



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Catherine Suitor

213-943-4930x1036

[csuitor@laalliance.org](mailto:csuitor@laalliance.org)

**HUNDREDS OF YOUNG SCHOLARS TO GATHER AT CITY HALL FOR ANNUAL JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA DEBATE THIS SUNDAY**

*Under the theme, “Stepping Into the Future”, student debates will focus on current affairs including mental health, human rights, and immigration.*

**April 6, 2018 (LOS ANGELES)** – Scholars from seven Alliance College-Ready Public Schools high schools will join students from other Southern California public and private schools this Sunday for a Junior State of America (JSA) event, which encourages young people to get involved in civic debate on important social and political issues. Alliance, a non-profit network of high-performing public charter schools in the Los Angeles area, is a longtime participant in JSA. The event is co-sponsored by Curren D. Price, Jr., Los Angeles City Councilman.

At the event, Alliance CEO Dan Katzir’s keynote address will discuss how Alliance believes that preparing scholars for college success is a moral and social justice imperative. Alliance has an audacious goal: 75% of its alumni will graduate from a four-year college.

“These scholars are an inspiration to me, advocating for social justice in their communities and working to make a real difference on some of the most pressing issues of our time,” Katzir said. “I’m proud to have the opportunity to address them, and to participate in a student-led panel discussion on various issues, including education and human rights.”

Last year, Alliance JSA participants helped lead the citywide effort to legalize street vending, as part of a campaign to curb deportations of immigrant Angelenos. Members of this group also joined students from around the world for a conference in Japan on nuclear disarmament.

Kip Morales, Alliance Smidt Tech High School English teacher said, “As we’re seeing around the country, when students are passionately engaged on public policy, no change is beyond their reach. JSA serves to help students organize and engage, and I want to thank Alliance for supporting this important event.”

The event will take place Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at Los Angeles City Hall beginning at 8 a.m. In addition to Mr. Katzir, special guests include **Curren D. Price, Jr.**, Los Angeles City Councilman; **Dave Min**, Democratic Candidate for Congress in California’s 45th Congressional District; **Jessica Kronstadt**,

Deputy District Attorney for the LA County District Attorney's office; and **Ricardo Benitez**, Republican Candidate for Assembly in California's 39th Assembly District. The media is invited to attend.

---

---

**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.