

# LAUSD NEWS: SANTEE EDUCATION COMPLEX

## The Power of Friendship: A Shell Set Aside

By: Danielle Green, ROP/CTE Computer Teacher and CoF Advisor

Edited By: Kim Krupinski, Development Coordinator with CoF

Upon enrollment at Santee Education Complex, **Jujuan was withdrawn from conversation and interaction.** He never initiated dialogue and would only repeat what was said or asked of him. To answer a question required much prompting.

Jujuan Burns, who is on the autism spectrum, is 15 and in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. He was one of the first students to come to Santee with the Frank D. Lanterman Integration Program. Through this program, students with special needs integrated into a typical high school.



*Jujuan in class*

In Jujuan's elective, general education Computer Application class, **he was matched with students Jesus and Jasmine for assistance.** Jasmine worked with Jujuan on the computer using interactive software and pushed him to read aloud three or more times a week. Jesus decided after hearing of *Circle of Friends (CoF)* that he wanted to become a *CoF* Peer Friend, and he requested to be paired with Jujuan, **allowing Jujuan to see a familiar face around campus and in class daily.**

Interacting with Jesus and Jasmine all semester, **Jujuan slowly came out of his shell, socially.**

**Now, Jujuan** not only **reads aloud** to his teacher, aide and staff, but he walks himself to and from class independently. Jujuan **has learned** the **names** of a few students, as well as his computer teacher. Plus, when entering or leaving the room, **he will respond** properly, **"Hi"** or **"Bye"**, without prompting. He addresses you by name! **He even shakes hands and gives high fives to students** that approach him without reserve.

The positive change in Jujuan Burns over the last year is proof of the impact *CoF* has on students with special needs and the campus community as a whole.