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**FREE SPEECH UPHELD:  
IN RULING WITH MAJOR NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS  
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD REJECTS  
UNITED TEACHERS LOS ANGELES' APPEAL; UPHOLDS ALLIANCE'S  
RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE WITH ITS TEACHERS**

*For the ninth time, The Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) found that Alliance College-Ready Public Schools' communication with educators to be protected by free speech.*

**January 23, 2018 (SACRAMENTO)** – Three years into United Teachers Los Angeles' (UTLA) foundering campaign to organize Alliance College-Ready Public Schools, the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) has again rejected a UTLA argument seeking to restrict Alliance College-Ready Public Schools' ability to communicate with its educators regarding unionization efforts.

This is the ninth consecutive time PERB has sided with Alliance and against the union on free-speech issues. PERB has never ruled in UTLA's favor on any of the speech charges litigated by UTLA.

"We don't understand why UTLA continues to attempt to interfere with the rights of our educators to receive a full set of facts in regards to unionization," said **Catherine Suitor, Chief Advancement Officer for Alliance College-Ready Public Schools**. "Alliance has respected the rights of our teachers and counselors to decide for themselves, free from coercion by anyone, whether they want, or don't want, to be represented by UTLA. That has been demonstrated repeatedly by not just our words, but by our actions. We are gratified that PERB has recognized this in their rulings."

In the December ruling, PERB denied UTLA's appeal that sought to restrict Alliance's right to protected speech regarding UTLA's unionization campaign. In the January ruling, the judge dismissed UTLA's efforts to limit Alliance's ability to communicate openly and respectfully with educators. This is a victory for the rights of educators across the country to speak freely and without harassment.

A PERB judge and now the Board of PERB have ruled overwhelming in Alliance's favor in two major decisions made on December 28, 2017 and January 11, 2018. The recent rulings are for three of the ten cases that UTLA has brought to PERB in recent years.

For three years, UTLA has waged an aggressive campaign to unionize educators at Alliance College-Ready Public Schools, Los Angeles' largest and one of its highest performing public charter school networks which serves 13,000 scholars in underserved communities.

Despite a three-year barrage that has included near-constant harassment of teachers; over-the-top rhetoric and fear-mongering by UTLA, the union has never called for a vote; a solid majority of teachers remain opposed to unionization; and judges and the employee-relations board have repeatedly ruled against the union.

"We hope that with another favorable decision for Alliance, UTLA will stop pursuing false allegations and allow us to get back to our number one priority – delivering a high-performing public education that creates opportunity and success for our scholars," **Suitor** added.

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**About Alliance College-Ready Public Schools:** Alliance College-Ready Public Schools is one of the largest and most successful 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' lowest income 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 graduates have been accepted to college.

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