



LOARA SAXONS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALL GRADUATING CLASSES ARE REPRESENTED

First OC On-Campus Union Bank Branch Comes to Loara High School

Loara High School has been selected as the first high school in Orange County to have a Union Bank branch on campus as part of a special program created by Union Bank to provide students with financial education. Loara High School is the fourth high school in California to have a Union Bank branch on-campus. The Loara Branch, which opened in December of 2015, shares the Library Building in the center of the campus.

This banking program helps students in two very different but important ways. First, any Loara student may open an account at any time during the school day as long as they bring in the following: (1) Loara ID card; (2) \$1.00 and (3) their Social Security cards. There is a great advantage for students to open an account on-campus: students do not need a parent or guardian to open an account as well as the required minimum deposit is minimal. Secondly, the Loara branch is student-run by Seniors who receive hands-on training in such skills as banking, management and public speaking skills that will last a lifetime.

The training program is open only to Seniors. It is a tough program to get into but very rewarding for those students who make it through the process. Counselors will go into the Junior classes to announce the program for the following year. Once interested students apply for the program, the selection process begins with the administration reviewing each student's history, attendance and GPA (3.2 minimum GPA is required). Students are required to provide an essay and two recommendations (one teacher and one outside). The last step is to pass an interview with a panel of five adults. Only 12 students are selected each year with two students working each period.

When a student makes it past the application and interviewing steps, he or she must commit two weeks during the summer for training. The first 20 hours are spent at other branches shadowing experienced tellers to see how they work and the routines involved. Next comes two full days of teller training at the Brea Training Center. Students each receive a \$500.00 stipend for completing the summer training. They also receive a \$1,000.00 at the end of the school year for completing the program.

Lydia Mendoza-Carmona, Vice President and Branch Manager, came from the Riverside office to head the Loara Branch. She was at a regional office meeting when she found out purely by accident the Loara Branch was opening. Her move to the Loara Branch was bittersweet: she was saddened to leave longtime co-workers behind but was excited to be able to work at the high school where her grandchildren are students. Mendoza-Carmona is proud that three of her first students have gone on to college and are working part time at Union Bank branches: Brea, Cypress and Garden Grove.

Having a Union Bank on-campus is also very advantageous to the myriad of Loara clubs and organizations. Opening accounts is easy, questions can be answered quickly and the adult supervisors are really great to work with. The Loara Branch is considered a transactional branch: they provide all services a regular Union Bank does with the exception of: Cashier's Checks, Money Orders and Wire Transfers.

For those of us who are not currently Loara students, don't worry, we're not left out. We are welcome to open accounts at the Loara by appointment only but must bank at regular branches. This is to help

insure security for the students because Loara is a closed campus. The Loara Saxons Alumni Association, Inc. supports the Union Bank Program by opening a business checking account at the Loara Branch. The Alumni Association encourages Loara Alumni, their family, friends and businesses to help support this remarkable program by calling Lydia Mendoza-Carmona at (714) 507-3696 to schedule an appointment.