



school bulletin

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January 12, 2007

Teachers Set Record for National Certification

Ten more teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District have earned the highest professional distinction in teaching, National Board Certification.

The newest certifications bring the total number of nationally certified teachers in the school district to a record high of 100.

The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves writing extensive portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises. Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's 3 million teachers earn the certification each year.

New National Board Certified teachers include Joan Calhoun, Tincher; Zobeida Castillo, Cabrillo; Caryn Cobb, Lakewood; Laura Hand, King; Kathleen Hatchell, Holmes;

James Orihuela, DeMille; Lynn Scoby, Willard; Joanne Ujiie, Birney; Judy Vlastakis, Millikan; and Deidre Wood, Millikan.

The school district has made a commitment to support teachers who are interested in applying for National Board Certification. Teachers who are accepted and successfully complete the pre-candidacy program are eligible for district payment of National Board application fees, a \$2,500 savings.

Teachers who obtain National Board Certification receive up to a 10 percent salary increase.

In addition, National Board Certified teachers are eligible for a \$20,000 bonus from the State of California if they teach at low-performing schools.



EXAMINING EXCELLENCE — Edison Elementary School Principal Matty Zamora hosts a visit by Jaime Aquino, chief academic officer of Denver Public Schools. Aquino recently toured Edison to learn about the school's effective practices. Edison has shown especially strong gains in math achievement. About 84 percent of Edison students are proficient in math, up from 37 percent just three years ago.

Brighter Futures for Thousands of Students

By Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

Some of you may recall that we started the school year with an inspiring cover story in *Parade*, the nation's best read magazine with 79 million readers.

Long Beach's Stevenson-YMCA Community School earned praise for its exemplary partnerships, high level of parental involvement and impressive gains in student achievement.

Depicted on the cover, which is usually reserved for movie stars, was a smiling Stevenson first grader, Eric Brooks.

"Thanks to a community that refused to give up on education, Eric has a future," the magazine cover stated. I now have Eric's autograph displayed prominently in my office.



Parade recognized what the federal government has not. After this once-in-a-lifetime recognition, we recently learned that according to the federal government, Stevenson is a so-called "program improvement" school because it did not meet all of its academic targets. Yet Stevenson was named the top elementary community school in the United States by the Washington, D.C.-based Coalition for Community Schools.

What's wrong with this picture? The reality is that Stevenson met all federal targets except one, which it missed by one student, a student who is still learning English.

Stevenson is fortunate. *Parade* and the Coalition for Community Schools knew a great school when they saw it, and they were wise enough to hold Stevenson up as a beacon for the nation. Other schools aren't so fortunate. Their teachers and students work just as hard, and sometimes they miss one target by one or two students. Instead of being celebrated, their schools are unfairly labeled as failures.

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District Outperforms State on Achievement

An independently produced report card on the performance of the Long Beach Unified School District shows local schools not only outperforming schools statewide, but in most cases also closing achievement gaps faster than the state is.

The report card is part of The Broad Foundation's effort to recognize school districts that are improving overall student performance while reducing achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between higher- and lower-income students.

The report card project, directed by the National Center for Educational Accountability, examined proficiency on state reading and math tests as well as performance

on the California High School Exit Exam.

Local students in elementary, middle and high school performed at – and in most cases above – their counterparts throughout the state. This scenario held true for Long Beach Unified School District students in each ethnic, racial and income group examined in the study, including African American, Hispanic, white, low-income and non-low-income students.

The Long Beach Unified School District won the national Broad Prize for Urban Education in 2003 for raising the achievement of all groups of students. After awarding the prize, the foundation continues to monitor winning districts and share their best practices with other educators throughout the nation.

Schools Meet Criteria For National Contest

Thirty-nine schools in the Long Beach Unified School District met the rigorous criteria to compete for the 2007 National Center for Urban School Transformation's Excellence in Education Awards.

NCUST, based at San Diego State University, considers schools eligible to compete if they have met several student performance criteria, including the following:

- Achieved national Adequate Yearly Progress goals;
 - Reported at least 92 percent average daily attendance;
 - Either the state department of education or the state's Just For the Kids data site identifies the school as being among the top comparable schools in one or more grade/subject areas;
 - For high schools, maintained at least a 75 percent cohort graduation rate for every major demographic group of students (at least 75 percent of the students who entered ninth grade in 2002-03, graduated in the spring of 2006);
 - Maintained a low out-of-school suspension rate (an average of less than one day of suspension for every student enrolled);
 - Presented other strong evidence of academic excellence such as high percentages of students passing advanced placement examinations, high percentages of students completing
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• Brighter Futures

(Continued from front page)

Fear not. There are many more youngsters here in the Long Beach Unified School District, who, like Eric, have a future thanks to the patience and persistence of our employees, parents and community supporters, even if they didn't make the cover of a national magazine, and there are plenty of people taking notice. Consider some of the state and national recognition that our schools, employees and students earned in the first half of this school year:

- An independent report by Standard and Poor's showed that more schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are significantly closing achievement gaps than in any other California school district.

- A study by UC Berkeley-based Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) praised our schools for using student performance data to improve instruction. LBUSD was one of only three school districts statewide featured in the report, which called our district "an exemplar of how data can be used effectively in closing the achievement gap."

- A Harvard Business Review report, "How to Manage Urban School Districts," described successful management efforts in school systems nationwide, including in the Long Beach Unified School District. Schools here have developed a "culture of collaboration and accountability for improving student performance," the study reported.

- Hill Classical Middle School, which only six years ago was threatened with state takeover if it didn't improve student achievement, won the highly coveted National Blue Ribbon Award.

- Long Beach Unified School District Head Start earned high national honors by meeting or exceeding more than 900 compliance items during an independent and exhaustive federal review.

- Robinson Academy and Millikan High School were named National Demonstration Schools by a visiting validation team representing the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) college readiness center.

- The California Academy of Mathematics and Science, Alvarado Elementary School and Naples Bayside Academy are among 304 Honor Roll Schools in the state honored for closing achievement gaps by the California Business for Education Excellence Foundation and Just for the Kids.

- The American Scholastic Press Association named Poly High School's *Acacia* as the Most Outstanding High School Literary-Art Magazine for 2006.

- Gregory Fisher, teacher at California Academy of Mathematics and Science, won the Teacher of the Year award from the Global Association of Teachers of Economics. Only one award was given nationally to a high school teacher.

Despite these honors, we are not complacent. That's why we convinced the state Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 2989, which will allow the Long Beach Unified School District to require struggling students to participate in supplemental instruction such as tutoring and summer school, beginning this year.

Our job is to nurture more students like Eric, the Stevenson first grader whose future is brighter than ever because he is learning to read, calculate and think for himself. It is a job that I know we all take seriously. We will not let our students down.

Best wishes for a safe and successful 2007.

Muir Arts Instruction Earns County Grant

Muir Elementary School's award-winning arts education has been selected as the recipient of a 2006-07 Arts Education Grant. The \$5,000 grant was announced recently by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe.

Last year, Muir was recognized as one of four Los Angeles County finalists for the Bravo Award recognizing outstanding arts education. Muir's performing arts and technology magnet classes offer instruction in theater, choral and instrumental music, dance and visual arts.

Names in the News

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools for January are **Kelly Acebedo**, Emerson; **Barbara Bell**, Muir; **Holly Carpenter**, Naples; **Lorraine Cukras**, Burroughs; **David Doyle**, Jefferson; **Peggy Green**, Birney; **Marti Kendricks**, Prisk; **Anita McNeal**, Bryant; **Guadalupe Mora**, Chavez; **Cathy Smith**, Addams and **Emily Spivey**, DeMille.

Lord Galayo was named the Technology and Information Services Branch Tier 2 Technician of the Year. The award was given for outstanding customer service, excellent attendance and overall exceptional work performance. Tier 2 technicians visit schools and other sites to handle computer-related calls to the Help Desk.

In Memoriam

Alex Castro
former plant supervisor
December 19, 2006

Carmen Simbillo
head teacher, Head Start
January 6, 2007

Robert Rockwell
science teacher, Avalon
January 7, 2007

Bonnie Holt
intermediate Nutrition Services worker,
Newcomb
January 8, 2007

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• National Contest

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rigorous courses of study, or awards for school-wide excellence in academic disciplines.

Finalists will receive a site visit from an NCUST team to help determine award winners. Five schools were selected last year. The winners will receive a check for \$1,000 and a banner bearing their name. Each school also will receive travel costs for one representative to attend the NCUST Symposium in San Diego in May.

Eligible elementary and K-8 schools included Addams, Alvarado, Barton, Birney, Bixby, Bryant, Buffum, Burbank, Burroughs, Edison, Garfield, Gompers, Grant, Harte, Holmes, Hudson, International, Keller, King, Lafayette, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Mann, Muir, Robinson, Roosevelt, Signal Hill, Tincher, Tucker, Whittier and Willard. Eligible middle schools include Hill, Hoover and Hughes. Eligible high schools include CAMS, Lakewood, Polytechnic and Wilson.

The Job Board

- Hughes Middle School is seeking a sixth grade GATE math teacher. For information, call ext. 2510.

- Lafayette Elementary School seeks a Reading First coach who is highly knowledgeable in grades K-3 Open Court Literacy. Job duties include providing professional development and demonstration lessons. Submit a letter of interest or a resume to Damita Myers-Miller, principal, by Tuesday, January 16. For information, call ext. 7952.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for area custodial manager, associate educational research analyst, educational research analyst I, educational research analyst II, and locksmith.

Jordan Gathers Gifts

Jordan Student Government, along with Link Crew, hosted a clothing drive for the residents of the Paradise Gardens Apartments who lost their homes in a recent fire. The staff, students, and local community donated enough to fill the back of a pick-up truck to overflowing with at least 30 large bags of clothing and other items.

Jordan Student Government also hosted a toy drive for KidsMas Kids, a Long Beach nonprofit organization that assists families and individuals in the community who are affected by HIV/AIDS. A total of 476 toys were collected from students and staff, enough to fill a van from top to bottom.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Laura Brean, elementary school office supervisor, Keller;

Alisa Provencio, credential services specialist, HRS;

Maria Ruiz, elementary school office supervisor, Barton;

Michael Hogan, school safety security specialist, School Safety and Emergency Preparedness.