

**Luis Lopez** immigrated to the United States from Guadalajara, Mexico when he was 15 years old. He attended Franklin Senior High School, where he overcame the challenges of being an English-learner and excelled at academics. Luis went to Occidental College where he studied mathematics. After receiving his Masters in Education from Occidental, he taught in the Los Angeles schools. Two years ago, he was appointed Principal of his alma mater, Franklin High School. Franklin has traditionally experienced a high drop-out rate. Noting that algebra is a class that is particularly challenging for many students, Lopez and his staff have collaborated with the Occidental Mathematics Department to teach math beyond the books. Under Lopez's leadership, Franklin High School has seen a 50 percent increase in student retention rate from 9th to 10th grades.