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Inland Empire Community Newspapers
 Office: (909) 381-9898
 Fax: (909) 384-0406
 Editorial: iecn1@mac.com
 Advertising: iecnads@yahoo.com

Peister stepping down as symphony executive director, Valles to lead board



COURTESY PHOTO

San Bernardino Symphony Executive Director Valerie Peister, right, is stepping down from her position in order to spend more time with her family. Her last day is July 12. And symphony board member Judith Valles, left, is incoming president for the board as Mary Schnepf, who served for 10 years as president, also steps down. Peister and Valles are seen here in this photo at a Think Together fundraiser in April of this year at the Burrage Mansion in Redlands.

By Cynthia Mendoza

On July 12, the San Bernardino Symphony formally bids farewell to executive director Valerie Peister as she steps down from the position

she's been in since December 2010. Her decision to step down was rooted in a desire to spend more time with her family.

"It's about making sure I have time for them," she says of her family that includes --- kids, ages nine

through 18.

Peister added however, that she will not be a stranger to the symphony and that she and her family will continue to support through concert attendance.

Symphony, cont. on next page

ChICCCAA Center in Colton serves IE through advocacy, action



COURTESY PHOTO

Allen Hernandez, front, leads a discussion on environmental justice at the ChICCCAA Center in Colton, a hub of activism and community action, based on Chicano and indigenous ideologies and philosophies. Left, Alex Avila, Right, Abraham Bolaños (red shirt) and Jesus Rivera, (black shirt).

By Cynthia Mendoza

The ChICCCAA Center, which stands for Chicano Indigenous Community for Culturally Conscious Advocacy

and Action, is a fairly new face in Colton but they hope to make their mark here and in various Inland Empire cities as a whole through their community focused programs.

A grassroots organization founded

by Hector Guzman and Mary Valdemar, both from Colton, ChICCCAA is "committed to educating and implementing Indigenous philosophies and ide-

Center, cont. on next page

PAL, Charter Academy High announce commencement exercises



The Provisional Accelerated Learning (PAL) Center and Charter Academy High School proudly announces Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2013, Thursday June 6, 2013 at 6 PM. The event will be held at the PAL Education and Employment Complex, 2450 Blake Street in San Bernardino/Muscoy, California.

The PAL Charter Academy, a charter school approved by the San Bernardino City Unified School District, will present 80 graduates of the Class of 2013 with high school diplomas, scholarships, certificates, and recognitions for their significant achievements. Ten participants completing academics in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Employment program, will receive General Education Development (GED) Certificates.

The 2013 graduates will also be honored at a graduate luncheon

June 4. The speaker, widely recognized for his strategic leadership, lifelong dedication to improving educational access, and community involvement beyond the campus environment, will be Dr. Tomas Morales, President of California State University at San Bernardino. Dr Morales has received numerous awards for relentless work as an advocate for quality education.

The keynote speaker for Commencement will be the Honorable Acquanetta Warren, Mayor of the City of Fontana. Mayor Warren holds a degree in Political Science/Urban Studies from Occidental College and has put her degree to work in various urban governmental agencies in the State of California, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties, and the cities of Upland and Fontana.

Mayor Warren, a mother of three and a recognized Woman of Distinction, holds an Honorary Doctors Degree in Theology, and is an avid supporter of education.

The Superintendent of the San Bernardino City Unified School District, Dr. Dale Marsdale, will be a very special presenter and motivator for students, families, and the community.

Community Hospital of San Bernardino will co-sponsor the reception following the ceremony.

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Yolanda Vasquez-Meier, Agent
 Insurance Lic#: 0721892
 935 S Mt Vernon Ave, Suite 108
 Colton, CA 92324
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