Introduction

Union Public Schools, Independent District #9, Tulsa County, is a premiere Oklahoma school district “ahead of the curve” on college and career readiness and expanded avenues for individual student success.

Its approximately 15,000 students, Pre-K through 12th grade, reside within a 28-square-mile boundary encompassing both southeast Tulsa and a portion of Broken Arrow. The school system is the heart of the community and serves as a unifying force. It includes early childhood center for three-year-olds; 13 elementary schools Pre-K through 5th grade; and five secondary schools—a 6th/7th Grade Center, 8th Grade Center, Intermediate High for grades 9 & 10, High School for 11th & 12th, and an Alternative School.

Our Mission

It is our Mission to provide our community of learners with educational opportunities to acquire and develop the best possible academic, vocational, recreational, social and participatory skills, enabling them to become valued, contributing members of a changing global society.

Parents choose the Union district for its all-around excellence. They take great pride in its wide-ranging dynamic academic programs; award-winning activities; caring teachers; highly respected elected and administrative leaders; and remarkable facilities. Union is one of the leading districts in Oklahoma in the number of teachers earning national certification. Its “Character Counts!” program is a statewide model, and its three community elementary schools—complete with health care clinics and community agency services—are among the best in the country.

Our Goals

- Academic excellence for all students
- Preparation of students for positive citizenship
- A positive educational environment in which students, parents, community, and staff assume responsibility for their role in the learning process
- District excellence for all employees
- Expanded opportunities for learning
- Increased use of technology
- Enhanced Union pride
- Support base to include patrons, partnerships, and community resources
- Long-term plan to accommodate growth

Each year the district has an impressive number of National Merit Scholars, and its graduating classes receive millions of dollars in scholarship offers to colleges and universities throughout the country. Approximately 92 percent of the 2010 graduating class pursued post-secondary education.

The Union community provides whatever it takes to ensure students thrive. Successful bond issues have funded state-of-the-art tools to enhance reading, language, math, science, and writing skills at every grade level. Art, music, and physical education enrich the traditional curriculum. Professionals in remedial reading, speech therapy, and special education are assigned to the schools along with library media specialists, nurses, and counselors. Courses for gifted students are offered at all levels, as are programs for English Language Learners.

In addition to challenging Pre-Advanced Placement classes, Union offers a variety of AP classes which allow students to earn college credit while learning about a subject in greater depth and developing study and analytical skills that are important to success in college. In partnership with Tulsa Community College, Union was one of the first to pilot a unique concurrent enrollment program on its High School campus, enabling qualifying students to earn both high school and college credits at the same time—virtually tuition free! The Union Collegiate Academy also provides students exposure to college and career opportunities through a partnership with area universities and Tulsa Technology Center.

When Union was founded in 1919, it combined four small, rural communities - Boles, McCollough, Mayo, and Alsuma - and had only four students in its graduating class. Today it is the eighth largest district in Oklahoma. Union’s strong sense of tradition and pride is underscored in its theme, “Working to Form a More Perfect Union.”
Operational Statistics

Transportation

Approximately 9,654 students were eligible for transportation each day on the district’s 95 buses. Union’s buses drove more than 840,055 miles in 2009-2010. The district’s total cost for fuel was $400,569.

Child Nutrition

With 130 employees, the child nutrition department served 589,604 breakfasts and 1,365,467 lunches during the 2009-2010 school year. In addition, 45,292 adult lunches and 2,328 adult breakfasts were served along with 37,975 breakfasts and 34,069 lunches for early childhood and 183,241 after-school snacks. Meals were also served during the summer months for summer school. There were 14,751 breakfasts and 17,864 lunches provided during summer.

Maintenance/Facilities Services

Maintenance services had 14 employees who processed 8,030 work orders annually ranging from electrical, telecommunications, mechanical, building electronics, hardware, carpentry, and preventive maintenance.

Facility services’ employees kept an average of 32.7 acres of school property manicured; set up and cleaned for more than 157 major events; and processed 131 work orders requiring 12,773 hours to complete.

Custodial services had 154 employees with 92 night custodians who maintained an average of 30,000 square feet of building space. Employees receive hands-on safety practice training. Eleven different languages were spoken, and Spanish and English language classes were offered as a Building Engineer certification class.

The Maintenance Department included 15 employees who maintained 5,110 equipment pieces districtwide; have completed 2,222 work orders thru October and supported 920 man hours throughout the district above their normal work process.

The Purchasing and Supply Management Department is a department within the Support Services Division. The department consists of the Director of Purchasing & Supply Management and three full-time employees at the Education Service Center. These employees supported the functions of purchasing, contract review, supervision of distribution services, and employee safety programs.

The district’s Distribution Center, under the supervision of the Purchasing and Supply Management Department, serves as the central receiving point, supply distribution hub, daily intra-district mail service, and records management for the district. The Distribution Center had eight employees who provided daily mail service, child nutrition food and supply warehousing and delivery, as well as general receiving and distribution services.

Union Multipurpose Activity Center

Four employees at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center coordinated UMAG events and facility rental. The number of events held at the UMAG during 2009-2010 totaled 1,001 with an average of 19 events per week. The UMAG also houses the U-Wear store which markets Union spirit wear and items, the Fine Arts Department, the Athletics Department, and an in-house video production studio.

Construction/Facilities

The district maintains over 2.7-million square feet of facilities, including thirteen elementary schools (pre-kindergarten to fifth grade), an Early Childhood Education Center (three-year-olds), a Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, an Eighth Grade Center, an Intermediate High School (ninth and tenth grades), an Alternative School serving seventh through twelfth grades, a High School (eleventh and twelfth grades), the Union Multipurpose Activity Center, the district warehouse, transportation, and operations buildings, and an Education Service Center.

During the 2009-2010 school year the district was engaged in several construction and site improvement projects. The new Softball/Baseball Indoor Practice Facility and field improvements were completed. The indoor practice facility houses several batting nets, a weight room, locker rooms, offices, and an artificial turf infield. The indoor facility is approximately 26,026 square feet.

The Union Performing Arts Center was given a $1.3-million-dollar face-lift during an extensive remodel. New chairs, lighting, flooring, and additional equipment needed for the many performances held at the PAC were installed. The PAC remodel also included many needed upgrades to the Studio Theatre at the High School.

Changes to Grove Elementary began with the completion of Phase I of an extensive remodel of the school. Phase II of the project is currently under way and should be completed by August of 2011. Grove Elementary students will be welcomed by a new and bigger dining and kitchen area in the cafeteria, new
restrooms, new and larger classrooms, a new secured entry, parking and a new bus loop, and a new front office area and vestibule. The gymnasium will be doubled in size.

The Eighth Grade Center received a complete upgrade to the gymnasium and locker areas. A new wood floor was installed in the gym along with new bleachers. The locker rooms were completely upgraded including new or refurbished lockers, new restrooms, and larger equipment rooms. In addition to having class and holding practices at the 8th Grade Center, we will now be able to host events such as volleyball and basketball games.

Finishing touches were being done in the summer of 2010 to complete the Tuttle Stadium Turf Replacement. The project involved removing the old turf, the existing concrete slab, and the large dirt crown under the slab. New drainage and sub-base was installed prior to the installation of the new turf. Despite weather delays, the project was completed prior to the 2010 football season.

Other projects for the year including items from the 2010 bond issue included the 8th Grade Center cooling tower replacement, improvements to the drainage and playing surface at Central Park at Union, swimming pool scoreboard replacement at the 6th/7th Grade Center, classroom cabinet replacement at Roy Clark Elementary, replacement of the exterior main waterline at the High School, resurfacing and re-striping of the Cedar Ridge Elementary parking lot, and an upgrade to the security cameras and doors at several sites.

In addition to the ongoing and completed projects, Union began planning for construction of the Union Collegiate Academy wing which will be built on the High School campus. The facility will be a three-story addition to the High School and will encompass approximately 117,000 square feet. Included in the project is adequate space for collegiate/career advisement and research centers, three lecture/conference halls with one designed to handle groups of up to three hundred people, new classrooms, kitchen and serving area renovation, and a state-of-the-art science area. The High School will begin serving tenth graders in the fall of 2012. Phase I, budgeted at $12 million, was approved by Union voters as part of the 2010 Bond Issue. Phase II will be voted on in 2011 and is projected to have an approximate budget of $16.3 million. The entire project is scheduled to be completed for the opening of school in August of 2012.

Student Statistics

Growth continued during the 2009-2010 school year, with a 2.4 percent increase over the previous year. Union served 15,015 students – 7,207 at the elementary level and 7,808 in grades 6-12; 7,722 were male and 7,293 were female. In terms of ethnic origin, 9.6 percent were Native American, 20.1 percent were Hispanic, 15 percent were African American, 7.0 percent were Asian, and 48.2 percent were Caucasian.

There were 4,414 first through twelfth grade students, 29 percent, enrolled in Union's gifted and talented program.

Ten percent or 1,492 of our students were enrolled in special education.

In 2009-2010, approximately 3,136 students throughout the district were bilingual or lived in a home where a language other than English was spoken. The total bilingual count included 38 different languages.

More than 31.7 percent of our students reported that they lived with just one of their biological parents – 4,212 (28 percent) lived with their mothers and 569 (3.7 percent) with their fathers.

The total number of homeless children enrolled during the 2009-2010 school year was 836, up from 739 the previous year, and 22 students were listed as self-supporting.

There were 851 students (grades K-5) enrolled in Union's Extended Day Program - 175 attended the morning program, 235 attended the afternoon program, and 441 students attended both. The EDP Summer Camp was held at Moore Elementary offering weekly themes over an eight-week period. Weekly camp attendance averaged 150.

During 2009-2010, High School and Intermediate High students earned 1,326 high school credit hours in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and 2,707 in Pre-AP courses.

More than 12,000 Union students were involved in at least one arts class, including 6,925 elementary students who took both art and music. At the secondary level (grades 6-12) 802 were in band; 578 in orchestra; 909 in vocal music; 600 in drama; 60 in competitive speech; and 2,588 in a wide variety of visual arts disciplines.

During 2009-2010, 1,625 students in grades K-12 participated on 167 teams in the Intramural sports program. Additionally, over 402 Union parents participated as coaches, volunteers and coordinators, volunteering more than 13,000 hours. More than 3,400 practices and 680 games were scheduled in Union facilities, mostly on Saturday mornings.
Student Statistics (Cont.)

Elementary summer school was held at Boevers, Briarglen, Jefferson, McAuliffe, and Rosa Parks. Thanks to federal and state grant funds, classes were offered free of charge. In summer school, there were 395 first and second grade students enrolled under the Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA); 192 third grade students enrolled in RSA Academy; 75 first through fifth grade students under the Native American grant; and 883 first through fifth grade students under Title I. In addition, there were 100 kindergarten students who chose to participate in a summer tuition-paid classes offered in June and July.

During the regular school year, 387 first, 483 second, and 458 third graders were eligible to participate in the Reading Sufficiency Act program.

Secondary Achievement (Grades 6-12)

National Merit Semifinalists were seniors Alexander Bell, Chloe Winden, Kyle Shaw, Lana Bible, Michael Daggett, and Christopher Hardebeck. Advancing to Finalist were Bell, Winden, Shaw, Daggett, and Hardebeck.

Commended Students were Taylor Alspaugh, Hannah Carr, Soojeong Kim, Nathan Nelson, Helen Synn, and Arden Zhan.

Representing the top 1 percent of their class, the 2010 valedictorians were Zachary Barton, Kelsey Beaird, Alexander Bell, Michael Daggett, David Ede, Allison Eldridge, Laura Kalb, Sarah Khan, Audrie Kraemer, Meredith Nelson, Alexandra Pond, and Chloe Winden. 2010 salutatorians, the top 2 percent, were Skylar Anderson, Morgan Bayouth, Joseph Elias, Rafael Lemus, Shelby Martin, Kaylie Mueller, Patrick Paul, Leann Riley, Caroline Smallwood, and Arden Zhan.

Seniors Scott Jones and Chloe Winden were named Mr. and Miss Union, the highest honor a Union student may receive in the district.

Seniors of the Year were Morgan Gamarra and Luke Snider.

PTA Council Scholarship recipients were Kaycie Brown, Cole Burke, DeAnn Davis, Kevin Davis, McKenzie Garcia, Amanda Haberman, Sarah Harrison, Scott Jones, Laura Kalb, Brian Mathis, Adrienne Palmer, Adam Payton, Teresa Ruedy,Tristan Stauder, and Garrett Stege.

Union's Junior Achievement company through the Union Collegiate Academy was one of twenty finalists for the North American JA Company of the Year Competition in July and was the top winner from the USA. The 12-person company, E.A.B. (Future Associates of Business), produced and sold 1,405 hair bows. Their net profit was $1551.13, and $1,241 of that was donated to the Autism Center of Tulsa. Each stockholder received 20 percent of the net profit.

Selected to the 2010 All-OMEA Orchestra were Brynne Kurtz, sophomore violinist; Ian Jett, junior violinist; Joshua Maddux, junior violinist; and Arden Zhan, senior violinist.

The High School's top business students participated in the Business Professionals of America 2010 National Leadership Conference, “Shoot for Success,” in Anaheim, California. Paige Reiter, Kayla Statham, Andrew Dockery, Kevin Yang, and Alex Sweet joined more than 3,000 other conference delegates to participate in skills competitions, workshops, general sessions, and the national officer candidate campaigns and elections.

Three 2010 seniors - McKenzie Garcia, Cole Burke, and Cory Hill - received 500 scholarships from the Johnson O’Malley Office out of 16 awarded in the state. Carmel Blumenberg and David Tanner received the Tulsa Indian Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Senior award.

Union's Air Force JROTC was selected as one of 90 units to receive the 2009-2010 Air Force Junior ROTC Distinguished Unit Award. The award recognizes Air Force Junior ROTC units that have performed above and beyond normal expectations, and that have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their school and community while meeting the Air Force Junior ROTC mission of producing better citizens for America.

For its exemplary record of leadership, service, and activities that serve to improve the school and community, Union High School was awarded a 2010 National Gold Council of Excellence Award by the National Association of Student Councils. Close to 140 high schools were named National Councils of Excellence, but Union was one of only 118 nationwide to receive the highly esteemed honor of being named a National Gold Council of Excellence.

Alternative students scored among the highest on End of Instruction (EOI) tests of any of the 250 alternative schools in Oklahoma for the past three years. The Alternative School has been designated as an exemplary program for each of the last 12 years, which means that other alternative programs look to Union for leadership and inspiration.
Secondary Achievement (Cont.)

Juniors Carlos Lopez, Leah Gray, Sarah Daggett, and Kayla Statham were four of the five winners of the Arts and Humanities Council essay contest. Each received a $1,000 check and attended an awards dinner with Mayor Bartlett and local arts notables.

For the second year in a row, a Union student placed first in the Sutton Award Art Show and Competition. Senior Jongwon Lim’s piece, “Under One Sky,” was one of three tied for first place. He received a cash award of $1,750.

The Road to Bataan, a documentary about the annual Bataan Memorial March at White Sands New Mexico each spring, ran the board at the Script to Screen Film Festival. The film, featuring Union Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (AFJROTC) cadets, took honors for best feature-length documentary, viewer’s choice for best poster, and the festival’s top award as best in show.

Junior Hillary Holt and senior Brittany Brown were chosen as members of the 2009-2010 State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council.

Audiences were enthralled with Union’s production of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. All the little girls wanted to be Beauty, played by Kelsey Griswold, while the Beast, played by Scott Jones, transfixed everyone. Alex Enterline entertained as pompous Gaston, and the entire cast wowed with intricate dance numbers, singing, and even high-wire acts that helped characters fly through the air. This year’s sold-out production celebrated 35 consecutive years of outstanding musicals at Union.

The Renegade Regiment earned First Place in both preliminary and final rounds at the Broken Arrow Invitational Marching Competition. Competing against more than 20 high school bands from the Tulsa area and the region (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri), they also earned honors as the Class AAAAA Champion, Outstanding Visual Performance in Preliminaries, Outstanding Visual Performance in Finals, and Outstanding General Effect in Finals.

The Marching Percussion Ensemble competed at the Cross Timbers Marching Percussion Invitational Contest at East Central University in Ada. World-renowned adjudicators evaluated the students’ performance and awarded them First Place in their class, as well as awards for Outstanding Snare Drum Section, Outstanding Tenor Drum Section, and Outstanding Front Ensemble.

The Regiment competed against more than 45 bands from around the country at the Bands of America Super Regional Marching Band Contest in St. Louis. They earned a third-place finish in class, and fourth place in both preliminary and final rounds of the competition. It was the strongest competitive showing for the Union Band at a BOA Regional Event since 2002.

The marching band participated in the annual Citrus Bowl Parade in Orlando, Florida. The parade capped a successful competitive season for the marching band and its program, entitled The Ritual. Union placed second at the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association 6A Marching Championships with a performance score of 90.40, one of the highest scores it has received this decade.

The Varsity Winter Guard won sixth place at the WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio, - the highest placement for the Union guard since 2001. Out of 120 competing units from around the nation, they advanced through all rounds, making it into the finals, where only the top 15 units advance. Union, the only Oklahoma unit to compete, finished sixth in the country with a score of 93.4.

Sophomore Ty Pfeiffer was the winner of one of two outstanding Princeton Awards given for sophomores in the Tulsa County area. Nominations were based on class standing, involvement in school or community activities, strength of character and leadership qualities, creativity and imagination.

Sophomore Evan Forbes took second place in Financial Math and Analysis at the annual BPA Spring Leadership Conference and was awarded a $4,000 scholarship to Oklahoma City University.

Eighth grader Rachel McAllister won first place in the annual Desk and Derrick Club of Tulsa essay contest. The 8th Grade Center had 16 finalists out of 554 essays judged. The contest encourages students to develop reading and researching skills while learning about important energy-related topics.

Union’s 8th graders were big winners in the National Sertoma Essay Contest sponsored by the Southside Sertoma Club. First place winner of $100 was Chloe Zoellner, second place of $75 went to Shane Jones, and third place of $50 to Madeline Turner.
Secondary Achievement (Cont.)

Honorable Mention awards of $25 were earned by Anna Beffer, Bradley Gleason, Megan Lee, and Lauryn Tumpkin. Over 150 area students wrote explaining why integrity is important in our democracy.

The 7th Grade Competition Choir earned a Superior rating and received an Outstanding Achievement trophy, a judge’s Choice trophy, and the Sweepstakes trophy at the Heartland Music Fest.

Seventh grader Sean Shepherd won first place at the Novice Nationals wrestling tournament.

Elementary Achievement

Andersen third grader Faith Wilson won the Broken Arrow Fire Department’s Fire Prevention Poster Contest and got to ride to school in a fire truck.

Boevers fourth grader Michiah McQuarters participated in a national karate tournament in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Michiah took first place in the 8-9 year old division and was ranked #1 in the nation for the NASAA Association.

Boevers third grader Sarah Gagnon-Allen won a poster contest from the Realtors Association along with $100 dollars and $50 for a class party.

Boevers pre-K student Jayden Alexander won third place for his division at the Novice Nationals wrestling tournament.

Boevers fourth grader Jacy Hubartt’s dance group won first place in the FOX23 ‘So You Think You Can Dance’ contest on TV for their routine, “Little Shop of Horrors.”

Clark fourth grader Maximo Cuesta was one of the winners in the All About Kids Calendar contest. His picture about healthy teeth was featured in the calendar.

Darnaby fifth grader Stone Gesser won second place in his age group for the Oklahoma Trash Poster Contest. His artwork was judged as a part of 11,000 entries. He received a $150 cash prize, attended a banquet at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and was introduced in the House of Representatives in Oklahoma City.

Darnaby fourth grader Elizabeth Burks was a winner for the Tulsa Health Department Dental Healthy Smiles poster contest. Out of 244 top posters, Elizabeth’s received the October award, and her artwork was displayed in the Tulsa Health Department 2011 calendar.

Four Rosa Parks students, who were active in the Global Gardens projects, were featured in a national cookbook inspired by First Lady Michelle Obama. The book is called “A White House Garden Cookbook: Healthy Ideas from the First Family for Your Family.” Students Emma Rehn and Caitlynn Kirsh were featured in a segment about their “Fresh Clean-Feeling Minted Fruit Salad” with tips on eating herbs and accenting salads. Rehn and Kirsh used mint grown from their own garden at the school for their salad. David Pineda and Reece Campos and their Chili Corn recipe were also featured.

Rosa Parks students were winners in the Shapedown “Move More, Eat Better!” poster contest sponsored by St. Francis Hospital. Fourth graders Guillermo Aguinaga won $100 in gift certificates and Sela Krafzig received honorable mention. In ODOT’s “Turn Around Don’t Drown” poster contest, fifth graders Madison Clark won $100 and Bricey-da Zamora was honorable mention. Their artwork was featured in calendars published by each group.

Three Union students won Awards of Excellence in the annual Oklahoma PTA Reflections contest. Aaron Parrott (Moore) won an Award of Excellence in Literature in the Intermediate Division; Allison Leger (Andersen) won an Award of Excellence in Dance in the Primary Division; and Erin May (Jarman) won an Award of Excellence in Music Composition in the Intermediate Division.

Union Intermediate and High School Athletic Achievement

Union won the 6A state baseball championship against Owasso 10-9 in an instant classic witnessed by the largest crowd (6,954) ever to see a 6A baseball title contest. The Redskins bashed their way to the sixth state baseball crown in school history, their third in six years.

The much-anticipated Class 6A championship football game turned into a Redskins rout with a 52-19 win over Jenks for back-to-back titles. An estimated 12,000 fans braved cold conditions and watched Union claim its sixth state championship in school history. This was the 14th consecutive season that either Jenks or Union captured the Class 6A gold ball, and it was the largest blowout in the seven title showdows between the teams.

Union won its fifth girls’ state track championship since 2003 — and first since 2007 — by racing to a 44 1/2-point margin of victory over runner-up Edmond.
**Union Intermediate and High School Athletic Achievement (Cont.)**

North. Sarah Daggett swept the 1,600 and 3,200. Janae Johnson won the 200 and ran on gold-medal-winning 400 and 800 relay teams. Erin Patterson won the 400 and joined Johnson, Rainy Willis, and Kennedy Austin for gold on the 800 relay.

The Girls’ Slow Pitch Softball team topped power Westmoore for the 6A state title. They were also named the 2010 Class 6A Academic State Champions by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association (OS-SSA).

Girls’ volleyball won second at state following a “match for the ages.” Fans lauded team members for their character and perseverance. 2009 selections for the Frontier Valley Conference included Player of the Year Laura Taylor and Coach of the Year Chad McKee.

Union wrestlers placed second at state competition, and senior Ronnie Balfour was State Champ.

Senior Omar Mata was named the 2009-2010 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys’ Soccer Player of the Year.

Bobby Lind was named Oklahoma Coaches Association Region 7 Male Scholar Athlete of the Year, and Luke Snider was Male Athlete of the Year.

Junior swimmer Megan Myers repeated as 6A champion in the 500 freestyle and won the 200 individual medley; she was named Player of the Week by the “Tulsa World.” Sophomore Eastman Holloway won the 200 and 500 freestyle, and sophomore Erika McGovern won the girls 100 breaststroke.

Senior Jacob Rice was among the state high school baseball players who received Ferguson Jenkins Awards at the Warren Spahn Award Gala at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Coaches Association selected winners based on athletic and scholastic achievement.

Union High School was named to SI.com’s list of the top athletic programs in the country for the results of its 2008-09 athletic year. The Redskins were 10th on the list, which was topped by Honolulu’s Punahou School.

The August 20 edition of USA TODAY listed Union in its Super 25 national high school pre-season football rankings. Oklahoma’s reigning 6-A state football champions were ranked #18 in USA Today’s first poll.

The Redskins captured their third straight overall crown in the Coaches Aid School of the Year competition. Union capped a highly-successful spring, including state titles in baseball, slow pitch softball and girls’ track to crown the town. In addition to these, Union cashed in a runner-up effort in girls’ soccer, third place finishes in girls’ golf and boys’ track, a fourth in boys’ tennis, and a boys’ soccer semifinal showing for solid point totals to outdistance the pack.

Union cheer competed in the Oklahoma Cheer Coaches Competition for a four-division sweep. Varsity, a combined 9th grade and JV squad, and both 8th grade squads each won their division championships. The varsity squad performed their Nationals routine for the first time in a competition, earned the highest score of the competition, and were named Grand Champion.

The Varsity Cheerleaders won the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) National Championship at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, in February beating 16 other teams in the Super Varsity division. UCA is one of the largest high school cheerleading championships in the United States.

At the Oklahoma State Dance Team Directors Association (OSDTDA) State Dance Team Championship, the Varsity Hightoppers were state runners up in Kick and fifth in Jazz, and the 8th Grade Hightoppers were state champs in Kick and third in Jazz.

The Hightoppers competed in the Alamo Classic Competition in San Antonio bringing home 11 trophies to add to the trophy case. Junior Caroline Andrews was fourth runner up with her solo routine; Captain Caroline Andrews, Co-Captain Jessica Neeley, and Lieutenant Morgan Black received a Sweepstakes Trophy for their Officers’ routine along with a Gussie Nell Davis Award of Excellence, Judges Award for Modern Routine, and Best Overall Precision Award. Large Ensemble Caroline Andrews, Morgan Black, Elizabeth Devore, Loren Donnell, Ashlee Heiliger, Taylor Henger, Carolyn Hendricks, Kennedi Jarvi, Devan Kelley, Jessica Neeley, Kailey Rose, and Ali Smith won Best in Class (first place). The Team received a Sweepstakes Trophy, Gussie Nell Davis Award of Excellence, three Judges Award for Kick, Jazz and Modern Routines; Best Overall Choreography Award, Best Overall Presentation Award, and Second Runner Up Best in Class – considered the top winners of the contest.

Varsity Hightoppers Molly Fields and Loren Donnell and Varsity Pom member Tristin Staud-
Union Intermediate and High School Athletic Achievement (Cont.)

er tried out for the OSDTDA All-State Dance squad. Molly and Loren made the All-East Regional team and received a medal. Tristin made the All-East Regional team and All-State Dance Squad. She received a medal and danced with the All-State squad at the OSDTDA State Competition. Over 75 girls tried out for All-State and only 20 made the squad.

The JV Pom Squad won first place in the Junior Varsity Pom and Hip-Hop Divisions at the Spirit of America Regional competition.

Union Varsity Pom took state for the sixth year in a row. They were also third runner-up for their Hip Hop routine. JV Pom was first runner-up in both Pom and Hip Hop routines. The 9th grade squad won first place (state champs) in both Hip Hop and Pom and was also named academic state champs. Eighth grade Pom received third runner up in Pom and second runner up in Hip Hop.

JV Pom and 9th grade Pom took first place at the OK Pom and Dance Championship. Eighth grade Pom also competed and earned a fourth place finish.

Teaching & Learning

The district began Charting a Course for the Future with long-range plans to turn the current Intermediate High School building into a 9th Grade Center; move 10th graders to Union High School; build a senior wing at the High School to serve more Union Collegiate Academy students; and open another elementary school.

One hundred eighty, or 18.6 percent, of Union's 967 seniors also attended classes at TCC or TTC. One hundred students signed up for Service Learning, a once a week “class” students spent at a business shadowing a professional to learn about that profession. Approximately 140 enrolled in the new Union Collegiate Academy, an on-campus daily opportunity for high-performing students to learn how to succeed in college and in various academic disciplines from OU-Tulsa, OSU-Tulsa, NSU-Broken Arrow, Tulsa Community College, and Tulsa Technology Center instructors.

Ten British educators visited the Alternative School and other Union programs to gather innovative ideas to improve their schools. The Specialist Schools and Academies’ Trust in London became interested in Union’s Alternative School after they won the National Dropout Prevention’s Crystal Star Award in 2004, and this was the third group of teachers that has studied the success Union’s program has achieved with at-risk students. They also toured the Rosa Parks Early Childhood Center as well as Clark to see the community school approach incorporated there. The British elementary teachers examined the multiage approach at Moore while secondary teachers observed practitioners in their individual teaching fields at the High School.

Selected as the recipient of the 2010 Brock International Prize in Education, Geoffrey Canada came to town - and Union Public Schools - to share his ideas and philosophies at an education symposium hosted by Oklahoma State University-Tulsa. Canada toured Kendall-Whittier Elementary in Tulsa and Rosa Parks Elementary in the Union district. Both are “community schools,” meaning they offer a web of support for children and their families, including health care, social services, after-school enrichment and adult education, through community partnerships. Geoffrey Canada - founder of the Harlem Children’s Zone - visited Rosa Parks Early Childhood Center and Rosa Parks Elementary during a tour to learn about Union’s community school efforts, including the Global Gardens campaign, early childhood education, and more.

In conjunction with the visit by Geoffrey Canada, educators participating in the OSU Brock Symposium toured Clark Elementary to learn about its community schools program. Principal Theresa Kiger and Assistant Principal Wendy Johnson took educators on a tour of the school, explaining how classes are handled differently in a community schools setting and how families and local businesses and organizations play a part in molding children. Clark has a number of after-school programs and has an on-site clinic that provides health services to not just students but their families as well.

Union hosted the Union-Jenks Summer Institute on the Teaching of Writing. Facilitators from Columbia University’s Teachers College led the institute for teachers in grades kindergarten through six emphasizing techniques to help teachers improve their students’ writing skills. Participants are part of a year-long collaboration between Union and Jenks, meeting monthly to share and reflect on teaching practices.

“Moving Up” – 6th Grade Orientation – was held in July at the 6th/7th Grade Center. Students enjoyed a fun-filled day designed to help them overcome the normal anxieties of going into middle school. They experienced Locker 101, Cafeteria Drill Squad, Class Changing, a building tour, and met the principals, counselors, and many teachers.
**Teaching & Learning (Cont.)**

About 20 Oklahoma Middle Level Education Association (OMLEA) visitors toured the 6th/7th Grade Center to learn how Union has implemented innovative ideas such as creating smaller learning communities and providing in-school tutoring programs.

The Andersen library was open during June for students to check out books and return them by the last day of June. The Jarman media center was also open to Jarman students on three Thursdays in June.

Boevers students received summer book bags in June - backpacks filled with books on the child’s reading level. Students were invited to return the books to the school media center and exchange them for new books when they were finished.

President/CEO of YMCA of USA Neil J. Nicoll toured Clark to learn about its after-school programs. After-school programs included fun in the gym with organized games, computer activities, and hands-on activities in the science lab.

Clark’s before- and after-school programs included a piano lab and guitar classes. Students in the piano lab used a program called Piano Wizard, which uses a special keyboard hooked up to a laptop computer, enabling students to see the notes they were playing. Every student in guitar classes had a guitar to practice their songs. Funding was provided by entertainer Roy Clark, the Mayor’s Mentoring Initiative, the Assistance League, and district bond money.

**Community Contributions**

A partnership with Shortline Dental helped provide dental health care to hundreds of Union students whose families could not otherwise afford it. Shortline donated $12,000 in services between August and December for all uninsured Union students.

American Fidelity Corp. and the Tulsa Talons presented Union with a $900 donation from the Touchdowns for Teachers program. The organization pledged $100 per touchdown during a Talons football game.

The Partnership for the Availability of School Supplies (PASS) program distributed free school supplies to more than 24,000 Union and Tulsa students. Each set of supplies included crayons, glue, markers, pencils, paper, scissors and other items critical for learning.

Through a partnership with the YMCA of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa City-County Health Department, St. Francis Hospital, and OU Bedlam Clinic, the Union 6th Grade Center offered an after-school program called GO Crew for 50 6th graders. GO Crew offered activities encouraging students to be fit and healthy for life. In addition to games and activities centered on physical fitness, teamwork, nutrition, and tutoring were integrated into the program.

Country singer Roy Clark helped kick off a district-wide band instrument drive at his namesake school – Clark Elementary – by donating a favorite band instrument of his own. Union asked the public to donate extra band or orchestra instruments to the district to ensure that all interested students could participate in band or orchestra.

The Darnaby Media Center was awarded the We the People Bookshelf Collection from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). Oklahoma Congressman John Sullivan presented the collection to Darnaby - one of 4,000 libraries nationwide selected to receive free hardcover editions of 17 classic books as part of the grant program.

McAulliffe Elementary joined forces with State Farm to develop the after-school “Leader in Me” program to teach students the skills necessary to solve real-world problems and inspire the students to become the leaders of tomorrow. The twice-a-week program was developed using Stephen and Sean Covey’s best selling book, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Kids! State Farm agent Matt McCoy and his associates provided the funding and mentors necessary for the success of this program. Panda Express donated dinner for the families after the ‘graduation’ ceremony.

More than 600 Union students participated in the Safe Kids Walk This Way program at Rosa Parks Elementary as part of International Walk to School Day. The event was sponsored by Union, Safe Kids Tulsa Area, FedEx, and the Tulsa Police Department. In addition, Safe Kids conducted “walkability” checks, speed enforcement campaigns, and other activities to teach important walking safety tips.

During QuikTrip’s Day of Caring at Rosa Parks, 85 volunteers helped out in a variety of ways making flash cards and tearing out homework pages, making games, organizing cabinets, and much more. A handful of volunteers spent center time working with Pre-K students. Global Gardens also benefited - a new fence was built, the roof was repaired on the tool shed, flower beds were cleaned out, and new frames were built so students could plant new plots.

Global Gardens was selected by the National Green Foundation to be part of a national Public Service
Community Contributions (Cont.)

Announcement sponsored by Central Garden and Pet and the Green Education Foundation to promote Green Thumb Challenge 2010. The commercial, featuring HGTV’s Paul James, was filmed at Rosa Parks.

Representatives from the Sonic Corporation visited the High School and Grove to kick off their Limeades for Learning program. Sonic teamed up with the Schusterman Family Foundation to award a $548 gift to High School teacher Cindy Johnson for her “It’s Time for Trig” game program. Grove teachers awarded Limeades for Learning grants included Melissa Fletcher, $565; Becky Hines, $435; Tiffany Bolding, $540; Amanda Steuernagel, $253; Deanna Ogez, $188; and Tammy Hallum, $354.


Intermediate High teacher Bill Polson received a DonorsChoose Grant. He received two sets of paperback books for his classes.

Sixth/seventh grade teachers Kara Brunk, Kris Cunnane, and Janie Evans traveled to Costa Rica to assist Ecology Project International in authentic research of sea turtle conservation. They were featured in an article in the Fund for Teachers newsletter.

Andersen reading specialist Connie Miller attended Rangefinding and Benchmarking activities at the Pearson Headquarters located in Iowa City, Iowa.

Briarglen music teacher Sam Loney was awarded $1,000 from the Assistance League of Tulsa/Betty Bradstreet Assistance Fund to purchase equipment for the Briarglen Beat drum corps.

Briarglen teachers Kristyne Salley and Leah Wiley earned a grant to attend the Teacher Institute in Early American History at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.

Briarglen teachers Ande Arbuckle, Julie Bargas, Danielle Chapman, Kerri Gunter, Lisa Kelly, Kimberly McCoy, Donna Pippin, Sarah Price, Carrie Reese, Kristyne Salley, Carrie Soward, and Kym Tinsley received DonorsChoose grants.

Briarglen’s Katy Rader, Carrie Reese, and Kristyne Salley received a funding grant to attend Teacher’s College at Columbia University in New York City for Writer’s Workshop.

Clark teachers Karen Graves, Pam McBride, and Angie Draper were awarded a Fund for Teachers Grant for a two-week trip to The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University in New York City.

Clark Language Arts Specialist Angie Draper spent her spring break in a study abroad program in Belize through OSU. Her group spent time in classrooms collaborating with local teachers and modeling different strategies like read alouds, writer’s workshop, and techniques for reading comprehension.

Clark and Jarman received grants from the Higher Education Cultural Roundtable. Clark Elementary received funds to purchase violins for their students. Jarman Enrichment Specialist Jill Fitts received funding to purchase materials for enrichment lessons for next year to promote literacy and other related activities.

Grove fifth grade teacher Tiffany Bolding completed an intense, seven-day immersion into early American history at the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute.

Bolding also received a grant for more than $2,000 from Cox Connects Foundations. The grant allowed her to bring the “Zooming in on Science” program to Grove giving students the chance to utilize student microscopes and educational pre-made slides.

Jarman principal Patti Pitcock wrote and received a music department grant for $500 from the Assistance League of Tulsa/Betty Bradstreet Fund to buy glockenspiels for music classes.

Jarman teacher Jeanine Cory received a grant through DonorsChoose.org/Sonic. She received writing materials worth nearly $500 to implement in her curriculum.

Jarman teacher Eloise Maupin won a DonorsChoose Grant called Forming Fabulous Fluent Readers. Word cards, vocabulary cards, reading scripts, and comprehension activities worth over $350 were included in the project.

Jarman teacher Sonya Neece’s grant proposal “Mad About Map Skills” was fully funded by donorschoose.org. The project allowed Neece’s students to use clay, globes, and whiteboards to learn geography skills with variety and excitement.

McAuliffe teachers Carol Conrad and Ashley Cunningham were awarded a grant through Fund for Teachers to travel to New York City over the summer for reading and writing institutes at Columbia University.
Community Contributions (Cont.)

Rosa Parks media specialist Gina Ward attended a conference on library services in New York City. The American Library Association, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities and THIRTEEN/NET helped support travel and offered complimentary accommodations in New York City to seventy librarians from across the country for this unique and important opportunity.

Employee Statistics

During 2009-2010, Union employed 72 administrators – 56 certified and 17 non-certified and 1,002 certified teachers. Support staff members accounted for another 818 positions, 637 full time and 181 part time. The ethnic diversity among the staff was African-American 4.9 percent; American Indian 5.2 percent, Asian 1.9 percent, Hispanic 7.5 percent, Caucasian and other 80.5 percent. Three hundred eighty-seven were male and 1,506 female.

At the end of 2009-2010, Union had 80 Nationally Board Certified teachers at 16 schools, and 37.3 percent of district teaching and administrative staff held graduate-level degrees – 377 had master’s degrees and 20 had doctorates.

Union’s Employee Clinic provided free flu shots and no- or low-cost wellness screenings for all qualifying employees at a number of Union sites in November.

Professional Development

In August, Professional Development was excited to see the new faces during New Teacher Induction. Approximately 100 teachers attended a four-day training on several different topics, such as literacy strategies for secondary teachers, Everyday Mathematics, Science Kit training, classroom management, Balanced Literacy, and technology.

All secondary teachers completed literacy strategies training early in the year. These strategies and their supporting activities asked students to connect to prior knowledge and make meaning out of the new knowledge they acquired. Literacy training for Pre-K through 12th grade teachers is part of new teacher training every year because every teacher is a reading teacher.

Over 500 elementary and secondary teachers participated in the Pyramid Response to Intervention (PRTI) training throughout the year. The PRTI training offered examples of a systematic response to the learning challenges students face as teachers ask themselves. “What do we do when students are not learning?”

The 6th/7th and 8th Grade Centers conducted a trial in embedded collaboration during 2009-2010, and elementary sites also embedded collaboration into the school day. This type of visionary leadership on the part of teachers and building principals allowed the district to see the value of adding collaboration to the school day.

Teachers participated in an ELL Teaching Strategies seminar which offered ways to improve students' listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking skills. These activities asked students to engage in all five of these areas using the English language.

Early childhood focused on guiding young children through their developmental stages. Pre-kindergarten teachers worked all year on strategies that would guide their developmentally appropriate practices in the classroom and put those approaches into action.

During three districtwide Professional Development days, we offered teachers over 100 different types of training opportunities to match their professional needs. Physical education teachers received certification in CPR from the American Red Cross, and elementary music teachers worked with a representative from Pearson to review their textbook materials. We offered many technology training opportunities as well, such as SMART Board and Excel training. Teachers also revised curriculum maps, developed essential skills, reviewed data from quarterly criterion-referenced tests and created common assessments on district Professional Development days.

Employee Achievement

Boevers kindergarten teacher Jennifer Chalker was named the 2009-2010 Union Teacher of the Year. The Site Teachers of the Year included Tyler Randall (Andersen), Kimberly Tinsley (Briarglen), Debra Lybarger (Cedar Ridge), Karen Graves (Clark), Susan Gray (Darnaby), Tiffany Bolding (Grove), Kristin Henness (Jarman), Connie Knight (Jefferson), Vickie Winden (McAuliffe), Annette Arrington (Moore), Bethany Harper (Peters), Amy Smith (Rosa Parks), Ben Wolfe (6th Grade), Scott Pennington (7th Grade), Bradley Hepner (8th Grade), Natalie Hutto (Alternative), Chris Ducker (Intermediate High), and Steve Moran (High School).

Landscaping supervisor Terry Reeves was named the 2010 Support Employee of the Year for his dedication to keeping the school system grounds and its athletic fields in top shape. Reeves was recognized for his talent to landscape and beautify the baseball and softball fields. Reeves also oversees the landscaping at the Education Service Center;
Employee Achievement (Cont.)

Peters Elementary, Operations, and occasionally Rosa Parks.

The other Employees of the Month represented everyone from Operations to Teaching and Learning. They included 6th/7th grade English Language Learner paraprofessional Julia Burns; Intermediate High School custodian Roy Morris; warehouseman/bus driver Charles Newkirk; Peters special services aide Kathy Plunkett; McAuliffe receptionist Stacy Liedel; Rosa Parks Early Childhood Center building engineer Mary Najera; 6th/7th grade registrar Kay Howard; Rosa Parks building engineer Jane Morrison; senior administrative assistant Jo Ann Bodenstab; 6th/7th grade computer technician Chris Sharpe; McAuliffe child nutrition manager Jeanna Edwards; 6th/7th grade paraprofessional Tammy Deisenroth; former accounting supervisor Celia Armstrong; Operations director’s secretary Carol Wyzard; 8th grade teacher’s aide Kevin Marcum; HVAC maintenance technician Steve Stilly; Darnaby Pre-K aide Ellie Nelligan; Andersen secretary Martha Mosier; Clark child nutrition assistant manager Marla Royer; Peters receptionist Mary Jo Meziere; Andersen lead custodian Hilda Hercules; and Cedar Ridge building engineer Margaret Wagoner.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to Union by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Union also earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International for the 17th consecutive year. The award is the highest recognition for a school district offered by ASBO, recognizing significant achievement in school system financial reporting.

Since launching the Green Up Campaign last year, Union students and staff have gone green with a vengeance. Everything from turning off lights to mindfully controlling thermostats helped lower energy costs. Completing the change-over to T-8 lighting at all sites was expected to cut electricity costs by about 25 percent. Another initiative was a comprehensive facilities use assessment for Boevers and Briarglen. The Honeywell Company reviewed the mechanical systems, air quality, energy efficiency, infrastructure improvements, and operational efficiency of the two schools in preparation for remodeling.

Support Services incorporated Green Up information gathered during an invitation-only Facilities Summit in Austin, Texas, which focused on greener products and creating healthier learning environments.

Administrative Assistant for Elementary Education Lou Ann Goleman received a Distinguished Service Award from the Cooperative Association for Oklahoma School Administration.

Union’s culinary whiz, treasury clerk Bernie Tharps, entered a number of dishes at the Tulsa State Fair and won first place on Pumpkin Pie and Cherry Jalapeno Preserves and third on Snickerdoodle Cookies and Coffee Cake. She also appeared on Channel 8’s Good Day Tulsa to talk about her winning Tulsa State Fair Hidden Valley recipe.

Tharps entered the National Soul Food Cook-Off in Oklahoma City and took first place on Pork Roast, first with Buttermilk Cornbread, second with Collard Greens, second with Carrot Cake, and second with BBQ sauce. Tharps also won honors in the National Soul Food Cook-off in Muskogee with first place on her Smoked Pork Roast, first on BBQ sauce, and third on Buttermilk Cornbread.

High School teacher Elizabeth Sonnenfeld won honorable mention for her presentation at the University of Tulsa on Evidence of Student Learning from the Gear Up math class that she taught at TU last summer. Only 14 awards out of 106 applicants were recognized.

Union Alternative teachers Harriet Chenault and Melissa Wyatt were the featured entertainers for the grand re-opening of Heller Theatre at Henthorne Park. Singer Chenault and pianist Wyatt provided an evening of music as the audience got a preview of the upcoming theater season.

Eighth grade math teacher Patti Evans was featured in the 2010 American Red Cross calendar. Evans teaches children to swim through the North Tulsa Learn to Swim Program, sponsored by the Hill Foundation. Last year, 1,489 individuals learned water safety skills and swimming.

Eighth grade paraprofessional Danielle Martin was named the Arthritis Hero of the 2010 Arthritis Walk.

Boevers teacher Joel Pepin was a contestant on HGTV’s Endless Yard Sale during the summer. Joel and his team traveled in Kentucky and Tennessee to haggle for the best bargains at yard sales in those areas.

Boevers principal Sherri Fair was named an Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals (OAESP) District Administrator of the Year. She was
Employee Achievement (Cont.)

one of 11 elementary principals recognized as an administrator of the year.

Three Jarman teachers were selected for the Master Teacher Project with the State Department of Education. Jessica Smith and Kristin Henness served a second year with the project, and Kylie Walker served her first year. They led book studies and professional discussions about improving student achievement and refining the practice of teaching.

Chadd McKee (volleyball), Jim Stacy (girls’ basketball), David Lynn (swimming), and Steve Randall (softball) were selected OCA Region 7 Coaches of the Year for 2009-2010.

To help safeguard the health of football players, Union certified athletic trainer Dan Newman and Dr. Keith Stanley of Tulsa Bone & Joint Assoc. implemented ImpACT Concussion Management software to monitor signs of concussions. The state-of-the-art tool is used by the National Football League, other national sports, colleges and high schools across the country, but Union is only one of a few high schools in the area with access to it.

Union won the United Way Sun Leadership Award - the first time a non-profit organization has won this honor - for running consistently excellent campaigns. The other nominees were Arvest Bank, Bank of Oklahoma, N.A., and QuikTrip. Previous winners include Bank of Oklahoma, Williams Company, American Airlines, QuikTrip and ONEOK.

Despite a troubling economy, Union once again met its goal for the United Way, raising $177,353 - up from $167,366 the previous year. Union was also the top contributor in the education division. Union had 92 Key Club Donors, employees who donate $500 or more.

Parent Support

The Union Schools Education Foundation raised almost $86,000 during its annual auction and dinner – the second highest on record – with net earnings exceeding $66,000. The theme was “Putting on the Glitz,” and the auction did just that, said Foundation President Patrick Coyle, as auction chairwoman DeAnn Magness and her team auctioned off many great items including a trip to Atlantis in the Bahamas and gift baskets made by the schools. The Foundation also raised more than $5,000 for its “Fill the Need” cause to benefit the I Care Holiday Project.

In the February bond election, Union voters overwhelmingly passed two bond issues totaling $22 million. Proposition I, for construction, equipment and other upgrades, received 78.9 percent of the vote. Proposition II, for transportation upgrades, won 80 percent approval.

Community Service

The baseball team collected baseball gloves to donate to troops overseas. Several new baseballs were sent to the troops as well.

Jarman collected blankets for the Share the Warmth campaign to be donated to homeless shelters and those in need of a warm blanket during the winter months. Jarman students also donated outgrown coats for those who do not have coats during the blustery days.

Union students were asked to take up Rachel’s Challenge – a pledge to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion – as part of a nationwide campaign in memory of Rachel Scott, the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. The Intermediate High hosted two assemblies where students learned about Rachel and her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries that have become the foundation for the program.

Briarglen kicked off monthly Neighborhood Kitchen Dinners as the school expanded its community outreach program with activities designed for parents. Starting in September and running through April, two grades each month hosted a family math and/or reading activity in their classrooms to coincide with dinner.

The FOCUS group at the Intermediate High gathered cases of water for Haiti.

Varsity Pom partnered with Tulsa Teachers Credit Union to donate 74 new Union spirit shirts in both children’s and adult sizes to the Klothes Kloset.

In October, Jarman received a check for recycling commissions in the amount of $90.03 earmarked for classroom items, field trips, and other staff functions. During October, Jarman staff/students, neighbors, and parents contributed 10,106 pounds of recycling, which saved 15.76 cubic yards of landfill space.

Varsity baseball players and coaches continued their tradition of community service by volunteering time and service at the John 3:16 Mission. The players did everything from wiping down and setting the tables to bringing trays of food to each place, as well as filling cups of ice and pouring iced tea. They also stayed to clean up, including sweeping and mopping the floor and rinsing dishes.
Members of the Redskins football team helped build a home for Habitat for Humanity over the summer. The athletes were praised for their exemplary manners and attitudes while Habitat for Humanity organizers commended the coaches for building the character of the players.

As part of the Redskin Aid/Teammates community service program organized by 6th/7th grade teacher and coach Josh Blankenship, football players visited residents at local nursing homes and mentored students at the district’s elementary schools. They also joined Leadership students to help with the annual Senior Citizen Prom at Woodland Terrace Senior Living Center and provided tutoring assistance at the 6th/7th Grade Center.

“I Care” has been giving back to the community since 1996 and organizers hoped to help more than 938 families—including 1,906 children during the holiday season. The project is made possible by Student Assistance Coordinator Danny Williams and his cadre of volunteers and students in the Drug-Free Youth program, as well as the many people and businesses who donate time and money. The effort is part of the district’s Character Counts! program which teaches students the importance of such traits as caring, responsibility, and citizenship.

Moore raised $5,100 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation to help build a Star Wars clubhouse for five-year-old Christian Bentley of Claremore who is battling leukemia.

Several Union employees volunteered to help rebuild a house near 11th and Harvard for the national television show “Extreme Makeover Home Edition.” Those helping included Michael Murray (Alternative), student John Fritz, and Dr. Karen Fritz, Tonya Wyatt, and Jan McKethan (8th Grade Center).

The High School Red Cross Club was awarded the American Red Cross School Club of the Year 2010 by the Tulsa Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. They participated in various efforts including partnering with Qdoba Mexican Grill to raise more than $500 for American Red Cross Haiti relief.

The Extended Day Program participated in a pilot program for Kenzie’s Cause at Jefferson, Jarman, and Peters. Sixth grader and former Jarman student Kenzie Chabinos and her mother, Heather, headed a quest to create one million 4 x 6 cards made by children to be included in Meals on Wheels meals delivered to families across America. EDP students at the three schools created 10,900 cards.

The 8th Grade Center’s Rotary Club volunteered at one of the two food banks in Oklahoma. Students labeled and boxed more than 1,500 cans of green beans; about 125 cases of food.

High School students hosted an Easter egg hunt for children at the Domestic Violence Intervention Services shelter. The shelter has a constant flow of women and children who need temporary living quarters as well as clothing, toiletries, toys, etc., and students collected items such as games, toys, blankets and diapers for Easter baskets.

Communications

In 2009-2010 the Oklahoma School Public Relations Association recognized the Union Communications staff with six Awards of Excellence for the following:

- Charting a Course for the Future campaign for district program expansion
- Union Football Coach’s Show
- Welcome to the Union Collegiate Academy, a video letter to UGA students
- The 2007-2008 District and Foundation Annual Report
- The Communicator, the district newsletter
- The district web site, www.unionps.org

The department established district Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube accounts and enabled web visitors to share Union news on a variety of social networking sites. A Spanish language page was created, and a link to Google provided users the opportunity to translate the entire Union site into virtually any language. Other web changes included the completion of a cell phone-friendly district web site, addition of a flu information page, and the refinement of Student Assistance Program and Community Schools pages.

Technology

During 2009-2010, the Information Technology department completed 12,600 work orders and many projects funded by the 2009 bond issue. The Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system rollout continued with upgrading all phones at the Intermediate High to the new system. New computer labs were
installed at the 6th/7th Grade Center, Eighth Grade Center, Intermediate High, and the High School. Computer labs were also upgraded at Boelters, Darnaby, Grove, McAuliffe, and Jarman.

In cooperation with the Operations Department, over 140 SMART Interactive white boards were installed at all sites. Over the summer, the hard drives on all student computers (3,100) were erased and re-imaged. The computers were then re-named and rejoined to the network. The IT department established wireless connectivity throughout the building in eight elementary schools. Various Wi-Fi Hotspots were also established at the High School and Intermediate High to enable students to have wireless Internet use.

During the summer, IT sponsored a public conference for Union and surrounding districts with nationally known educator and technology expert Alan November. The conference focused on integrating technology into the classroom to make learning more meaningful and also provided breakout sessions demonstrating how to use technology effectively.

**Technology (Cont.)**

**Economic Condition and Outlook**

Union Public Schools is located within the Tulsa Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), a seven county area whose population totals 924,571 or 25.2 percent of the population of the state of Oklahoma. The Tulsa Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce reports Tulsa’s major industries as aerospace, transportation and logistics; advanced manufacturing and services, health care; IT and telecommunications; petroleum and natural gas; architectural and structural metal manufacturing. The Chamber estimates the value of all goods and services produced in the Tulsa MSA as $34.4 billion, or 33 percent of the Oklahoma economy.

A November 2009 Forbes Magazine survey ranked both Tulsa and Oklahoma City high on their list of “America’s Fastest-Recovering Cities.” The survey ranked the Tulsa MSA at number 12 and Oklahoma City at number 13. Forbes used a ranking system with the following criteria: unemployment rate, gross metropolitan product, foreclosures, home prices, and sales rates. Other favorable rankings for Tulsa on Forbes lists of 200 metropolitan areas include:

- “America’s Most Livable Cities” – #5
- “Best Cities for Job Growth” – #2 in the midsize category
- “Lowest Unemployment” – #13 at 7 percent
- “Home Price” – #14
- “Change in Gross Metropolitan Product” – #41
- “Best Places for Business and Careers” – #47

Tulsa offers a low cost of doing business at seven percent under the U.S. average due to low rent, energy costs, and taxes. Tulsa’s diversified economy and the fact that it did not experience the same reduction in the housing market caused by the mortgage/housing crisis are contributing factors to Tulsa’s ability to weather the economic recession.

There is no denying that the Tulsa area hit an economic slump. The Oklahoma Office of the State Treasurer reported the worst revenue shortfall in state history. A $945 million decrease in general revenue fund collections exemplifies the effect of the downturn in Oklahoma. The largest impact was due to declines in net income tax, gross production, sales tax, and motor vehicle sources.

In an aggressive move to recruit highly-skilled professionals to Oklahoma, the Department of Commerce launched “Project Boomerang.” Project Boomerang is a broad-based workforce initiative designed to attract out-of-state professionals with Oklahoma ties back to the state to fill high-quality, knowledge-based jobs with individuals with advanced skills and a college education. This marketing program uses direct mail, social connections, web sites, and other media to connect professionals to Oklahoma employers.

Union Public Schools contributes to Tulsa’s workplace initiatives by offering community programs for both adults and children such as:

- Adult Basic Education – classes for adults who need basic instruction in reading, writing, math, and life skills.
- Workplace Education – links education goals to the employer’s desire for high performance work and product quality.
- GED Preparation – instruction to prepare adults to take the Tests of General Educational Development.
- English as a Second Language – instruction to non-English speaking adults to help them be productive citizens of our community.

The district continues to be a leader in healthcare initiatives. A joint effort between University of Oklahoma School-Based Bedlam Clinic and Union Public Schools produces cutting-edge services for the Union community. The Union Public Schools Bedlam
**Economic Condition and Outlook (Cont.)**

Schools-Based Health Clinic operates at both Roy Clark Elementary School, and Rosa Parks Elementary School. These clinics provide a convenient way for students to receive a wide range of health care services. They operate at no cost to the school district.

The primary goal of the clinics is to serve the families of all children in each of the schools, including those who qualify for Medicaid or have no health insurance. The school clinics provide at least one full-time physician's assistant or a resident physician. In addition, a pediatrician visits each school clinic as part of a rotating schedule. The physicians work with and assist school nurses.

In addition to student healthcare, Union partners with the University of Oklahoma Physicians-Tulsa to provide low cost medical services for its employees through an employee clinic. This unique partnership provides access to quality healthcare while controlling escalating healthcare costs. The clinic is staffed by a fully-licensed OU physician, a physician assistant, and a licensed practical nurse. Even some pharmacy services are available.

**Enrollment**

Union has experienced significant growth in student enrollment during the past decade. During the 2001-2002 school year, the district recorded total enrollment of 13,315. In 2009-2010, enrollment reached 15,015. The administration projects enrollment will decline slightly in the 2010-2011 school year to approximately 14,930 students. The district continues to provide a four-year-old program to every elementary site and a central three-year-old program serving approximately 645 students. Additional enrollment details may be found in the Statistical Section of this CAFR.

**Facilities**

To accommodate the large student population, the district maintains over 2.7 million square feet of facilities, including an early childhood center (three-year-old program), thirteen elementary schools (grades PK-5), a Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, an Eighth Grade Center, an Intermediate High School (grades 9-10), a High School (grades 11-12), an Alternative School serving high school students, a Transportation/Operations/Warehouse Complex, and an Education Service Center. The district’s newest construction includes the addition of a baseball/softball complex located at the Intermediate High School, as well as a major remodel of Grove Elementary School. Please refer to the Statistical Section of this CAFR for additional facility details.

**Bond Funds**

On February 9, 2010, district voters overwhelmingly approved a $22.5-million bond proposal which included funds for phase I of the Union Collegiate Academy, a major remodel of Grove Elementary, acquisition of textbooks, media books, hardware, software, and equipment district-wide, and student passenger route buses.

**Grants/Federal Programs**

During the 2009-2010 school year, Union received more than $15.23 million in federal grant money. A significant portion of that funding came as a result of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The Act provided funding for programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and under Title I. The overall goals of the ARRA funds were to stimulate the economy in the short term and invest in education and other essential public services to ensure the long-term economic health of our state and nation. Union Public Schools received in excess of $5.16 million of ARRA funding for 2009-2010.

**Internal Control**

Management of the district is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the district are protected from loss, theft or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data is compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that 1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and 2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

**Long-Term Financial Planning**

The Board of Education of Union Public Schools, in conjunction with the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, establishes a system of sound financial planning and management to assure that the district’s objectives are addressed and that funds are expended in accordance with plans expressed through the Board budget. The financial management system components include: 1) a planning process that consists of a review of state statutes, Board policies, concepts, ideas, problems, constraints, approaches and systems before dollar amounts are established in the
Long-Term Financial Planning (Cont.)

budget; and 2) a budget that is the expression of the plans of the Board through three main budgets – the General Fund, a Special Revenue Fund and the Child Nutrition Fund.

Budgetary Controls

The district utilizes budgetary controls to ensure compliance with legal appropriation limitations and to provide an operating plan for the district’s resources. The annual appropriated budget includes activity of the General, Special Revenue Funds, and Child Nutrition Funds. Capital projects activity is controlled with approval of project length financial plans. Initial budgets are adopted at the beginning of the fiscal year with periodic amendments approved by the Board as necessary.

The level of budgetary control is maintained by fund, project, and function. Individual line items may be adjusted without Board action, but total budgeted expenditures may not exceed appropriations at the major fund level without Board approval. The district utilizes an encumbrance system as a technique of budgetary control with encumbered appropriations lapsing at year end.

Independent Audit

Oklahoma state statutes require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants. The accounting firm of Cole and Reed, LLP, was selected by the Board to conduct the audit. In addition to meeting the requirements set forth in state statutes, the audit was also designed to meet the requirements of the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984 and related OMB Circular A-133. The auditor’s report on the basic financial statements is included in the financial section of this report.

Major initiatives that were enacted as a result of the 2009 Oklahoma Legislative Session included:

HB 1837: Inner City Schools Rescue Program – authorizes the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to establish a program to recruit and train teachers to work in inner city schools and provide technical assistance and support to those teachers.

HCR 1004: Internet-Based Education Administration Task Force – creates a task force to study the issues related to the administration of Internet-based courses and curriculum in public schools.

HB 1592: Surety Bond – requires any Superintendent or Financial Officer who has supervision of or authority to expend school district funds to be required to furnish a surety bond of not less than $100,000. The bill also requires any lease-purchase agreement entered into by a school district to include the right of the district to acquire buildings, equipment or other facilities or improve school sites through such an agreement. It also authorizes a district to use proceeds for the sale of bonds, as authorized under the Oklahoma Constitution, for lease-purchase payments.

Closing

In closing, without the leadership and support of the Union Board of Education, preparation of this report would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Burden, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Debra J. Jacoby, CPA
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Catherine L. Smart, CPA
Director of Financial Reporting/Treasury

Gail Easterling, CPA
Director of Accounting