



THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

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PACE STUDENTS CELEBRATED AT ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY



Under the leadership of Principal Amod Field and Program Director Susan Ronga, Paterson Adult & Continuing Education (PACE) students were honored for attaining prestigious certificates and completing their respective programs during the 2025-2026 school year at the annual PACE Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 15. These dedicated students were celebrated for reaching these exceptional personal and professional milestones, reflecting their relentless drive and perseverance.

“This milestone is a direct reflection of your hard work, grit, and dedication,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell during the ceremony. “Many of you reached this day while balancing jobs, parenting, and family responsibilities, showing incredible resilience by keeping your focus fixed firmly on your goals. You have stretched and pushed yourselves to achieve something monumental.”

Board of Education President Joel D. Ramirez also addressed the packed room of proud families, friends, and educators. Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr., Deputy Superintendent Rodney A. Henderson, and Interim Assistant Superintendent Maria Santa also participated in celebrating these impressive students.

Beyond earning high school diplomas, the students achieved a diverse array of life-changing accomplishments, such as becoming U.S. citizens, sharpening English language proficiency, expanding critical digital literacy skills, securing new employment opportunities, and obtaining valuable career certifications. Beyond personal career advancement, these achievements enable individuals to better support and uplift their extended families.

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,

At the June 10 Board of Education workshop meeting, I was proud to share the progress that we have made on three important district goals we set at the beginning of the school year: the implementation of our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, the continuation of our Middle School Model, and the development of a District-Wide Data Dashboard. These goals reflect our commitment to strengthening our schools, improving outcomes for students, and ensuring greater accountability and transparency across the district.



Goal One: Implementing Our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan

The first goal focuses on the implementation of our newly adopted five-year Strategic Plan, Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow. Developed through a comprehensive process that included community engagement, stakeholder feedback, data analysis, operational reviews, and external audit findings, the plan serves as a roadmap for the future of our district. As part of this work, we established clear performance measures and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to help us monitor progress, measure outcomes, and remain accountable to our students, families, staff, and community.

Goal Two: Advancing the Middle School Model

The second goal centers on the continued implementation of our comprehensive Middle School Model. This work remains an important part of our commitment to meeting the academic, developmental, and social-emotional needs of our students. The model establishes clear grade-level configurations, with elementary schools serving Pre-K–5 or K–5 students and middle schools serving grades 6–8. Through a phased implementation process, we are expanding opportunities for students to access age-appropriate programming, specialized supports, and research-based instructional practices designed specifically for their grade levels.

Goal Three: Developing a District-Wide Data Dashboard

The third goal focuses on the development of a District-Wide Data Dashboard, an important step toward providing students, families, staff, and community members with real-time access to key district information. This initiative will strengthen communication, increase transparency, and support informed decision-making across our district. I would also like to thank our Information Technology team for their dedication and expertise in helping bring this important project to life.

Thank you to our Board of Education, district leadership team, staff, families, and community partners for your continued support and collaboration. Together, we are building a stronger school district and creating opportunities for every student to learn, grow, and succeed. I encourage you to [visit our district website](#) to view the full presentation and learn more about these important goals and the progress being made across our district.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

PRINCIPALS REFLECT ON THIS YEAR'S PROGRESS IN FINAL MEETING

Paterson Public Schools' principals gathered at the Central Office on Friday, June 12, for their final monthly meeting of the school year. District leadership and administrators informed the principals about critical updates on summer closeouts and transitions before Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson gave a comprehensive update on the momentum of the Paterson Progress Plan (PPP).

Dr. Henderson opened the presentations with a progress snapshot of the PPP's "Five Levers of Accelerating Achievement." During the 2025–2026 academic year, all 15 goals and 55 key performance indicators (KPIs) advanced significantly. Dr. Henderson then introduced the five Lever Leaders who are dedicated to driving progress in each of the Levers: Sheliee Chocolatl, M.Ed., HR Staff Recruiter and Certification Specialist (Lever 1: Human Resources); Luis Valentin, Director of Assessment, Planning, and Evaluation (Lever 2: Data Literacy); Dr. Elizabeth Caccavella, Director of STEAM (Lever 3: Staff Capacity); Dr. Cicely Warren, Assistant Superintendent (Lever 4: Principal Capacity); Sierra Gerald, School/Community Program Coordinator (Lever 5: Parental Support).

Each presenter reviewed their respective levers and provided status updates on KPIs. The reports highlighted significant progress across all five strategic levers, demonstrating organizational resilience and strengthened coherence throughout the district. Looking ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, Dr. Henderson and the Lever Leaders remain committed to sustaining, refining, and ensuring the consistent success of the Paterson Progress Plan.

The meeting concluded with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell congratulating staff members on their achievements and honoring retiring principals for their dedicated service.



P-TECH STUDENTS EXPLORE DRONE TECH WITH PATERSON POLICE DEPT.

As part of the development of Paterson P-Tech's new Aerospace and Drone Technology career pathway, a group of future pathway students recently visited the Paterson Police Department to learn how drone technology is being used in public service and community policing.

Hosted by Lieutenant Munoz and Officers Garcia and Pichardo, students were given an inside look at the department's drone operations. The visit began in the command center, where students reviewed flight recordings and learned about mission planning, operational procedures, safety protocols, and FAA certification requirements. Officers shared how drones support daily police operations and the preparation required before every flight.

Students were then escorted to the roof of police headquarters, where they viewed the department's drone and docking system firsthand.

The visit is part of a larger effort to expose students to the many careers that utilize drone technology and help them explore future opportunities before entering the pathway. Through partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations, Paterson P-Tech aims to provide students with authentic learning experiences that connect classroom instruction to workforce needs.

The school looks forward to continued collaboration with the Paterson Police Department as the Aerospace and Drone Technology pathway prepares students for industry certifications, advanced training, and future careers in a rapidly growing field.



CELEBRATING STUDENT CREATIVITY AND ATTENDANCE ADVOCACY AT JFK

The Compulsory School Attendance and Student Accounting Department/Special Investigations Unit is proud to recognize the talented students in the Communications and Media Program at John F. Kennedy High School for their outstanding contributions to the “Get Your 180” Attendance Campaign. This work supports Lever 5 of the Paterson Progress Plan, which aims to strengthen school-community partnerships, boost family engagement, and advance attendance initiatives.

The students demonstrated exceptional creativity, dedication, and teamwork by writing scripts, selecting actors, filming scenes, and editing the campaign video in preparation for its district-wide rollout in September for the 2026–2027 school year. Their hard work and commitment to promoting the importance of school attendance have helped bring this exciting initiative to life. To honor their efforts, students were presented with certificates recognizing their creativity, participation, and excellence throughout the project.

Congratulations to the John F. Kennedy High School Communications and Media students on a job well done. The Compulsory School Attendance and Student Accounting Department/Special Investigations Unit sincerely appreciates their hard work and partnership in making the “Get Your 180” campaign a success.



DONUTS WITH DAD AT SCHOOL 26!

School 26 proudly hosted its first Donuts with Dad event on Thursday, June 18 and the school community produced an amazing turnout.

Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, mentors, and other important male role models took time out of their day to celebrate with School 26 students. Positive male figures play an important role in a child’s life by providing encouragement, guidance, support, and a strong example of responsibility and care. Their involvement helps children build confidence, develop healthy relationships, and feel valued both at home and in school.

School 26 extends its sincere gratitude to all who attended and helped make this event such a success. They showed the students how much they are loved and supported. Happy Father’s Day to all of the amazing dads and father figures in the School 26 community.



MORE THAN 100 JFK CTE STUDENTS EARN OSHA 10-HOUR CERTIFICATION



More than 100 students in John F. Kennedy High School's Construction Trades, Carpentry, and Logistics Pathways earned OSHA 10-Hour Certification cards, a nationally recognized credential that demonstrates knowledge of workplace safety and hazard prevention. The certification prepares students for careers in the skilled trades, construction, transportation, and logistics industries.

The students pictured are from the Construction Trades and Carpentry Pathways, and they achieved this milestone under the guidance of instructors David Jenisch, Ian Leith, Emilio Mariano, and John Sebastian. This achievement was made possible through the continued support of Director of Secondary Education Shenita Davis, who has championed opportunities that prepare students for college and careers.

STAFF REMINDER

2026-2027 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The 2026-2027 professional development calendar for Paterson Public Schools is now available, allowing staff to review opportunities and plan for the upcoming school year.



Did you know?

You can read past editions of The Pulse by visiting the Communications Hub.

[Click Here](#)

MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

June 19	Juneteenth - District Closed
June 26	Last Day for Students
June 26	High School Graduation Day
June 29	Last Day for Staff (9 AM - 12 PM)

[Full 2025-2026 District Calendar Here](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

A **Board of Education Workshop Meeting** will take place virtually on Wednesday, August 12th. Those wishing to provide public comments are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will take place virtually on Wednesday, August 19th. Those wishing to provide public comments are required to register for the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 PM.

Online language interpretation is available for all pre-recorded Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply select your preferred language at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

Paterson Board of Education: President Joel D. Ramirez, Vice President Della McCall, Commissioner Valerie Freeman, Commissioner Alex Mendez, Jr., Commissioner Hector L. Nieves, Jr., Commissioner Mohammed H. Rashid, Commissioner Kenneth Rosado, Commissioner Kenneth L. Simmons, Commissioner Corey L. Teague

The Pulse is a publication of the Department of Communications. We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news. **Submit** stories and photos by using our **Newsletter Submissions** form. This form can be found on the Communications Hub at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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