



school bulletin

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Young Engineers at CAMS Earn 1st Place

Students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science recently earned first place in Northrop Grumman's third annual High School Innovation Challenge.

The contest required students to build a remote-controlled, lighter-than-air vehicle filled with helium. The students brought their completed project to a gymnasium in Redondo Beach where they flew the device through a maze of obstacles and used it to release a ping pong ball over a target.

Several area high schools competed in the event. Members of the CAMS team included sophomore Bradley Matheus, "who has extensive experience operating remote control vehicles," according to the CAMS website. CAMS junior Arren Bustamante created vivid images of the vehicle on Inventor 3-D modeling software. Senior Karina Simpson participated for her second time. Senior Andrew Thompson constructed the frame for the electronics, and freshmen Sophia De Guia, Lisa Hachmann and Timothy Pop contributed time and engineering expertise to the winning team.

CAMS, a high school run by the Long Beach Unified School District on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills, placed 22nd out of 21,000 public high schools in U.S. News and World Report's ranking of America's top high schools.

Learn more at lbschools.net/cams.

NATIONAL PRAISE — U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan holds a roundtable discussion at Tincher Preparatory School with Principal Bill Vogel. Duncan praised LBUSD as a school system that "has gotten things right for a long time."



U.S. Education Secretary Visits, Lauds LBUSD

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan had high praise for the Long Beach Unified School District when he met recently with educators, parents and students at LBUSD's Tincher Preparatory School.

"I've studied your school district for a long time, and I think you have so much to be proud of," Duncan said. "I don't say this lightly, but more so than the vast majority of other school districts that I visit, this school district has gotten things right for a long time."

The visit was part of a trip to California to

highlight the need for education reform at the federal level.

In a roundtable discussion in the K-8 school's library, Duncan discussed President Barack Obama's blueprint for fixing the No Child Left Behind Act. Duncan said he wanted the federal legislation revised before the start of school again in September. He listened to
(Continued on next page)

'College Promise' Lives On, But Cuts Loom

A progress report on a three-year-old, local initiative to prepare more youngsters for college success reveals promising results, though education officials cautioned that California's budget cuts seriously threaten further gains.

Three years ago, leaders from the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach signed The Long Beach College

Promise, committing the three institutions to providing local students with greater opportunities to complete their higher education.

"The College Promise continues to offer upward mobility and a better life for thousands of students and their families," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser said. "But we need help. Budget cuts are hurting
(Continued on next page)

Tincher Honored for College Prep Efforts

Tincher Preparatory School (K-8) has earned the title of Outstanding Leadership Team for Southern California GEAR UP, recognizing the school's exemplary college preparedness efforts.

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs is funded through federal grants to assist high-poverty middle and high schools.

Tincher Site Coordinator David Thompson and Facilitator Tim Schugt accepted the honor. The award recognizes the school's collaborative and successful implementation of its GEAR UP plan, including efforts to help all students succeed academically.

Working with California GEAR UP, Tincher has created a college-bound atmosphere including a Tincher Student Union used to research high school and college, and university posters featuring Tincher students. The school also has provided related training opportunities for several teachers in the middle grades.

After repeatedly meeting or exceeding state targets for academic growth, Tincher two years ago became the first Long Beach school, and the first K-8 school in the state, to be named a "School to Watch" by the California Middle Grades Alliance.

Learn more at lbschools.net/tincher.



PROMISING RESULTS — Students from CSULB, LBCC and LBUSD joined leaders of the three organizations to report on the College Promise. The report shows more LBUSD grads attending LBCC and CSULB.

Nominate Classified Employee of the Year

Employees may nominate colleagues for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award until Friday, April 15.

Obtain criteria and nomination forms at work sites, the Personnel Commission office, or at lbschools.net under Classified Employee of Year in the A-Z index. Completed forms may be faxed to 435-1018 or sent through school district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be delivered in person at 999 Atlantic Ave., Third Floor, Long Beach.

Finalists and the top winner will be announced Friday, May 20 during the annual Classified Employee Celebration and Ice Cream Social at the Teacher Resource Center. The event is supported by private donations.

The Employee of the Year and finalists also will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting.



IN MEMORIAM — Kettering Elementary School pays tribute to Mark Bixby, one of five people who died March 16 in a twin-engine plane crash at Long Beach Airport. Bixby often donated time and resources to children's causes, including student scholarships through Rotary.

• Education Secretary

(Continued from first page)
success stories about Tincher's student performance, curriculum, community partnerships, parent education, college readiness efforts and data-driven decision making. He also heard repeated calls for funding to help ease California's continued cuts to public education.

"We need funds, because teachers need to want to go into teaching, yet they see class sizes increasing and programs like fine arts being cut," Tincher Principal Bill Vogel told Duncan. Vogel has helped to lead the school's diverse student population to achievement levels far exceeding the state's goals.

Among the roundtable participants were Board of Education President Felton Williams and LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer.

Steinhauer expressed support for President Obama's blueprint for revising the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The President's plan would abolish NCLB's widely criticized Adequate Yearly Progress system, replacing its single snapshot approach with a system that rewards academic gains.

Without major revisions, most schools in the nation will soon be labeled unfairly as failures under the current system, the Education Secretary said.

"This idea of labeling every school a failure is absolutely crazy," Duncan added.

Obama's plan would reward academic growth and innovation instead of simply sending more money to troubled school districts. Such a change in the federal law would benefit higher-performing school systems such as Long Beach.

Steinhauer also suggested to Duncan that the federal government provide grants directly to school districts (instead of states), including perhaps the 100 largest school districts in the nation, and then allow greater flexibility as to how school systems can use the funding.

Names in the News

Former Kettering Elementary School student **Connor Cushman**, now a senior at Tesoro High School in the Capistrano Unified School District, recently earned an appointment as the student member of the State Board of Education. The position includes voting rights and full participation in all sessions, open and closed. An article on Cushman recently appeared on the front page of The Orange County Register.

Cubberley Leads U.S. In Cancer Fundraiser

Cubberley K-8 School recently raised more than \$40,000 to help conquer children's cancer at its annual St. Baldrick's Day event. The school leads the nation in the number of students involved in such an event, according to the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Steinhauer expressed support for President Obama's blueprint for revising the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The President's plan would abolish NCLB's widely criticized Adequate Yearly Progress system, replacing its single snapshot approach with a system that rewards academic gains.

Cubberley's 140 participants, more than half of them children, shaved their heads after collecting pledges. Students were joined by parents, school staff, friends and family.

During the past 10 years, Cubberley has raised more than \$440,000 through the annual event.

• College Promise Boosts Student Success

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our schools and public colleges. California can only improve its economy if we keep alive the promise of educational opportunity."

The progress report highlights key steps that the three institutions are taking to prepare more students for success in college and in high-demand, high-paying jobs. Included in these efforts is a commitment to cover the cost of first-semester fees for every local high school graduate who enrolls directly at LBCC after graduation. The LBCC Foundation has now established an endowment of more than \$6 million to pay the enrollment fees.

"Long Beach City College is proud of this important partnership with LBUSD and CSULB," said LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley. "The Long Beach College Promise has been recognized by the White House for its innovation and commitment to higher education. This partnership is increasing educational opportunities for thousands of local students."

The Promise also guarantees LBUSD grads admission to CSULB with minimum requirements.

"We are very pleased to continue our efforts in support of this nationally recognized and celebrated partnership," said Cal State Long Beach President F. King Alexander. "We have begun to see the fruits of our collaboration with so many college-eligible students coming out of the Long Beach Unified School District. As we move forward, all three educational enterprises in Long Beach anticipate even greater achievements from our local students."

The recent report from the three institutions shows:

- LBUSD students' English and math proficiency rates, as measured by the Early Assessment Program (EAP), improved even as participation rates increased significantly.

- Nearly three of four LBUSD graduates (74 percent) are pursuing post-secondary education.

- LBCC Fall 2010 enrollment of LBUSD graduates increased to 1,674 (up 2.6 percent over 2009, and up 24 percent since 2007).

- LBCC students from LBUSD continue to be much more likely to persist in college.

- More than 500 students have received Long Beach College Promise scholarships through the LBCC Foundation and Long

Beach Rotary.

- CSULB continues to guarantee LBUSD graduates admission with minimum requirements. Admissions for LBUSD graduates have increased by more than 80 percent since 2007.

- LBUSD graduates attending CSULB successfully complete English and math remediation at a higher rate than other freshmen.

Education leaders released the report during a news conference at CSULB's Walter Pyramid, where they also unveiled a new website dedicated to the College Promise:

www.longbeachcollegepromise.org. The website is a collaborative effort of the three institutions and is designed to help students, parents and others to understand the valuable educational resources available to them.

Officials at the news conference also awarded 27 scholarships ranging from \$50 to \$250 to LBUSD eighth graders who have shown academic improvement.

The College Promise is an extension of the Long Beach Educational Partnership, which was created in 1994 and became a national model for its efforts to provide seamless education for Long Beach students from preschool to graduate school. The partnership also aligned academic standards, teaching methods and student assessment across institutions to improve student achievement and teacher quality.

View the full report on the College Promise at www.longbeachcollegepromise.org.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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