



# school bulletin

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

May 6, 2016

## Poly Entrepreneurs Take First at UCLA

Poly High School students won first place overall and several other awards at the Project ECHO High School Entrepreneurs' Business Plan Competition held recently at the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

The \$1,000 top prize and other first, second and third place prizes in various categories earned the Poly students a combined \$3,750. Teams of students from the high school won in categories including food, technology and retail. Jeff Montooth is the Project ECHO lead teacher at Poly.

The Project ECHO (Entrepreneurial Concepts Hands On) competition simulates the real-world process of entrepreneurs soliciting start-up funds from investors. The competitions are a culmination of a year-long academic project that provided students with the knowledge, ability, creativity and team environment they needed to turn business ideas into reality. Project ECHO is celebrating its 20th anniversary and started in Santa Monica.

## Hill's Final Reunion

Hill Classical Middle School, which will close after this school year to make way for the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science, will hold a Final Reunion event on Friday, May 20 when all former students, parents, staff and families are invited to bring photos and share memories.

Attendees can drop by any time between 5 and 8 p.m., and an informal program will be held in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m. Hot dogs will be served (donations accepted). Water bottles and soda will be on sale. Dessert will be provided.

RSVP with the number of attendees to Mary Nowak at [hill.reunion@yahoo.com](mailto:hill.reunion@yahoo.com).

**PUBLIC MURAL –** Students from Jordan Plus High School worked with their art teacher and a local artist to create a large mural near Artesia Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue. The school partnered with the City of Long Beach on the project. View more photos at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). **Story on next page.**



## Honoring Teachers at the White House

By Christopher J. Steinhauser  
Superintendent of Schools

I was absent from our school board meeting this week, but I had a good excuse. I had been invited to the White House to speak about the importance of teachers and education. The occasion was President Obama's annual National Teacher of the Year award ceremony. This year, the top award went to Connecticut teacher Jahana Hayes of John F. Kennedy High School.



Steinhauser

My assignment was to address the 400 or so dignitaries and educators in the East Room of the White House as they waited for the President to arrive. While the day focused on teachers, the fact that I was invited to speak at this national event was a testament to what we've all accomplished together through the years – steady gains in achievement thanks to all of our employees, students, parents, school board members, higher education partners and many other friends in the community. I was honored to represent our beloved school system. Here is what I said:

"Good afternoon. It's a great honor to be here with all of you today as we recognize

exemplary educators.

"Like many of you, I've devoted my life to education. I began working as a teacher more than 30 years ago at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School in Long Beach, California. That's where I met my wife, who continues to teach in the same school system.

"I could not have been more proud when my son told me that he wanted to become a teacher. Now he teaches in Long Beach, where I've served as superintendent since 2002. More recently my daughter applied to start student-teaching this fall. So if I ever need a quick reality check about the challenges that teachers face today, I have a ready and willing sounding board close at hand.

"In Long Beach we've worked hard to close achievement gaps and prepare more students for success in college and careers. I am personally grateful to President Obama and his administration for supporting our work and allowing our schools greater flexibility to innovate. We have also worked with this administration on initiatives to better serve students of color, and to improve college access through the Long Beach College Promise and now America's College Promise.

"Key to all of our success in Long Beach is our collaborative work with our more than 3,000 teachers.

"Our teachers help to create our curriculum, assessments and professional development.

(Continued on next page)

## Seven High Schools Among Best in U.S.

The Washington Post's 2016 ranking of America's top high schools includes seven schools in the Long Beach Unified School District. The ranking lists schools in only the top 10 percent of the approximately 22,000 U.S. public high schools in terms of their ability

to offer rigorous college prep instruction.

The Post calculates a Challenge Index by dividing the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school gave in 2015 by the number of graduating seniors.

The report by the Post includes the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches, a figure illustrating the poverty challenges that schools face.

Local high schools' national rankings on the report (with the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches) are:

- 820 – California Academy of Mathematics and Science (45% subs. lunch)
- 869 – Millikan (48% subs. lunch)
- 949 – Wilson (56% subs. lunch)
- 1,024 – Poly (58% subs. lunch)
- 1,435 – Lakewood (49% subs. lunch)
- 1,519 – Renaissance (57% subs. lunch)
- 1,928 – Avalon (68% subs. lunch)

Each of these schools has repeatedly appeared on the Post's annual ranking.

The Post's ranking follows a similar ranking last month from U.S. News and World Report, which included six high schools here.

Go to [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com) to view the complete ranking.



**FIRST PLACE** – Poly High School tenth grader Clara Donovan's artwork "Fall/Rise" earned first place for the 47th district in the annual Congressional Arts Competition. Donovan was honored recently at the Long Beach Museum of Art. Her artwork will be displayed for a year in the U.S. Capitol, where she and a family member will visit as guests of Congressman Alan Lowenthal. With Donovan is her art teacher Nick Kincaid.

## • White House Event

(Continued from first page)

While they are the leaders of their classrooms, they also help to lead our entire organization on a path of continuous improvement. And ultimately, our teachers impact so many young lives in significant and lasting ways. Today we reflect on the importance of teachers everywhere, and we thank them.

"Like many of the students in our school system, I was the first in my family to go to college. When I was a child, my siblings and I would pile into the family station wagon, and my parents would drive by California State University, Long Beach. Mom and dad would point at the college campus and say, 'That's where you're going after high school.' That was their version of the College Promise. Sure enough, that's where I went to college.

"Mom and dad understood the importance of education, even if they didn't have a college degree. They had high expectations (though they could not predict that I might some day deliver remarks at the White House).

"But this is the perfect setting to celebrate great educators and discuss education, which has been essential to America since the very beginning of our story. Public education is a pillar of our democracy and is central to the idea that people in this country have a chance at a better life, if they're willing to work hard and apply themselves. Providing such opportunity is important to us as educators, and I know that it's important to President Obama.

"Thank you for joining us as we recognize some of America's best educators. We look forward to hearing from the President shortly."

View video of President Obama's presentation at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

## Jordan Plus Students Create Public Mural

Students from Jordan Plus High School have worked closely with local artist Guillermo Avalos and art teacher Reba Castaneda to paint a large mural near Artesia Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue behind the Golden State Humane Society. The project is part of Long Beach's Creative Corridor challenge set forth by City Councilman Rex Richardson. The challenge is an initiative to change spaces in the community, beautify open, unused areas, and create destinations that have a positive impact on the community.

Students worked on the project on Saturdays and on weekdays after school. Castaneda was a Jordan High School student when she first met artist Avalos through a mural and cultural arts program in Long Beach ten years ago.

"I have learned from him and with him on several mural projects in the past," Castaneda said. "It has been a joy to reconnect and work with Mr. Avalos, guest artists Mario Aguirre, and my students. To be part of a multigenerational project to beautify the community has been an amazing experience. I see the positive impact it is having on my students as well. Future projects are already being planned for more sites in North Long Beach, and on site at the Jordan Plus campus."

## Board Reschedules Meeting to June 23

The Board of Education has moved its Tuesday, June 21 meeting to Thursday, June 23. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in the usual location, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach.

## Names in the News

Poly High School teacher **Jackie Lazatin** was selected as Woman of Excellence in the Outstanding Educator category of the Women's Business Council of the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Retirement Event

| Honoree      | Date    | Contact  |
|--------------|---------|--|
| Debbie Ecung | June 10 | Stephanie Jimenez<br>sajimenez<br>@lbschools.net |

### 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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FELTON WILLIAMS, President

JON MEYER, Vice President

DIANA CRAIGHEAD, Member

MEGAN KERR, Member

JOHN MCGINNIS, Member



**NEW GARDEN** – About 100 volunteers supported Barton Elementary School's efforts to create a large, native garden that represents four regions of the state. The school partnered with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife on the green space for students to enjoy while supporting native species.

## Lindbergh Wins 4th Straight RoboBowl

North Long Beach's Lindbergh Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Academy captured its fourth consecutive RoboBowl title last Saturday at McBride High School, where students from local middle schools learned about science, math, engineering and technology while showing off their robotics projects.

Teams from Lindbergh won first and second place, while Hughes Middle School placed third.

Lindbergh Middle School became the Lindbergh STEM Academy after the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education approved the new program in 2014. The school serves as a pathway for students interested in careers in the sciences.

At the RoboBowl, each school's robotics club participates in the competition, which gives students a chance to test their robot designs before attending official VEX Robotics events in the fall. Since the RoboBowl's inception the event has been a partnership with Leadership Long Beach with the aim of advancing STEM education throughout the school district.

Lindbergh's first place team members were Jason Lam, Daniel Venegas, Robert Ea, Wilson Lam, Sonny San and Anthony Lewis. View a photo at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## In Memoriam

**Linda Baker**  
former teacher  
Feb. 16, 2016

**Michael Blackwell**  
custodian, Muir  
April 30, 2016