

## Using **Funds of Knowledge** to Increase Community Connections and Family Involvement



### **Greetings from the Hynes-UNO Parent and Family Involvement Team!**

We're a team of faculty and staff members who are focused on harnessing the energy of our Hynes-UNO community to help us achieve our school-wide goals. We're excited to "introduce" a researched-based concept called **funds of knowledge**. I write "introduce" because this concept is already widely accepted in our Hynes community and reflected in several of the Five Core Elements that Hynes Charter Schools has identified as driving student success: (1) student centered instruction, (2) an inclusive and positive school culture, and (3) an invested and committed community. What we're actually doing is giving a concept that Hynes already treasures a specific name and the backing of school-setting based research. **Funds of knowledge** are collections of knowledge and skills that are part of the various cultures, work experiences, and daily lives of individuals and households.

Every. Single. Family. has **funds of knowledge** that are unique and could help enrich the Hynes learning environment. From work or trade skills such as a family tradition of carpentry or small business ownership, to artistic wisdom such as a specific type of textile art that has been passed down through generations, to a cultural musical tradition, all our Hynes-UNO families can contribute to a deeper appreciation of our diverse community.

We, as the Hynes-UNO Parent and Family Involvement team, are excited to tap into the strengths and diversity of our Hynes-UNO families as we incorporate **funds of knowledge** into the culture of our community. Look out for upcoming opportunities to bring your family's knowledge and skills to Hynes-UNO classrooms and events. If you have an idea about an opportunity to incorporate our families' **funds of knowledge**, we would love to hear it! Email ideas and/or questions to me at [diane.freedman@hynesschool.com](mailto:diane.freedman@hynesschool.com) or talk to your Hynes Husky's teacher!

-The Hynes-UNO Parent and Family Involvement Team

