Professional Development in TUSD

Last year Higher Ground started doing Professional Development with approximately 30 teachers as part of the contract with the District Alternative Education program. 80% of teachers stated that they would strongly recommend the training to peers with 100% of them stating that the materials discussed were relevant to their line of work.

As a result, Higher Ground started doing Professional Development with several other TUSD Schools. These trainings are all scheduled during the schools professional development time on Wednesday's. The training topics include:

- De-escalation
- Basic Classroom Management
- Conflict Resolution & Reframing

The following schools have already received training:

- Lawrence K-8
    - 33 Teachers trained in De-escalation and Basic SEL concepts
- Hollinger K-8
    - 2 counselors
- Rincon High School
    - 55 Teachers trained in De-escalation
- Project More
    - 25 Teachers trained in De-escalation

Jansen Azarias, Founder and CEO/President, of Higher Ground, is teaching all trainings. To date, several other schools have requested the training as several feel that its relevance and presentation is applicable to the things they deal with on a daily basis. The primary focus of the professional developments is to support school staff with the ever increasing Socio-emotional and behavior needs that continue to disrupt the classroom instruction recognizing that the district lacks the necessary funding for well trained behavior interventionist forcing teachers to be both academic instructors and behavior experts.

Some of the quotes from teachers who have received the training:

"I wish we could have more PDs with Higher Ground so that they didn't have to rush through/cram so much into each one."

"Jansen really knows how to tie in participant's questions and comments into the materials he is covering."

"They are always ready with answers for "what if we have a really difficult students who does…" with very helpful practical strategies to use with students."