EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 28, 2023

The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become lifelong learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.

State:

Recession or No Recession; Flip a Coin
From School Services of California
Posted June 9, 2023

For its third Anderson Forecast (Forecast) in a row, the UCLA Anderson School of Management has the outlook of the U.S. economy on the flip of a coin—with both a mild recession and a slowly growing economy having nearly equal likelihood of occurring in the third quarter of this year.

One of the biggest determining factors is likely consumer confidence and spending. UCLA's economists noted that Americans still have somewhere between $800 billion and $1.2 trillion in excess savings from the pandemic. Under UCLA's recession scenario, the deficit in gross domestic product (GDP) would be $384 billion less than a steady growth scenario—meaning Americans' consumption of goods and services could make the difference between a mild recession and a continued growing economy. Americans' spending patterns would also affect business investment, and whether companies believe they need to continue to grow to keep up with demand or hit the brakes. Another major sector of GDP, government spending, is likely to remain flat and therefore not be a significant factor in the recession equation.

If a recession does take place, it would likely be experienced by Americans the same way the first half of 2022 felt, with negative GDP annual growth rates but declining inflation and unemployment rates. In the U.S. recession scenario, GDP would be negative for three quarters, returning to positive growth in mid-2024; unemployment would peak at 4.5% in the second quarter of 2024; and inflation would stay higher initially, but ease down more quickly in 2024 and 2025.

Turning to California, UCLA's economists once again focused on the solid footing that the state finds itself in if a recession is on the horizon. Forecast Director Jerry Nickelsburg noted that the current-day State Budget negotiations taking place between the Legislature and Newsom Administration revolve around whether it is sufficiently a "rainy day" situation to warrant tapping into the state's reserves or whether those funds should be retained for more severe economic conditions.

California has regained and surpassed its pre-pandemic number of nonfarm payroll jobs by 2.1% in April 2023, but Nickelsburg stated that job recovery has been uneven by sector and by region of the state, with job growth higher than the nation in every region except the Inland Empire and the State of Jefferson area. Regarding technology layoffs, he notes that those jobs leaving large tech firms are being quickly absorbed by small tech firms and start-ups, fueled by venture capital and high-tech production growth.

Regarding housing, the median price has dropped 8.4% from its peak in California, although this drop only brings the rate back to mid-2021 levels. Nickelsburg stated that Californians moving out of the state during the pandemic did a great job of exporting housing unaffordability with them, driving prices up elsewhere and removing the price advantage that Californians migrating out of state experienced previously.

In summation, if the nation goes into a recession, California will experience flat job growth in 2024 and a slightly higher unemployment rate in 2023 and the following two years than in the absence of a recession. UCLA's economists expect the outlook to be clearer by its next Forecast in early October 2023 and hope to drop the dueling scenario projections. Until then, we'll wait to see if Americans spend their savings like the fate of the national economy depends on it.

YPICS:

To make this change happen, our theory of practice is to focus on Culture and climate, Community, Effective Leadership, Quality Instruction, and Data Outcomes. We plan to improve practice and outcomes for YPICS by intentionally focusing on and tracking the five areas listed above.

The YPICS anchor theme is going together to go far, and our secondary theme is working on moving all YPI Charter Schools from good to great! As such, we immediately ended the school year in June by preparing for the 23-24 school year. During the week of June 11th-15th, all administrators and school instructional coaches participated in Critical Friends Groups Training by the National School Reform Faculty. All returning teachers were trained using the same methods during the same week from June 11th to 13th. The YPICS Leadership Team comprises leaders from all three schools and the Learning and Support Team, engaged in a three-day Restorative Practices Leadership Training July 12-14th. New Teacher Training was held July 27-28th and July 31 -August 1. All YPICS Teachers received Relay GSE Foundational Training together (which focuses on building stronger relationships with students and families and setting practices/routines to lay the foundation for solid instructional practices after the start of the year) from August 1 to August 8.

We are returning to practices that have supported tremendous YPICS success in the past, such as a greater connection with our community and families, providing teachers feedback, and conducting consistent teacher observations in School Mint Grow. Additionally, adding platforms such as ELLevation (to better track and monitor EL progress) using platforms such as Innovare to better compare, analyze, and visual data results. Most importantly, we will intentionally focus on developing leadership talent through training, coaching, and check-ins.

The first day of school was on August 9th. I want to thank the YPICS Leadership Team, Teachers, and staff for writing playbooks before the first day of school and executing each so exceptionally well that all three schools can boast of a “Strong Start.” As always, YPICS did everything it could to welcome families, new staff, and the community to the YPI Charter Schools. 2023-2024 will be an exceptional year.

New Chief Academic Officer-
YPICS Welcomes the new Chief Academic Officer, Ena Lavan.

YPICS Announcement

Ena LaVan joins YPICS after several years of working alongside leaders of the charter school movement beginning in 2004. Ena brings a wealth of experiences to the organization, drawing from her participation in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's College-Ready Promise focus on educator effectiveness, to her consultancy with both districts and charter schools on school improvement. She has served in various capacities from founding school principal to area superintendent of schools at the Alliance College-Ready Public Schools charter management organization. Prior to her charter experience, she was a teacher and program coordinator at Foshay Learning Center in LAUSD.

Ena is a proud graduate of UCLA, and earned her Masters in Educational Leadership from Pepperdine University.

Ena Lavan
Chief Accountability Officer

Ena will lead **the academic program and the implementation of a system of support for our school leaders and teachers to maximize their impact on the developmental and academic success of our scholars. She will ensure a strong culture for using data to inform instruction and develop pathways for teaching excellence to be celebrated and shared through a cohesive professional development system. Ms. Lavan will also lead the organization in planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of the instructional programs grades 5-12; provide leadership development opportunities to maintain the YPICS cadre of high caliber teachers and leaders; provide inspiration and direction for the commitment to continuous improvement in standards-based assessment, teaching and learning; ensure compliance with state and federal laws as applied to charter schools; provide a collaborative environment for the refinement of the YPICS model for academic excellence.**

YPICS
YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS

INSTRUCTION –
Expanded Learning

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) funds after-school and summer school enrichment programs for transitional kindergarten (TK) through sixth grade. “Expanded learning” means before-school, after-school, summer, or intersession learning programs that focus on developing pupils' academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests through hands-on, engaging learning experiences. Expanded learning programs are pupil-centered, results-driven, include community partners, and complement, but do not replicate, learning activities in the regular school day and school year.

The ELOP Budget update will be provided as part of the YPICS Fiscal update. Next year, schools will receive an audit finding if the ELO-P still needs to be implemented and if funds are not spent. The proposed legislation contains dozens of other changes. Most are technical in nature, but some more substantive ones of interest to charter schools include the following:

- Clarifies penalties for not offering Expanded Learning under the state’s new Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP).
- It would clarify the interaction of penalties for (1) failing to serve eligible students and (2) penalties for failing to operate the program for all the required hours or days.
  The law would call for pro-rata penalties based on the proportion of eligible students not served. Any additional penalties for failing to operate the program for the required number of hours or days would be assessed after the first type of penalty is set (if any) and would reduce funding by 0.0049 times the number of days a charter school failed to meet the daily/hourly offering requirement.