

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heritage Oak Alumna giving HOPE pep talk!

Last week, alumna Aruna Cadambi, Heritage Oak class of 2002, returned to speak to the middle school students. Her message focused on developing solid study habits and setting specific goals for high school, college and beyond. Knowing that the academic performance in middle school is very important for high school placement as well as what college students will eventually attend, she encouraged students to read as much as possible and to build good study habits that they can rely on in high school. As a freshman majoring in International Development at UCLA and a graduate of Troy Tech, Aruna is a devoted scholar, who also finds time for extra curricular activities such as speech and debate club and serving with charity organizations. Her vibrancy and enthusiasm for excellence is contagious.

Students asked many questions ranging from “How do you make friends in high school?” and “How do you choose a good high school or college?” to “What is the food like in the cafeteria at UCLA?” Aruna encouraged students to develop good friendships in high school and stressed the importance of finding friends with similar values and goals in order to stay on track, to encourage each other and to keep each other accountable on the road to success. She encouraged students to explore their interests, to get involved in high school clubs, sports and theater and to network with students who share these interests. She also discussed the process of choosing the right college, taking exams and applying to college, as well as some tips for finding scholarships. Further, she mentioned the joys of college life at UCLA including football games and exploring Westwood Village for lunch or shopping.

At Heritage Oak, we are fortunate to have alumni who enjoy coming back to share their experiences with our current students. Students straight from the front lines have so much to share, and it is encouraging for middle school students to be able to meet with and be inspired by our graduates. It was exciting to see that Heritage Oak middle school students are thinking as far ahead as college as they strive for success in middle school.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are just part of a program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 “Blue Ribbon” award. The “Blue Ribbon”, our Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.