



school bulletin

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September 21, 2007

Teachers of the Year Share Success Stories

Three outstanding Long Beach Unified School District teachers have been selected as 2008 Teachers of the Year.

Laura Hand teaches kindergarten at King Elementary School. Anna Jorda teaches second grade at Burbank Elementary School. Ruth Mohr Silofau teaches physical education at Wilson Classical High School.

The three are being honored today at a luncheon hosted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for top teachers throughout the county.

Laura Hand is committed to the success of all students and creates a learning environment where all students can succeed. She believes that the wide variety of cultures, backgrounds and experiences of her students can be drawn upon to build understanding throughout her classroom.

"Therefore, my students work together in partnerships and cooperative learning groups throughout the year," Hand said. "These partnerships and groups are constantly changing, giving my students the opportunity to learn from all their other classmates."

Hand uses ongoing assessment, from day one, to know what her students have learned and to drive her instruction.

Hand's interest in teaching grew from her experiences as a student working with classmates on engaging, interactive projects.

"I became a teacher in order to create a sense of community of learners in the way that my teachers had created one for me," Hand said. "Far from being a radical idea, creating a community would become fundamental in my teaching."

Her goal is for each student to become a lifelong learner by building a foundation for the future.

"It is not enough as a teacher to deliver well planned lessons," Hand said. "You must also provide your students with an atmosphere in which they can, and want, to learn. For me, this means that I establish a classroom community where my students feel safe and respected so that they are able to take risks with their learning."

Although Anna Jorda originally took math and science courses while training to become a computer programmer, she became interested

in teaching after the birth of her children.

"I attended all the 'Mommy and Me' classes that Long Beach City College offered, as well as classes at the Child Study Center," Jorda said. "I have always enjoyed being a learner, and this was a practical way to meet that need plus learn how to handle two toddlers."

After serving as a volunteer in her children's school, she became a district employee and fell in love with reading and teaching students while serving as a library media assistant.

Through the district's Career Ladder program, she completed her bachelor's degree, entered the district's intern program and earned her credential.

"I am continuing to be a learner as I pursue my GATE/EXCEL certification," Jorda said. This training has helped her to encourage students to think in universal themes and disciplines. Through tiered assignments, students learn to think with depth and complexity.

A lifelong baseball fan, Jorda is developing an after-school baseball program for girls. While teaching children teamwork, discipline, leadership and sportsmanship, the baseball program will also bring parents on campus and lead them to greater involvement in their children's education.

"Parent involvement is important, and parents are empowered when they can help their students or school," Jorda said.

Ruth Mohr Silofau used the process of earning National Board certification to improve student achievement.

"This had an immediate impact on the success in my classroom," Mohr Silofau said.
(Continued on back page)



Hand



Jorda



Mohr Silofau

LBUSD Honored As Broad Prize Finalist

The Long Beach Unified School District, recognized this week as one of the top urban school districts in the nation, will receive \$125,000 in scholarships as a finalist for the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

The top winner of the prize this year was the New York City Department of Education.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings joined philanthropist Eli Broad at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to announce the winner.

"We thank the Broad Foundation for the unprecedented national attention they've brought to Long Beach schools," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, LBUSD superintendent of schools.

"Heartfelt thanks go to all of our employees, parents, volunteers and community supporters," Steinhauser said. "Most of all, congratulations to our students, who have worked so hard and should feel proud of this high honor."

Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered the keynote address at a celebratory Broad Prize luncheon following the announcement, after remarks by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The \$1 million Broad (rhymes with "road") Prize is an annual award that honors large urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among poor and minority students. The money goes directly to graduating high school seniors for college scholarships.

Long Beach won The Broad Prize in 2003 and is the first former winner to return to the competition. Winners are ineligible for three years, making this year the first that Long Beach was again in the running.

"Nothing is more important to the future of this country than giving young people the tools
(Continued on back page)

What Others Say About the 'Long Beach Way'

The *Los Angeles Times* Editorial Board praised the Long Beach Unified School District this week for "improving on its past performance in a way that should be an inspiration for urban school districts everywhere."

In their Sept. 19 editorial, 'The Long Beach Way,' the *Times* noted Long Beach's high standards of dress, behavior and achievement, its support for new teachers, focus on instruction, successful efforts to end social promotion, and its opening of rigorous courses to all — not just honors students.

"The district shows no signs of resting on its laurels," the editorial states. "Its progress gives all who care about educating all children confidence that it can be done."

On the same day as the *Times* editorial, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell congratulated LBUSD for being named a finalist for the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

"I congratulate the teachers, administration, students and parents of the Long Beach Unified School District who have worked so hard to make this district a leader in public education," O'Connell said.

"The distinction of being a Broad Prize finalist is a huge honor," O'Connell added. "Long Beach Unified's success in improving student performance and narrowing achievement gaps is what makes it one of the top urban school districts in the country."

• Teachers of Year

(Continued from front page)
 "We need to change with the times. I never saw that clearer until I really tried to know my students. Knowing them outside of the classroom changed my teaching."

Mohr Silofau used that insight as she eventually wrote and implemented course outlines for high school physical education.

"In physical education, we are not just impacting lives, not just changing lives, but, indeed, saving lives," she said. "It is a daunting calling, but it benefits students' physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being."

She has found abundant inspiration in being a physical education teacher.

"The beauty of my discipline is that we ask our students every day in class to perform," Mohr Silofau said, "to step out of their comfort zone and push themselves physically, mentally and emotionally. For this reason and many others, I think some of our best teachers are our physical education teachers. Most days I walk away thinking I would do this for free."

Intervention Teachers

The PALMS Office is establishing a pool of teachers for Saturday intervention classes and after-school assignments to be paid at the hourly additional rate. A complete curriculum with course outlines, pacing charts and supplemental materials will be provided for each course. Training also will be provided. To apply, call ext. 8031 or e-mail lleon@lbschools.net.

Dates to Remember

October

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| | Character Education Month |
| | Computer Learning Month |
| | Crime Prevention Month |
| | Disabilities Employment Awareness Month |
| | Filipino American History Month |
| 2 | Back to School Night — Middle Schools |
| 2 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Columbus," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 3 | Back to School Night — High Schools |
| 3 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Christopher Columbus" (Animated Hero Classics), Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 4 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 5 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Study Skills: Take That Test," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 7-13 | Fire Prevention Week |
| 7-13 | National Metric Week |
| 8 | Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day |
| 9 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "The Columbus Controversy: Challenging How History is Written," Grades 7-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 11 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 12 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "First Tuesday" (Voter Registration), Grade 12, ed.tv 8 |
| 15-19 | National School Lunch Week |
| 16 | National Bosses' Day |
| 16 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 17 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Harriet Tubman," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 18 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to Be a Good Sport," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 19 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Shape Hunting: Circles, Triangles, Rectangles, Squares," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 21-27 | National School Bus Safety Week |
| 22-26 | Red Ribbon Week |
| 23 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Library World," Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 24 | United Nations Day |
| 24 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Halloween," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8 |
| 25 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Going to School is Your Job," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 26 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8 |
| 27 | Make a Difference Day |
| 30 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "The Reference Section," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 31 | Halloween |

The Job Board

- Colin Powell Academy is seeking a middle school math coach. Interested applicants should contact Albert Gallo, assistant principal, at ext. 2807 or at argallo@lbschools.net.

- Edison Elementary School is seeking two specialists for grades 2-3 and 4-5. Applicants should e-mail resumes and letters of interest by Sept. 28 to Matty Zamora, principal, at mzamora@lbschools.net.

- The Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development is now accepting applications for the position of GEAR UP middle school math coach. The coach will work with 13 middle schools targeted in the new GEAR UP grant with the goal of increasing the number of middle school students who successfully complete Algebra 1-2. Applicants should have a single subject math credential or a supplemental authorization for mathematics and at least five years of experience teaching math in grades 6-8, including algebra. Teacher leadership experience is desirable. Submit letters of interest, including the names of three references, and resumes to Christine Dominguez, deputy superintendent, OCIPD, by Oct. 1.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for building maintenance worker, contract analyst, facilities project manager, plant utilities operator and staff secretary.

Boeing Gives \$100K

Boeing has announced a donation of \$100,000 to be used for additional teacher training and other efforts to improve instruction. As one of Long Beach's largest employers, Boeing is a long-time supporter of the Long Beach Unified School District.

"This is a happy tradition," said Steven B. Chesser of Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship. As with prior donations from Boeing, Chesser announced the news at an annual meeting of school district managers.

"This is the model of a K-12 partnership, not just for Boeing but for any community partner interested in improving public education," Chesser said.

Funding will go to the Long Beach Education Foundation to assist with middle school algebra reform, advanced placement biology and chemistry, Head Start, Child Development Centers and Save Our Children At Risk, which serves students who are at risk for incarceration. Funds also will go toward the Principals Leadership Academy through the Ukleja Center at Cal State Long Beach.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
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• Broad Prize

(Continued from front page)
 to succeed," said Secretary Spellings, before opening the envelope that revealed New York City was the top winner. "With the help of strong, innovative leadership, Broad Prize school districts are proving that if we raise our expectations, our children will rise to the challenge."

Long Beach and the three other Broad Prize finalist districts - Bridgeport Public Schools in Connecticut, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Northside Independent School District in San Antonio - each will receive \$125,000 in college scholarships for graduating high school seniors. Long Beach will again be eligible next year for the 2008 Broad Prize.

"Long Beach hasn't rested on its laurels," said Eli Broad, founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. "The district has sustained a level of high performance that is both an example and a motivator for struggling urban school districts nationwide."

Reasons Long Beach stood out among large urban American school districts:

Greater performance

In 2006, Long Beach outperformed California districts serving students with similar income levels in reading and math at all grade levels: elementary, middle and high school, according to The Broad Prize methodology. Similarly, each of Long Beach's subgroups - low-income, African-American and Hispanic students - also outperformed their peers in comparable California districts in reading and math at all grade levels.

Greater improvement

Between 2003 and 2006, Long Beach showed greater improvement than other California districts serving similar income levels in middle and high school reading and math. In addition, Long Beach's low-income students showed greater improvement than their peers in similar California districts in math at all grade levels and in middle and high school reading.

Closing achievement gaps

Between 2003 and 2006, Long Beach narrowed achievement gaps between:

- Hispanic students and their white peers in elementary school reading and math, faster than the equivalent statewide gap.

- African-American students and their white peers in elementary and middle school reading and in elementary school math, faster than the equivalent statewide gap.

The Broad Prize was started in 2002. In addition to Long Beach in 2003, previous winners include Boston Public Schools (2006), Norfolk Public Schools in Virginia (2005), Garden Grove Unified School District in California (2004) and the Houston Independent School District (2002).

In Memoriam

David Humphrey
 former teacher
 June 20, 2007

Dru Grenier
 former principal
 September 15, 2007