



school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 11, 2006



AMERICA'S BEST—Lisa Villareal, vice chairperson of the Coalition for Community Schools, praises the Stevenson YMCA Community School as she presents a national award for outstanding educational partnerships. Above, accepting plaques, from left are: Gonzalo Moraga, Stevenson principal; Cheryl Kono, Community School director; Bob Cabeza, executive director of the YMCA Downtown Community Development Branch; Julie O'Donnell, professor and evaluator with the CSULB Department of Social Work; Sue Baker, senior vice president of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach; and Belkis Miqueleiz, Stevenson reading specialist teacher.

Tincher Teacher Wins State Science Honor

Tincher Preparatory School teacher Deborah Drab is a statewide finalist for this year's Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Only three science teachers were selected as finalists statewide.

As a state finalist, Drab is a candidate for the national PAEMST honor. Staff from the White House will notify one science teacher from California to receive the Presidential Award next spring. California's finalists will be honored by the State Board of Education in November.

Drab was nominated for the award by Tincher Principal William Vogel. The rigorous award application process required Drab to videotape a sixth grade science lesson and complete a detailed account of her teaching methods.



Drab

"I'm just thrilled to have made it this far along in the process," Drab said, "and it was a good chance for me to reflect on my teaching."

Each national awardee receives a special citation signed by the President, a \$10,000 award and a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend a week-long series of special recognition events and training sessions in March 2007.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching were established in 1983 by an Act of Congress and are administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. Each year the awards recognize outstanding mathematics and science teachers from across the United States and four U.S. jurisdictions for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspirations to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

Stevenson School Accepts National Award

Stevenson Elementary School, in conjunction with the YMCA and other community partners, recently accepted the Community School National Award for Excellence.

For seven years, Stevenson and the YMCA have implemented a community school model, which brings together many partners to offer extra support to children and families before, during and after school. While several schools nationwide have implemented the same model, few have done it better than Stevenson, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Coalition for Community Schools, which presented the award during a ceremony at the year-round school.

"This school has unique features and programs that schools across the nation can learn from," said Lisa Villareal, vice chairperson of the Coalition for Community Schools. "Congratulations. California is proud of you, and the nation is proud."

A middle school in Portland and a high school in Indianapolis also won the award this year. The three schools were selected from more than 300 community schools nationwide.

In naming Stevenson as the elementary winner, the coalition cited the school's high level of parent and community trust and involvement. The school's focus on academics and family has led to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities, according to the coalition. Community schools such as Stevenson become centers of the community and are open all day, and often during evenings and on weekends.

At the school's popular parent center, the

Stevenson YMCA Community School, parents take three-month courses in a Community Leadership Institute, where they learn to advocate for the school and its students. The parents successfully lobbied the city to repair damaged sidewalks near the school and to lengthen a traffic signal's red light at Fifth Street and Lime Avenue to give students more time to cross the street.

Other key community partners include the California State University, Long Beach Department of Social Work, which helps the school to plan and evaluate programs.

The community approach at Stevenson has paid off with steady gains in student achievement. Since the year 2000, the school's State Academic Performance Index has grown to 715, up 118 points. In 2004, Stevenson won the California Distinguished School Award.

Classified Employee Union Approves Contract

The local chapter of the California School Employees Association has voted overwhelmingly to approve a contract agreement with the Long Beach Unified School District. The agreement, pending approval by the Board of Education on August 22, provides a 4 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2005 and a 6 percent increase effective July 1, 2006.

Retroactive checks will be issued September 1 if the Board approves.

The agreement was ratified by 100 percent of CSEA Unit A members and 99.9 percent of CSEA Unit B members in the largest voter

turnout of any CSEA contract ratification to date. The tentative deal provides the same salary increases approved for other LBUSD employee groups in recent weeks, including teachers, managers and non-represented employees. As with the other employee groups, the tentative agreement with CSEA also provides incentives tied to career longevity.

CSEA represents custodians, maintenance workers, cafeteria workers, groundskeepers, bus and truck drivers, mechanics, instructional assistants, warehouse workers, school support staff and other employees.

Enrollment Declining Throughout the State

For the first time in nearly a quarter century, statewide public school enrollment declined slightly this year.

In the 2005-06 school year, there were 6,313,103 students enrolled, a decline of about 10,000 from the previous year. The decline was the first in 24 years, according to a recent report in the *Los Angeles Times*, which cited figures from the state Department of Education.

Contributing to the school enrollment change is the fact that young families with children are being priced out of the California housing market. Some are buying more affordable homes elsewhere.

The Long Beach Unified School District has seen two consecutive years of significant enrollment decreases and is expecting another decrease this fall. Student enrollment in the district last fall declined to less than 93,000 — lower than it was five years earlier.

For school districts statewide, significant declines in enrollment mean the loss of millions of dollars in Average Daily Attendance funding each year. As a result of lower total enrollment here, the school district has alleviated overcrowding in elementary schools. Lower enrollment has allowed many elementary schools to offer reduced class sizes in fourth and fifth grades, and all-day kindergarten.

Saving Water

A recent grant will pay for weather-based irrigation controllers at 27 schools, conserving water and saving the Long Beach Unified School District more than \$20,000 annually in water bills.

The web-based system automatically schedules irrigation at each school based on highly localized weather data and enables remote monitoring and adjustments from any web-connected PC, if necessary.

The \$75,000 grant from the Long Beach Water Department and the Metropolitan Water District paid for the controllers, which should be installed by September.

The Job Board

• Lafayette Elementary School has an opening for a third grade EXCEL teacher. Applicants should be GATE Certificated or willing to work toward certification. Submit letters of interest to Damita Myers-Miller, principal, by fax at 490-7318 or by e-mail at dmyersmiller@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Burnett Elementary School has an opening for a first grade EXCEL teacher. Applicants should be GATE Certificated or willing to work toward certification. Burnett also has a vacancy for a Grade 3-5 Reading First literacy coach. For information, contact Claudia Kreis or Lucy Salazar at ext. 5605. Submit letters of interest and resumes by fax at (562) 424-8796 or e-mail to ckreis@lbusd.k12.ca.us. E-mails also may be sent to lsalazar@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for ASB financial technician, computer support specialist assistant, financial services officer, locker room attendant, locksmith supervisor, Risk Management benefits coordinator and workers' compensation program coordinator.

SCRUBBING IN—Seventh graders from Hamilton Middle School recently visited Long Beach Memorial Medical Center to learn about careers in health care from Doug McConnell, M.D., and Lazari Middleton, chief surgery technician, who demonstrated medical techniques using a mannequin. The students and their teachers, Donald Williams and Salvador Madrigal, surprised staff with toys to give to patients at Miller Children's Hospital.



CSULB a Top Producer of Minority Graduates

The national magazine *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* recently ranked California State University, Long Beach sixth in the United States in the conferring of bachelor's degrees to students of color.

The ranking was part of the magazine's 2006 special report on the "Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producers," a list of the best minority degree producers among institu-

tions of higher learning, according to the CSULB website at www.csulb.edu.

"The Top 100" rankings showed that CSULB excels in awarding bachelor's degrees to minority students in English, ranking No. 3 in the nation. Within that field of study, CSULB ranked No. 5 in conferring English degrees to Asian American and Hispanic students, No. 7 for American Indian students and No. 12 for African American students.

CSULB ranked especially high in awarding degrees to Hispanic students. In all disciplines combined, the university was No. 6 in the nation in conferring bachelor's degrees to Hispanic students, including ranking No. 5 in awarding English degrees, No. 5 in mathematics degrees, No. 6 in psychology degrees and No. 7 in business management degrees.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Dagny Collier, school data technician, CSU/CAMS;

Unita Donahue, intermediate payroll account technician, Payroll;

Tyisha Eubanks, senior payroll account technician, Payroll;

Yolanda McCoy, Nutrition Services supervisor II, Hoover;

Allison Mizushima, Kids Club lead assistant, Cubberley;

Leonel Puentes, plumber, Maintenance;

Mary Sungura, Nutrition Services supervisor II, Hamilton;

Christina Webster, research office technician, Research, Planning and Evaluation;

Lydia Young-Davis, Nutrition Services supervisor III, Jordan.

Turkish Space Camp

Seven Washington Middle School eighth graders traveled overseas this summer to attend the one-week Space Camp Turkey in Izmir.

The trip marked the second year Washington students earned scholarships from Global Friendship Through Space Education to attend the Partner School Science Program, which expands students' knowledge of math and science and promotes cultural understanding.

Students were selected to participate based on academics and citizenship.

In preparation, students used e-mail and videoconferencing to converse with students in Turkey. During their week at space camp, the Washington students met the Turkish students and students from other countries.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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In Memoriam

Howard Hubbard
former science consultant
June 4, 2006

June Johnson
former teacher
June 22, 2006