



SEA in the News

Los Angeles Times

July 9, 2006

It's a Top-Grade Achievement

Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell was among those who congratulated the students, calling the charter school a model that should be replicated around the state. ... Some students said it was difficult to learn in large classes at traditional high schools, where teachers could rarely offer individualized attention. Soledad's focus on smaller class sizes and one-on-one learning helped, [salutatorian Wilber] Hernandez and others noted.

Los Angeles Times

December 24, 2006

Students Find Inspiration in Art

The campus is often the last stop for students who have been kicked out of a school or who have struggled to keep their grades up at a regular public high school. [Student Nestor Grajeda] said his newfound fascination with art has opened his mind. ... a Soledad Enrichment Action teacher ... said his students come from tough neighborhoods. They arrive to class with "adult armor," but this program helps them take it off.

The Sacramento Bee

March 22, 2007

Keeping Kids Off the Street

"This school kept me from being on the street and doing the things that I did before," said Rocha, who is flourishing as a 17-year-old senior. "They showed me education is very important, gave me support (and) drug counseling."

...[Soledad] also provides classes to parents to encourage them to support the education of their children. The formula has been successful at Soledad ... [Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack] O'Connell said he supports "quality public charter schools" with a "tough love philosophy," like Soledad.



July 16, 2007

The [James Irvine] Foundation's Leadership Awards recognize agents of social change and the organizations they run with grants of \$125,000 each. Recipient César Calderón saw his 16-year-old brother turn his life around with the help of L.A.'s Soledad Enrichment Action program. The charter school operates 22 education centers that focus on students who've fallen through the cracks.



July 19, 2007

Guatemalan immigrant César Calderón is this year's recipient of the James Irvine Foundation's Leadership Award. Calderón is being recognized for his work in transforming thousands of highest risk youth from poor families in the most challenged neighborhoods in Los Angeles into a population of successful high school students.



July 25, 2007

Petra Reyes, the mother from a family originally from Puebla, Mexico, recognized the accomplishments of Calderón and [SEA].

"I have already seen changes in my son," said Reyes, who assured that her son — who is on probation — now wants to attend school. "They have helped me a lot, and now I feel much more relaxed."

... Henry, 16, who came to the school after being convicted for possession of marijuana, agreed with Calderon and said that he had received a second chance at life.

"Here, the teachers pay more attention to us and they give us advice," he said. Now, Henry wants to become a Los Angeles police officer after he graduates from high school. "I don't want to break the law anymore," he said. "Now I want to follow the law."