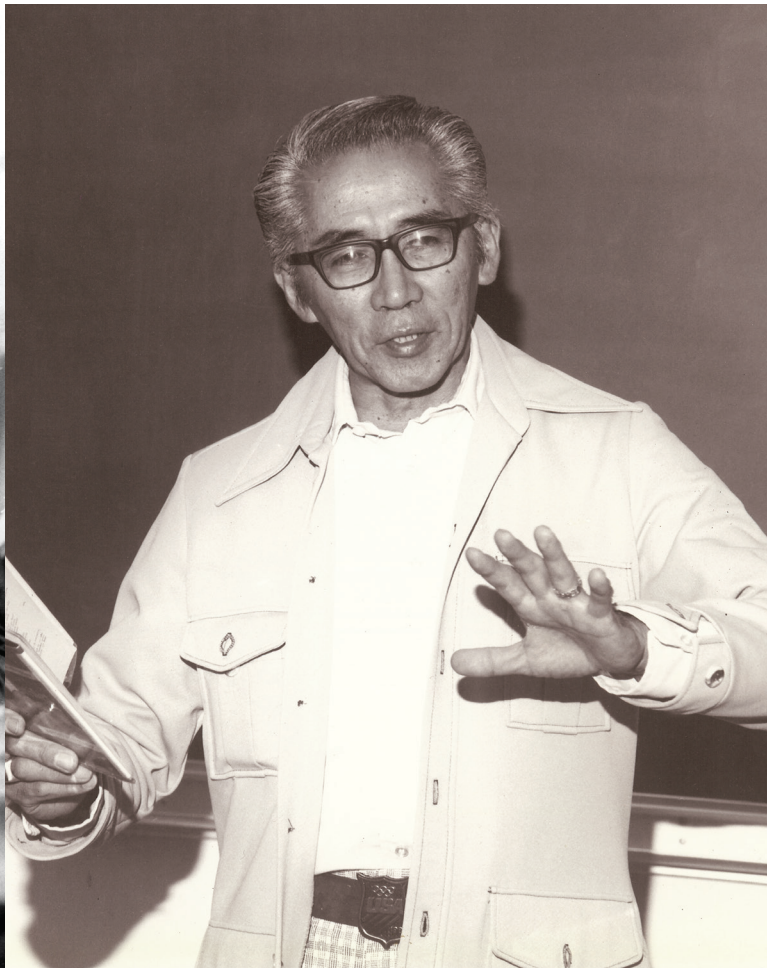


# The Ted K. Tajima High School Project



*A 2015-2017 funding campaign to build a permanent home for Alliance College-Ready High School 16, to be named Ted K. Tajima High School with an emphasis in communication, from journalism to media.*

# The Goal

We are raising \$1,000,000 to support the Alliance College Ready High School 16 (CRAHS 16), which was founded in fall 2011 and had been housed temporarily on the Belmont High School campus. With \$700,000 or 70% of our goal already pledged, CRAHS 16 was able to move into a brand new, permanent home in September 2015. CRAHS 16 was selected by the L.A. Alliance College-Ready Public Schools (Alliance) and the daughters of Ted Tajima to be re-named the Alliance Ted Tajima High school in honor of this inspirational, dedicated, and excellent English and journalism teacher and community leader.

The funds raised will help sustain this public-private partnership charter school that provides high-quality teaching and learning opportunities in the Westlake neighborhood, near downtown Los Angeles. CRAHS 16, as part of the Alliance, is already raising the level of public education, specifically in communities that have limited access to safe, stable, personalized, and success-oriented education.

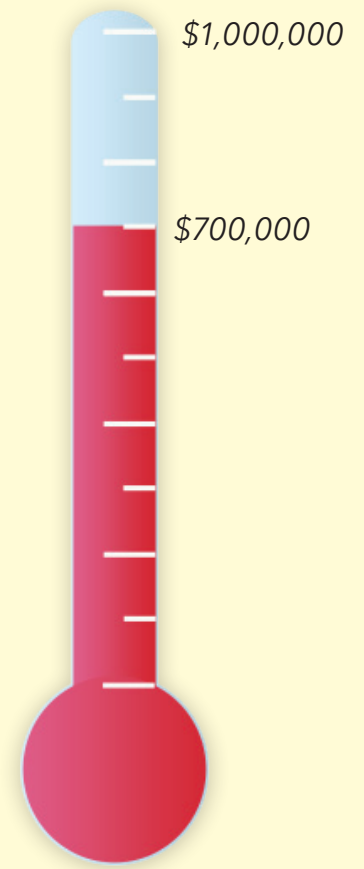
Performance of students at this high school has already exceeded the achievement of the traditional public high schools in surrounding high schools as well as the average of the high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Each Alliance high school serves up to 600 high school students annually.

The brand new facility that will be re-named Alliance Ted Tajima High School is located at 1552 West Rockwood Street in Los Angeles, CA.



*Architectural Rendering*

## ***We're Almost There!***

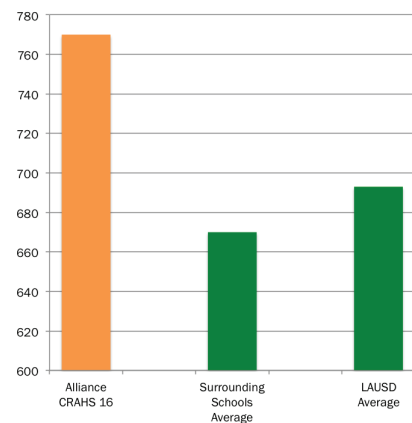


# The School

**Description** CRAHS 16 aims for the highest student achievement by utilizing highly personalized college-preparatory curriculum with a significant part of learning accomplished through real world, interdisciplinary projects that promote critical thinking as well as community and civic responsibility. CRAHS 16 supports student success and perseverance by providing innovative support services such as project-based learning, service learning, applied learning, learning communities, and tutoring. Parent involvement in the support of the students and school operations is critically important.

**Community** The school serves the Westlake neighborhood just west of downtown Los Angeles, one of the most densely populated areas in the nation. Known as a “port of entry” community, Westlake is home to many immigrant families. Nearly half (47.4%) of all households make \$20,000 or less.<sup>1</sup> The school is surrounded by some of the lowest performing schools in LAUSD and 58.9% of adult population does not have a high school degree.<sup>2</sup>

**Performance** Alliance CRAHS 16 achieved an Academic Performance Index score of 770, placing it in the top 20% of all LAUSD high schools and nearly 100 points higher than the three nearest traditional public schools.



Academic Performance Index Scores



<sup>1</sup> Los Angeles Times, <http://maps.latimes.com/neighborhoods/income/20-or-less/neighborhood/list/>

<sup>2</sup> Los Angeles Times, <http://maps.latimes.com/neighborhoods/education/less-than-high-school/neighborhood/list/>

# The Students



## 2014-2015 Student Body Grades 9-12

- 95%** Latino
- 3%** Asian
- 2%** African American
- 25%** English Language Learners  
(of that 33% Newcomers)
- 14%** Special Education
- 95%** Free/Reduced Meal Program

## First Graduating Class, 2015

- 100%** On Track to Graduate
- 100%** Accepted into College
- 70%** Accepted into 4-Year Universities  
including Cal Berkeley, UCLA, etc.
- 2** Posse Foundation Scholarship Winners  
(Bucknell, Middlebury)
- 3** Harvard Interviews



# Ted Tajima

## Ted Tajima: A Teacher Who Changed Lives

by Joe Saltzman

*From the Los Angeles Times 'In Memoriam' Op-Ed, January 1, 2012 featuring Ted Tajima, Christopher Hitchens, Geraldine Ferraro, Sue Mengers, Norman Corwin, Brian Jacques, Osama bin Laden, Moammer Kadafi, and Kim Jong Il.*

The year was 1955, and there I was, a high school junior, standing in the Alhambra High hallway crying my eyes out. I'm not sure what I would have done if T hadn't walked up.

We all called Ted Tajima T or Mr. T because no one could pronounce his last name correctly, and Ted was too informal a name for any high school kid to call his teacher.

T was an English and journalism teacher at Alhambra, and he changed my life forever.

On seeing my distress, T stopped and asked me what was the matter. I told him that the high school counselor just told me I wasn't college material and that I should follow in my dad's footsteps and become a window cleaner. My dream of being the first person in my family to go to college was over.

In all the years I'd known Ted Tajima, I'd never seen him that angry. He told me to wait there for him, and then went to see that high school counselor. He came back and told me that together, we would work to get me into the best school of journalism on the West Coast the University of Southern California and with a scholarship as well. And he made it happen. If it weren't for Ted, I probably would have ended up a window cleaner.

Hundreds of Ted's former students would tell you that he

transformed their lives as he did mine. And he did it with humor, with patience, with grace, with intelligence, with compassion. T was always there for us, gently telling us to follow our best instincts and do what was right.

Tajima was an award-winning journalism advisor for 35 years until his retirement in 1983. Alhambra High's newspaper, the Moor, was a perennial All-American winner, and Ted, who made sure every student journalist acted like a professional, went over every inch of copy with a red pencil and never accepted a semicolon, adverb or adjective he didn't like.

We never thought much about T being Japanese. I didn't know then what he had gone through during World War II. Born in Salt Lake City of issei parents in 1922, he moved to California when he was 6 and suffered one racial insult after another. If you were white, for example, you could swim in the Pasadena public pool six days a week. If you were a person of color, there was only one international day a week. Then they would drain the pool.

Ted watched his parents forcefully moved to the Gila River internment camp in Arizona and his sister and her husband sent to the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming. He saw friends and family lose property, money and educational opportunities just because they were Japanese Americans.

Yet he persevered. He graduated from Occidental College in 1946. Then, in one of the many ironies of his life, he was drafted into an Army counterintelligence unit in Maryland to teach Japanese to U.S. personnel who would be serving in occupied

# Ted Tajima (continued)

Japan. When he discovered most of them couldn't write decent English, he taught them that too.

In another time and place he would have been a newspaper or broadcast journalist. He had all the tools he was a curious and brilliant interviewer and reporter, a first-rate writer whose command of the language was unparalleled, and he had a melodious, baritone voice perfect for broadcasting. Although he was allowed to write for campus newspapers, he couldn't get a job in the mainstream press because he was Asian American.

So his wife Setsuko, suggested he go into teaching. And in 1948, Tajima became the first Asian American teacher at Alhambra High School, one of three Asians on campus two students and me, he often said, laughing.

He once told me that what got him through the rough times was the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena. For more than 60 years, he edited the Clarion, the church newspaper, turning it into a stellar local publication. As a church elder, he found an inner peace that sustained him through many personal and professional disappointments.

When I once apologized for having mispronounced his last name for more than 50 years, he laughed and said that almost everybody did. Ted wasn't my real name either, he said. It was just a way to make it easier for non-Asians to call me by name.

Keizo Tajima died Feb. 20 at his Altadena home of complications from emphysema. He was 88.

*Thanks in part to Ted Tajima, Joe Saltzman became an award-winning journalist and a professor of journalism at USC, where he directs the Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture project.*

