



# school bulletin

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

January 9, 2009



**ELITE HONORS** — The Board of Education recently recognized Long Beach Unified School District teachers who have earned National Board Certification. Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's 3 million teachers earn the certification each year.

## More Teachers Earn National Certification

Fifteen 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 129.

The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves writing extensive portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises.

The school district supports teachers who are interested in applying for National Board Certification by offering pre-candidacy and candidacy support programs, payment of application fees (more than \$2,500), and a 10 per-

cent salary increase for teachers who obtain certification. In addition, National Board Certified teachers are eligible for a \$20,000 bonus from the State of California if they teach at lower-performing schools.

New National Board Certified teachers are Elissa Blair, Lafayette; Theresa Collins, Poly; Yolanda Darrington, Webster; Jean DelMuro, Cleveland; Stanley Enge, Poly; Greg Hodel, Jordan; Susana Juarez-Corrales, Holmes; Kari Milton, Lindsey; Pamela Penn, Marshall; Sebastian Puccio, Franklin; Laura Romo, Chavez; Diana Spooner, Lincoln; Christine Taxier, Millikan; Jeanne Vitale, Poly; and Elizabeth Wystrach, Riley.

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## Schools Hit Hard by Worsening State Budget

**By Chris Steinhauser**  
Superintendent of Schools

A worsening state budget shortfall means that school districts everywhere, including here, will face difficult cuts. We've already taken many measures to help our district survive these tough times. We have suspended several activities, implemented a hiring freeze and eliminated overtime pay. In the coming months, however, the school district faces as much as \$50 million more in cuts for this year, and mostly next year.

These cuts come on top of the more than \$90 million that we have cut during the past four years. These are staggering numbers. Even more staggering are the state numbers. The governor's finance director estimates that the state's budget deficit will grow to \$41.6 billion and that it is growing by \$40 million per day. This crisis is very real. It is deplorable that California has the sixth largest economy in the world, yet funding for schools ranks 48th in the nation.

We will continue to be innovative in seeking fiscal flexibility from the state while work-

ing with professional organizations, non-profits and other groups to generate new revenue. We will also reconvene the district's budget committee, seek input from each of you through surveys, and keep you posted on the latest developments. It will take all of the creativity and teamwork we can muster to remain focused on students, while softening the impact on employees and protecting as many jobs as possible.

I would like to thank each of you personally. Year after year our state's fiscal difficulties are passed onto local schools. Despite immense fiscal challenges, in addition to all of the other challenges inherent in urban education, you've remained focused on your work and our students.

The good news is that the local community recently showed its strong support for our schools by voting overwhelmingly for Measure K school bonds. Test scores continue to rise, and the nation still looks to Long Beach as a model school system. This is a direct result of your patience and perseverance, which will be needed again in 2009.

## Five Schools Win National Title I Award

Five schools here will receive the 2008-09 National Title I Academic Achievement Award for making significant gains in student achievement.

The winners – Edison, International, Lafayette, Signal Hill and Alvarado elementary schools – were announced recently by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

"These schools deserve high praise for improving student achievement," O'Connell said. "They have addressed barriers to student success and were able to create a school environment conducive to learning. I congratulate the teachers, staff, paraprofessionals, parents, and students who all worked hard this past year to improve. I hold these schools up as models for their success in ensuring that all students without regard to race, economic status, or physical or mental challenges are given the kind of education that allows them to achieve to their fullest potential."

The five schools here were among 200 California schools selected for the honor.

The award may be given only to schools receiving federal Title I funds as authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. To be eligible for the Title I Schoolwide Program, a school must enroll 40 percent or more of socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

To meet the criteria for this distinction, the schools must demonstrate that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency on California's academic content standards. The school's socioeconomically disadvantaged students also must have doubled their achievement targets for two consecutive years.

Title I is a part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and is the single largest federal program for K-12 public education. Of the more than 9,000 schools in California, about 6,000 of them participate in the Title I program.

O'Connell personally called the principal at each school to inform them of their selection.

"They were extremely excited at hearing the news and equally proud of being recognized for their hard work and success," said O'Connell. "It was inspiring to talk to them and share in this extraordinary moment."

The 200 awardees will be honored at a special ceremony held in conjunction with the annual California Title I Conference scheduled for April 27-28 at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel.

## Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Tuesday, Jan. 13 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Millikan High School Library.

The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

## \$500K Grant to Train Science, Math Teachers

The Long Beach Unified School District is partnering with Cal State Long Beach on a \$500,000 National Science Foundation grant to address a shortage of qualified science and math teachers. The grant will provide funding to local college students earning their teaching credentials in these fields.

CSULB received the grant for the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program that will provide \$15,000 per year to selected students from fall

## School Helps Young Afghanistan Readers

Students, parents and teachers at Los Cerritos Elementary School have collected hundreds of donated children's books for a library in Afghanistan. Each donor of a book received a free homemade craft at the Handmade Holiday Craft Faire held recently at the school.

Los Cerritos is helping Virginia Sanchez, a Navy reservist who is stationed in Afghanistan, with the book drive. She is on leave from her regular job as a librarian at Dana Branch Library. She is collecting the books for soldiers and sailors to share with Afghan children and to read aloud to their own children in the U.S. via webcam or satellite telephone calls.

## Yearn for Yokkaichi?

The Long-Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association will send two high school students (Grades 10-12) and one teacher chaperone as ambassadors representing the City of Long Beach to Yokkaichi, Japan this summer.

This year the program will run for three weeks from July 22 to Aug. 11.

The selection committee is seeking applicants who are committed to furthering the relationship between the two cities. All applicants should be prepared to commit to a calendar of public appearances, both before and after the trip. The ability to speak Japanese is not a requirement.

For eligibility concerns, applications and guidelines and any further instructions, please check the Association website at [www.long-beach-yokkaichi.org](http://www.long-beach-yokkaichi.org). Deadline to apply is March 13.

## Names in the News

Poly students **Joshua Fruto, Elizabeth Terlinden, Rosemary Valdez, Nailah Waterfield** and **Lauryn Williams** will attend the presidential inauguration of **Barack Obama**. They earned the opportunity through the National Youth Leadership Forum and the People to People Ambassador programs.

## In Memoriam

**Rosalind Jackson**  
teacher, Avalon  
Dec. 12, 2008

2009 through 2012.

"The money is to support math, science and engineering majors who commit to teaching in high-needs school districts," said Laura Henriques, chair of CSULB's Department of Science Education in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The new grant will fund 21 students.

Only one other school district, the Whittier Union High School District, is partnering on the grant.

The Noyce program provides forgivable loans to students for up to three years -- two years of undergraduate education and one year of post-baccalaureate coursework including student teaching. People who already have a bachelor's degree can get one year of post-baccalaureate funding while they complete their credential. Participants also receive mentoring and attend professional development seminars. In return, they must teach in a high-needs school for two years for every year of funding they receive.

Students can use the grant funds toward college or living expenses.

"Our students tutor five hours a week in our partner schools and then they do their student teaching in the partner school," Henriques said. "By the time they get to student teaching, some of them may have been in the school for two years. They know the kids and the faculty. They're a part of that school, so they're much more likely to be successful in that setting."

For more information, contact Ignacio Hernandez at (562) 985-8395 or [lhernand@csulb.edu](mailto:lhernand@csulb.edu).

## Initiative Materials

Unanimously approved by the Board of Education more than a year ago, the Academic and Career Success Initiative is being implemented to increase the college and career readiness of all students.

To make certain that employees, parents and the community-at-large understand the initiative, the district has developed web pages, a brochure, poster and video.

To receive a brochure, call Patricia Chambers at ext. 8268. To view English and Spanish version of the video, go to [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net).

"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

### 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.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net)

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

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## • Nationally Certified

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The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards provides the certification.

The board is a nonprofit, nonpartisan and non-governmental agency governed by a 63-member board of directors, the majority of whom are classroom teachers. The board establishes rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

## E-Waste to Burcham

Burcham K-8 School will host an e-waste event this Saturday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The public is invited to bring old computers, monitors, speakers, TVs, microwaves, keyboards, printers, fax machines, telephones, radios, stereo components and other electronics.

Drive-up service will allow donors to have items unloaded from their vehicles.

Burcham is located at 5610 Monlaco Rd., Long Beach.

## Nominate Teachers For National Honor

Do you know a teacher who is an outstanding citizen in your community? To help that teacher's school earn \$5,000, you may nominate that person for the MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education Award.

The award recognizes middle school and high school teachers who are strengthening their schools and surrounding communities. Students, parents, educators and community members are encouraged to nominate a teacher who is making an impact beyond their school to improve the community.

Fay Tracy, a teacher at Newcomb Academy, earned the MetLife award in 2005. Wilson Classical High School teacher Devon Day won the award in 2007.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Feb. 18. For information about the award, visit [www.ncl.org/metlife/index.html](http://www.ncl.org/metlife/index.html).



**FORMER AMBASSADOR** — Wilson Classical High School teacher Devon Day, pictured here with the Wilson amateur radio club, is a past Ambassador in Education award winner. Nominations for 2009 are now being accepted.