial aid. Starting with scholarships for six students in its first year, 1st Step has enabled over 300 students to get their start in college since 2003.

Teri and her counseling team also organize an annual College Panel, giving every 10th grader the opportunity to question recent BHS graduates about their college experiences. She encourages students to believe that college can be the next step in their lives, and she actively supports students through the transition from high school to higher learning.

"Students have many obstacles to overcome,” Teri says, but with a belief and commitment she focuses their sights on a future that includes continuing education.

**Stefon Dent, Berkeley High School Class of 2003**

Touching the lives of students like Stefon Dent is what has inspired BPEF's work over the last 30 years.  Stefon, BHS Class of 2003 stands out as a person with remarkable perseverance and tenacity.  Despite designations as low- achieving, and with the help of outstanding teachers such as Dave Stevens, Stefon has been able to draw on his inner strength, stay focused and put himself on a path towards reaching his full potential. Stefon participated in many BPEF supported activities including the Outsiders Club with which Stefon reached the top of Half Dome in Yosemite and a College Preparation course at Berkeley City College. Stefon graduated from Cal State East Bay in 2012 and is planning to attend graduate school in psychology.