

**First Friday Noontime Forum Series**  
**“Continuing the Growth and Prosperity of Downtown Lancaster”**

**Highlights**

**January 2009 –Highlights from the January Discussion**  
**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**  
**School District of Lancaster (SDoL) Update**  
**–Pedro Rivera, Superintendent**

- ❖ The District not only serves the homeless families of the City of Lancaster, but of the entire county.
- ❖ Poverty rate in the District is 81%. This makes the District eligible for free breakfasts and lunches.
- ❖ Since few students were signing up for the IB (International Baccalaureate) program, the District is taking the IB program to the students. Students benefit from IB in small learning centers.
- ❖ Some students are enrolled in both high school and college during their senior year. This is “dual enrollment”. SDL is the only district in the state that gives free college tuition to high school seniors who are making their grades in dual enrollment. If they finish the year with a 3.0 average, their first year’s tuition is paid.
- ❖ Project Grad is a new program. A counselor helps students get into college—this is a concentrated effort with students and their parents.
- ❖ Parents can get their children’s grades online. Attendance records are also online.