



school bulletin

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

April 6, 2007

Admission to CSULB Shows Sharp Increase

The number of Long Beach Unified School District students earning admission to California State University, Long Beach has grown to 1,060, up more than 41 percent since 2003, according to recently compiled data.

The significant rise in admissions to the university is attributed in part to the school district's increased emphasis on college readiness in recent years.

Newly released numbers also show more students in the school district taking at least one Advanced Placement honors course and passing it with a grade of C or better. A total of 1,410 students met this challenge last year, up more than 15 percent over the prior year. Another increase is expected this June.

"The hard work is paying off," said Christopher J.

Steinhauser, superintendent of schools for the Long Beach Unified School District. "Our schools have launched intensive efforts to help more students achieve their dreams of earning a college education. Students, in turn, are seizing these opportunities. I commend them, our employees and our community supporters for making such tremendous progress."

In addition to these higher acceptance rates, students are posting double-digit increases in rates of actual enrollment at CSULB — a 27 percent increase from 2003 to 2006.

Nearby California State University, Dominguez Hills showed a 34 percent increase

in the admission of LBUSD students from 2003 to 2006, and a 40 percent increase in actual enrollment over the same period.

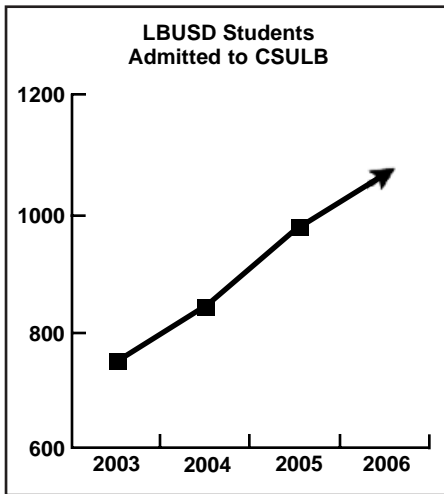
In addition to these admissions and enrollments, local high school graduates also are earning acceptance and scholarships to all California State University and University of California campuses. Still others are pursuing postsecondary education at private universities, community colleges, trade schools and elsewhere.

The school district has made a concerted effort to encourage greater numbers of students to take rigorous college preparation courses. More than 4,000 students enrolled in Advanced Placement honors courses for the 2006-07 school year, up from 2,309 in 2000-01.

LBUSD was one of the first school districts to pay for and require students to take the PSAT exam in tenth grade, helping to identify more students who have the potential to attend college. The school district also has provided AP Summer Bridge workshops for hundreds of students new to Advanced Placement courses.

The overall increase in AP enrollment here has included significant increases for each of the district's major ethnic and racial groups.

Newsweek's annual ranking of America's top high schools regularly includes several high schools in Long Beach, based on the number of AP and International Baccalaureate tests taken by students.



LBUSD One of Five Broad Prize Finalists

The Long Beach Unified School District this week was named as one of five finalists for the \$1 million National Broad Prize for Urban Education, the largest education prize in the nation given to school districts. Long Beach is the first former winner since the prize began in 2002 to return to the competition as a finalist.

As a finalist, LBUSD will receive at least \$125,000 in scholarships for graduating high school seniors and will now compete for a total of \$500,000 in scholarships. In all, \$1 million in scholarships goes to the finalists and top winner.

The annual award honors large urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps for poor and minority students.

LBUSD won the Broad Prize in the 2003-04 school year and was one of the top five finalists in 2002-03. If the school district wins the top prize this September, it will be the first school system in the nation to win the award twice.

"Long Beach again inspires the nation by believing in its children," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of schools for the Long Beach Unified School District. "We're deeply moved and inspired by The Broad Foundation's recognition and support of excellence in America's public schools. Our heartfelt thanks go to our unsurpassed team of teachers, classified personnel and administrators, support staff, Board of Education

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LBUSD Counselors Earn 'Best in West'

For the second year in a row, Long Beach Unified School District's counselors earned the most awards of any school district statewide in the annual SPARC Academy Awards competition.

The awards are presented each year to California schools that best define and implement the state school counseling reform curriculum.

Earning Best in the West honors were Avalon, Cabrillo, CAMS, Hughes, Jordan, Lakewood, Renaissance, Wilson and Millikan.

Winning the SPARC Academy Award were Robinson, Newcomb, Poly and EPHS, while Reid and Stephens earned commendations.

Each school prepared an extensive application listing specific measurements of their attainments. These best practices are given numerical ratings. Top scoring schools may earn a SPARC Academy Award the first two years. Highest scores three years in a row compete to earn the Best in the West honor.

Nominate Classified Employee of the Year

Employees may submit nominations for the Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year Award until Friday, April 27.

The award spotlights outstanding co-workers who support the district's educational mission, demonstrate a commitment to being a team player and positive role model, strive for excellence in job performance, and contribute significantly to the classroom support and/or the business operations of the school district.

Any full-time or part-time permanent classified employee at a district department, school or office is eligible for this honor. The selection committee will not consider self-nominations. Only district classified or certificated employees may nominate a classified employee. Employees who have been nominated

before may be nominated again, even if they were finalists in previous years.

Nomination forms are available at www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us (see Personnel Commission in the alphabetical index). Each site will receive nomination forms. Completed forms may be faxed to 435-1018 or sent through district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be dropped off in person at 999 Atlantic Avenue, Third Floor.

Finalists and the top winner will be announced at the Classified Employee Barbecue at the Teacher Resource Center on Friday, May 25. The barbecue is funded by donations from employees and generous community supporters. The award winner also will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting.

Training for Potential Assistant Principals

Potential assistant and vice principals who will possess their Certificate of Eligibility for their California Administrative Services Credential by the end of June 2007 and hope to be promoted to a management position this coming fall should consider applying for the LBUSD Aspiring Assistant Principals Program.

Those selected will participate in professional development to prepare for a first-time position as an assistant principal. For more information, e-mail Denise Armstrong at darmstrong@lbusd.k12.ca.us. Applications are due Monday, April 16.

E-Waste Collection

Safely dispose of unwanted computer monitors, TVs, DVD players, cell phones and other electronic equipment this month during a two-day recycling drive held at local high schools. The drive is for personal property, not school district property.

E-waste may be dropped off between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at Cabrillo, Lakewood and Poly high schools and on Saturday, April 28 at Jordan, Millikan and Wilson high schools. Goodwill trucks in the parking lots will be the collection points.

The drive is sponsored by Long Beach Councilmember Suja Lowenthal, Goodwill, the Water Replenishment District and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

The Job Board

- Henry Elementary seeks highly motivated, dedicated and bilingual Spanish candidates to apply for a first-grade Dual Immersion position. Applicants should send resumes and letters of interest to Claire Alvarez, principal, or via email to calvarez@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

- Millikan High School is interviewing for QUEST (GATE) 2007-08 positions in the following areas: math (geometry), English and science (biology). Contact Don Keller, ext. 4102, to interview. Millikan is also interviewing for a QUEST (GATE) counselor. Deadline to apply is 9 a.m., Thursday, April 19.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for cook remote site, grounds equipment operator II, heavy truck driver, intermediate office assistant-bilingual Spanish, intermediate office assistant-schools bilingual Spanish, painter and return to work specialist.

In Memoriam

Patricia Abplanalp
recreation aide, Monroe
January 16, 2007

Lois Grasmeyer
former secretary
March 17, 2007

Judy Guess
former teacher
March 26, 2007

• Broad Prize: Nation Can Learn from LBUSD

(Continued from front page)
members, Personnel Commissioners, parents, volunteers, business partners, local service clubs, philanthropic groups, clergy, veterans, local colleges and universities, retirees and many others."

LBUSD also is the only school district in the nation to be nominated for the award during each year it was eligible to compete since the inception of the award in 2002. Once a school district wins the top award, it is not eligible to compete for three years.

"After decades of decline, American public education continues to struggle compared with other industrialized nations, yet Long Beach has proven that with hard work, it is possible to not only raise student achievement in our cities, but also to keep it up," said Eli Broad, founder of The Broad Foundation. "Other urban districts nationwide can learn a great deal from what is working in Long Beach."

The five finalists were selected from a pool of 100 urban school systems. The year-long process draws on the expertise of education leaders, nationally prominent individuals from business and public service, and a team of dozens of data analysts and coordinators. The selection of the finalists and winner is a rigorous process that requires the analysis of thousands of pages of data, and hundreds of hours of school visits.

"Every year, The Broad Prize highlights urban school districts whose commitment to raising achievement for all students is helping more children reach and realize their potential," said U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. "These districts are proving that every child, regardless of race, income, or zip code can learn and achieve to high standards. By shining the spotlight on such worthy examples, The Broad Prize helps show that progress in our most challenging,

Tincher's Donut Day

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell recently joined hundreds of fathers at Tincher K-8 School for Dads' Donut Day.

Tincher and other local schools hold such events to strengthen parental involvement. The congresswoman and state superintendent called Tincher's efforts exemplary.

"When fathers are engaged with their children, we know the future is bright," Millender-McDonald said.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810.
(562) 997-8000. www.lbusd.k12.ca.us

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inner city schools is not only possible but already occurring all across the nation."

School districts cannot apply for The Broad Prize. The 100 eligible districts are determined by The Broad Foundation, based on size, minority and low-income enrollment and urban designation by the National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Broad Prize data analysis covers performance results on mandated state tests in reading and math for each district's elementary, middle and high schools. A regression analysis is conducted to compare those results with the performance of other districts in the state that have similar low-income student populations. Additional data reviewed includes achievement gap closures, graduation rates, SAT and ACT scores and participation rates, and Advanced Placement exam passing and participation rates. All of the data for The Broad Prize is reviewed for all students in each district, as well as for low-income, African American, Asian and Hispanic subgroups.

Among the reasons the Long Beach Unified School District was chosen as a finalist:

- In 2006, Long Beach outperformed other California districts serving students with similar income levels in reading and math at all grade levels: elementary, middle and high school. Long Beach's low-income, African-American and Hispanic student subgroups outperformed their peers in similar districts in reading and math at all levels.

- Long Beach is closing achievement gaps for Hispanics when compared to their white peers in high school reading, middle school math, and elementary school reading and math. In addition, the African American-white gap is closing faster than the state in middle school reading and math and in elementary school math.

- Since 2003, participation rates for African-American and Hispanic students taking the SAT and Advanced Placement exams have risen in Long Beach. At the same time, average SAT scores for African-American and Hispanic student subgroups are on the rise.

In the coming weeks, a team of experienced researchers and education practitioners will visit the five finalist districts to collect additional quantitative and qualitative data and to observe best practices in action. In summer 2007, The Broad Prize Jury, a group of 14 nationally prominent individuals, meets to determine the winner of the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

The winner of the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education will be announced September 18, 2007 at a press conference and celebratory luncheon at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The other four finalists are Bridgeport Public Schools, Conn., Miami-Dade County Public Schools, New York City Department of Education and Northside Independent School District in northwest San Antonio.

The Broad Foundation is a national venture philanthropy established by Edythe and Eli Broad, a renowned business leader who founded two Fortune 500 companies, SunAmerica Inc. and KB Home. Based in Los Angeles, The Broad Foundation's mission is to dramatically improve K-12 urban public education through better governance, management, labor relations and competition.

See www.broadprize.org for more information.