



March 14, 2014

## McBride Has State's Top Engineering Teacher

McBride High School teacher Charise Williams accepted the statewide Engineering Teacher of the Year Award recently from the nonprofit Project Lead the Way.

PLTW is a leading provider of science, tech-



**EXCELLENCE BY DESIGN** – McBride High School teacher Charise Williams accepts the Project Lead the Way California Engineering Teacher of the Year Award from PLTW Chief Executive Officer Vince Bertram.

nology, engineering and math curriculum. The curriculum is used at McBride as well as at Cabrillo High School and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science. Williams worked at Cabrillo for 10 years and then at CAMS for seven years before arriving at McBride when the school opened last fall. She's a nationwide master teacher for PLTW, and she's the Long Beach Unified School District's lead PLTW engineering teacher, training teachers here and throughout the nation on how to teach Introduction to Engineering Design.

"She has done a remarkable job at McBride, starting from scratch, and she helps support teachers throughout LBUSD," said McBride Principal Steve Rockenbach.

Williams was nominated by her peers and accepted the honor at the California PLTW State Conference in Sacramento, where nearly 500 educators, administrators, business leaders and policymakers attended.

"I was totally shocked when I found out," said Williams, whose colleagues from Cabrillo and CAMS were on hand to watch her receive the honor.

"That was the best," Williams said, "because these teachers were there with me, and we've all done this together."

McBride High's curriculum includes  
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## State Business Group Honors 14 Schools

Fourteen schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are listed on the California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll for academic excellence and reducing achievement gaps among student populations.

"Having high standards, effective school leadership, and staying focused on academic achievement have paid off for these Honor Roll Schools," said Lee Blitch, CBEE Chairman and past CEO of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. "These schools are an inspiration."

The Honor Roll consists of three parts, the first being "Star Schools," or those with significant populations of disadvantaged students who have shown high achievement. Making this list were the California Academy of Mathematics and Science and Franklin, Hughes, Los Cerritos, Madison and Stanford schools.

The second tier of recognition is "Scholar Schools," or those that show significant levels of academic achievement without a significant population of disadvantaged students. That list includes LBUSD's Carver, Fremont, Gant, Henry, Lowell, Naples, Newcomb and Rogers schools.

The business group recognized a subset of the Honor Roll that has both high percentages of low-income students and high levels of math and science achievement. Among these 100 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Honor Roll schools was CAMS.

CBEE has identified a common set of success factors in higher performing Honor Roll schools and districts. These factors include high expectations for all students; ongoing collaboration among teachers to improve practice; targeted use of data to pinpoint challenges and monitor progress; continual intervention for  
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## Poly Wins National C-SPAN Competition

Three freshmen in the Poly High School PACE program have won a \$5,000 grand prize from C-SPAN for their documentary, "Earth First, Fracking Second."

Each year since 2006, C-SPAN has invited middle and high school students to produce short documentaries on an issue of national importance. This year, students used video cameras to answer the question, "What's the most important issue the U.S. Congress should consider in 2014?"

The winning Poly students – Emma Larson, Michaela Capps and Sarah Highducheck – competed against 4,800 students nationwide who submitted 2,355 documentaries. Poly economics and government teacher Jeff Montooth gave students the assignment of creating a current events film.

Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, frees up pockets of oil and natural gas trapped in shale by using injections of water mixed with chemicals. The students interviewed a representative from Long Beach Gas & Oil and talked to a farmer affected by fracking on his property. The resulting documentary details the economic benefits of fracking but also calls upon Congress to develop regulations to protect the environment from potential harm.

"StudentCam serves as a yearly reminder that young people are not only passionate about issues of national significance, but their ideas

and opinions are also worthy of our consideration," said Craig McAndrew, C-SPAN Manager of Education Relations. "The level of critical thought, effort and initiative that students have demonstrated in creating their documentaries is inspiring, and we are thrilled to share this year's winning videos with both Congress and the public."

The Poly students' documentary will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. E.T. and throughout the day on Monday, April 28. Created by the cable TV industry, C-SPAN is now in 100 million TV households. The winning video also can be viewed at [studentcam.org/winners14.htm](http://studentcam.org/winners14.htm).

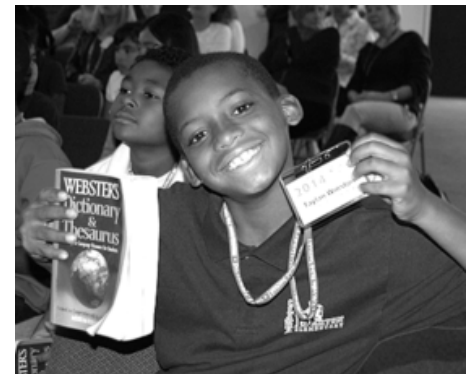
One of the winning Poly students, Emma Larson, is the sister of Samantha Larson, a 2006 Poly graduate who became the youngest person to scale the Seven Summits, the tallest mountains on each of the seven continents.

Other Poly students earned honors in this year's C-SPAN contest, including:

- Sophomore Destin Bigsby, third prize and \$750 for his documentary, "Mental Illness in America."

- Juniors Mara Koval and Asa Mazor-Freedman, third prize and \$750 for their documentary, "Polarization: The Looming Downfall of American Politics."

- Freshmen Nhi Cao and Natalie Pin, honorable mention and \$250 for their documentary, "It's Foster Care."



**DICTIONARY DAY** – Barton Elementary School student Tayan Winston received a dictionary as the Long Beach Public Library Foundation celebrated its annual dictionary give-away to all local third graders. **Story on next page.**

## Names in the News

Teachers **Debra Palmer** of Chavez Elementary School and **William Diaz-Brown** of Willard Elementary School recently were among 32 teachers nationwide to earn Raytheon Engineering is Elementary (EiE) Teacher Scholarships, allowing them to travel to the Museum of Science in Boston this month for professional development. The \$2,500 awards include materials for one of the nation's leading elementary engineering programs.

**Tiffany Brown**, director of coordinated student services for the Long Beach Unified School District, was one of six people to earn an IMPACT Award recently from City Prosecutor **Doug Haubert**. The award honored Brown's efforts to work with the City Prosecutor to reduce chronic truancy in the school district.

**Felicia Anderson**, assistant principal at Jordan High School, has successfully defended her Cal State Long Beach doctoral dissertation, a study of the positive impact of Millikan High School's two certified Linked Learning Pathways (PEACE and COMPASS) on African-American students. Serving on Anderson's committee alongside her CSULB committee members was LBUSD Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer **Jill Baker**.

The Association of California School Administrators, Region 14, honored Poly JUSTICE academy student and athlete **DaWon Smith**. Each district in the South Bay region that constitutes Region 14 is allowed to nominate one student who has overcome great obstacles to achieve success. DaWon was nominated by the JUSTICE team at Poly, forwarded to the Association of Long Beach Educational Managers, and sent to the region then state level.

Wilson Classical High School Senior **Julian Yano** recently won first place in LBUSD at the Lions Club Student Speaker Contest. He moves onto the third tier of competition in April.

LBUSD's Concerned African American Parents recently held their student oration contest. Winning students and their schools in the category of grades 3 to 5 were: first place, **Benjamin Jackson**, Bixby; second, **Tru Jones**, Bixby; third, **Kennyetta Coulter**, Riley. Winners in grades 6 to 8 were: first place, **Leighton Williams**, Hoover; second, **Jasir Jones**, Bancroft; third, **Caleb Jackson**, Nelson. Winners in grades 9 to 12 were: first place, **Tatiana Tate**, Poly; second, **Landon Williams**, Lakewood; third, **Prince Mays**, Millikan. Judges were retired LBUSD employee and CAAP founder **Ninette Richardson**, Whittier Elementary School Principal **Lori Grady** and Board of Education Member **Felton Williams**.

Board of Education Member **Mary Stanton** received an award from the Long Beach Symphony Association for dedicated support of arts in education.

## Nurse of the Year

The Long Beach School Nurses Association is seeking nominations for the School Nurse of the Year for 2013-14. Each year, the association recognizes one special nurse for outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of students.

Obtain nomination forms from Nancy Suzuki at [nsuzuki@lbschools.net](mailto:nsuzuki@lbschools.net).

The deadline for submission is Tuesday, May 6.

## Dictionaries Donated To All Third Graders

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation recently celebrated its annual dictionary giveaway to all local third graders with a Dictionary Day ceremony, where students from Barton and Lafayette elementary schools demonstrated their dictionary skills.

Now in its twelfth year, the event ensures that Long Beach children have dictionaries in their homes to help them with spelling, vocabulary and reading comprehension. Special instructional material is given to teachers to help children with dictionary usage.

During this year's ceremony at the Main Library, Barton and Lafayette third graders competed on teams to demonstrate their new skills in a Dictionary Challenge game. Each of the students also received a new backpack with two illustrated books.

"It was wonderful to see the excitement on the children's faces," said Sara Myers, Library Foundation Executive Director. "We are very proud of this program. With the help of the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation, we have placed more than 100,000 dictionaries in the hands of Long Beach youngsters."

## Cabrillo to Host Steel Drum Fest

Cabrillo High School will host a Steel Drum Festival at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26 in the school auditorium. For the first time, musicians from Cabrillo, Stephens Middle School and Cal State Long Beach's Steel Drum Orchestra will combine efforts to present the concert.

Event tickets, available at the door, are \$5 for individuals and \$15 for families of four or more.

## In Memoriam

**Patricia Calciano**  
recreation aide, Riley  
Jan. 28, 2014

**Georgianna Dols**  
former teacher  
Feb. 24, 2014

### 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)

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## • McBride Teacher

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California State University and University of California entrance requirements, with an emphasis on real-world training in three high-demand career pathways: Health and Medical, Public Services and Forensics, and Engineering.

The engineering pathway includes a four-year sequence of courses, allowing students to design innovative products using industry standard software and the latest machining processes and tools.

Learn more at [pltw.org](http://pltw.org).

## • 14 Schools Honored

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struggling students; and mastery of content knowledge and teaching practices.

"Our goal is to highlight these amazing schools that have been succeeding with our kids. Their practices can be replicated but only if those looking know where the status quo is unacceptable and where success and myth busting is taking place," said Jim Lanich, CBEE president. "All schools – no matter what zip code they are in – can achieve this kind of success."

This year's honor roll includes 2,099 public schools in California.

Learn more at [cbee.org](http://cbee.org).

## No School for Entire Thanksgiving Week

Newly approved calendars for next school year include a break for the entire week of Thanksgiving.

The Board of Education approved the calendars for traditional and year-round schools at its last regular meeting.

Under the new calendar, the traditional school year will end June 17 for students and June 18 for teachers, slightly later than in previous years.

The new calendar also moves the Admission Day holiday to April 3. The holiday was previously observed in late August.

View the new calendars under Calendars, School in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2014-15 school year. Refer to the Teachers Association of Long Beach agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

Requests for Transfer forms are available at schools and the TALB office, and can be downloaded at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Human Resource Services in the A-Z index (then click on For Current Employees). Computers are available for use in the HRS lobby.

Teachers may submit requests for transfer whether or not a position appears as a vacancy.

Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply for transfers is Thursday, May 1. For more information call ext. 8635.