



Communications Office  
Media Advisory  
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## Making “Space and Place” for Student Poetry and Prose Grant, Martin Luther King, Jr., Vista Nueva, and Pacific’s Brave New Voices for Social Change

Struggle, friendship, believing in yourself, and future goals are among the themes students will dive into with a mix of poetry, prose, and a senior play Friday night. The showcase evening is part of a three-year project in cooperation with UC Davis that includes teacher training and collaboration, student spoken word/slam poetry events, and SAYS poet mentor educators. Poet mentor educators spend one day a week with students at Grant, Vista Nueva, and Pacific high schools, along with Martin Luther King, Jr. Technology Middle School working directly with them on writing projects.

“This project gives us the opportunity to look at our own practice,” explains Grant teacher Jeanette Providence. “...how do we enhance student engagement, make writing more manageable, help students think more deeply about issues, and build confidence that their perspective is valuable.”

Slam poetry, new interpretations of traditional works of art, and group showcases are a uniquely relevant way to improve student writing skills, an important aspect of addressing the achievement gap.

"We encourage the Del Paso Heights and the Greater Sacramento communities to come out to the ITQ Showcase and poetry slam to celebrate literacy, school success, and youth voices for social change," said Dr. Vajra Watson, UC Davis School of Education CRESS Center. "It will be a night to remember."

### **When**

Friday, March 16, 2012  
5:40-6:30PM  
6:40-7:30PM  
7:40-9:30PM

Every Tuesday 8:35AM

### **Where**

Grant Union High School -1400 Grand Ave., 95838  
Class Showcases in main campus classrooms  
Senior Play *King Oedipus-Remix* in auditorium  
Slam Poetry Competition in auditorium

Poet mentor works with Ms. Providence’s Class

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*The Twin Rivers Unified School District was created in July 2008, merging four North Sacramento area school districts to serve 28,000 Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. In the first three years, graduation rates, attendance rates, and enrollment have increased dramatically.*