



school bulletin

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

February 10, 2017

Schools Rank Highly On AP Equity Data

Several high schools in the Long Beach Unified School District rank in the top 20, and in some instances are No. 1, among California's more than 1,300 traditional high schools, in terms of the raw number of African American and Latino students who pass certain Advanced Placement college prep exams.

Two local schools posted No. 1 rankings, according to data supplied by Gregg Fleisher, president of the National Math and Science Initiative. The California Academy of Mathematics and Science achieved a No. 1 ranking in English Literature, while Millikan High School posting a No. 1 ranking by producing the highest number of Latino and African students in the state who passed the AP World History Exam. Other local schools were not far behind, with Wilson at No. 3 for AP U.S. History, and No. 4 in AP World History. Lakewood ranked No. 3 for AP World History, and No. 5 or AP Biology. Poly ranked No. 3

(Continued on next page)

State Ranking Raw Number of Students Passing AP Exams

Among more than 1,300 schools

AP World History

School	All Students	African Americans & Latinos
Millikan	8	1
Wilson	13	4
Lakewood	25	3

AP U.S. History

School	All Students	African Americans & Latinos
Poly	4	7
Wilson	26	3
Millikan	90	11

AP English Literature

School	All Students	African Americans & Latinos
Poly	3	3
CAMS	32	1
Millikan	51	12

AP Biology

School	All Students	African Americans & Latinos
Lakewood	88	5
Wilson	117	18

World Renowned Educator Studies LBUSD

Michael Fullan is sort of a rock star to educators worldwide. In fact, the professor emeritus and former dean at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto once earned the same Officer of the Order of Canada honor as actual rock stars Neil Young and the band Rush. A prolific writer, Fullan's latest work includes a case study on the Long Beach Unified School District. The study describes the key conditions and strategies that have led to improved student achievement here while providing exemplary support to teachers for more than two decades.

The case study is one of five in a series called "California's Golden Opportunity – District Case Studies in Professional Capital." Professor Fullan also studied Corona Norco Unified, Fresno Unified, Twin Rivers Unified and Whittier Unified school districts, publishing all the reports on Jan. 20 at michaelfullan.com.

Fullan states that professional capital, consisting of human, social and decisional capital – is the key asset that has to be invested, accumulated and circulated to yield continuous growth and strong return in student and adult learning in an education system.

"The Long Beach Unified School District exemplifies high levels of professional capital in action," wrote Fullan, who advises policy-

makers and other leaders around the world on how to help all children learn. He holds honorary doctorates from several universities, he's a best-selling author whose books have been published in multiple languages, and he's apparently a fan of Long Beach.

"The district has been remarkably successful at articulating and operationalizing a vision that all students can achieve at high standards," he wrote.

Fullan notes LBUSD's recognition in a global study naming the district as a highly improved system that keeps getting better, and he cites a 154 percent increase in Advanced Placement college prep course enrollment here between 2004 and 2014. LBUSD also is narrowing achievement gaps between white students and other groups at a faster rate than similar districts in California, the report states.

Among the keys to the school district's success has been stable leadership. LBUSD has had only two superintendents over the past 24 years, Fullan observes.

(Continued on next page)



Fullan

L.B. CaLL Gains Allies in Job-Based Learning

The nonprofit group Long Beach CaLL (Career-Linked Learning), which is affiliated with the Long Beach Unified School District, has gained important new allies in its efforts to provide students work-based learning opportunities.

CaLL has recruited "Career Champions," a select group of community leaders who will support the nonprofit's work. The champions include California State Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell, Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell, retired Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, LBUSD Board of Education Member Felton Williams, City of Long Beach Innovation Team Director Tracy Colunga, and Long Beach City College Executive Vice President Lou Anne Bynum, who also is a harbor commissioner with the Port of Long Beach.

"We sincerely thank our distinguished group of new champions for agreeing to support this important work," CaLL Executive Director Jean Egan said. "Together our aim is to provide students inspiring, work-based learning opportunities in growing industries, complementing what they learn in class, so they can succeed in college and careers."

Long Beach CaLL was created as a result of The Long Beach College Promise, the nationally recognized partnership among LBUSD, Long Beach City College, California State University Long Beach and the City of Long

Beach. Thus the formal title of the new champions is The Long Beach College Promise Career Champions.

The primary role of the champions is to identify and recruit employers to join CaLL's Industry Councils and serve in other supportive roles. The councils will provide important, industry perspective to guide educators' efforts in the development of career pathways. These pathways are aligned with the workforce needs of various industries. The industries include arts, media and entertainment; building and construction trades; business and finance; education, child development and family services; energy, environment and utilities; engineering and architecture; health science and medical technology; hospitality, tourism and recreation; information and communication technologies; manufacturing and product development; marketing, sales and service; and public services.

Through CaLL, employers can provide work-based learning activities such as internships, company tours and job shadowing. They can participate in career fairs and as guest speakers or assist with class projects and mock interviews. Employers can also offer guidance to teachers and administrators by joining school advisory boards. CaLL ensures that students are prepared and well-suited for each opportunity, reducing the effort required by participating employers.

Learn more at longbeachcall.org.

• Famed Educator Notes Successful Practices

(Continued from first page)

“Twenty-four years of steady, focused progress has resulted in an organizational climate that embraces collective learning and continuous improvement,” Fullan states, describing collaborative processes that began with former Superintendent Carl Cohn and expanded during the tenure of his successor, Chris Steinhauer. “From very early on, district leadership built systems of support for all educators across the system in order to enact their vision in all Long Beach classrooms.”

The author provides details on Instructional Leadership Teams that serve as a key interface between schools and the central office, and he describes the district’s Collaborative Inquiry Walkthrough Visits, which help to monitor classroom instruction and provide support to teachers. The school district’s Supporting Teacher Effectiveness Project is featured, as Fullan describes multiple avenues of communication and collaboration among teams and departments here.

Fullan notes Long Beach’s shift to Linked Learning, which combines rigorous academics and work-based learning focused on industries

‘Unforgettable’ Night

The Long Beach Branch NAACP and the Long Beach Symphony invite you to the Symphony’s “Nat King Cole Songbook” event, with Denzal Sinclair on vocals. The “unforgettable” performance starts at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Long Beach Arena. Half of ticket proceeds will benefit the local NAACP’s Children’s Music Program, providing music lessons, instruments, sheet music and equipment.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$157. Call the box office at 436-3203 and use code #Benefit, or visit longbeachsymphony.org.

Black History Event

“Food for your Soul,” a celebration of Black History Month, is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 in the LBUSD Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way.

LBUSD Board of Education member Felton Williams will be recognized as a guest of honor. Refreshments will be served.

In Memoriam

Tami Ishaek
former program facilitator
Dec. 24, 2016

Darlene Hercane
former teacher
Jan. 11, 2017

Suzanna Hermann-Missu
substitute teacher
Jan. 15, 2017

Robert T. Montague
former elementary principal
Jan. 22, 2017

such as medicine, biotechnology, hospitality, arts and multimedia, law and engineering.

The author notes LBUSD’s “skilled use of data” rooted in its home-grown LROIX (acronym for LBUSD Research Office Intranet), which began 20 years ago. The system provides student and school data to help teachers and administrators with short and long-term planning, and the interface is constantly redesigned based upon user feedback.

The report’s section on “Attracting, Developing and Reinvesting Human Capital” says “LBUSD is a highly attractive place to work for teachers and administrators because of its high quality professional development, competitive salaries, recognition as a high performing district, and its vibrant culture of collaboration, support and continuous improvement.” Fullan cites effective practices in human resources and leadership development, including support for new teachers and principals, as well as partnerships with Cal State Long Beach, which supplies 70 percent of LBUSD’s teachers.

A section on “System Coherence at LBUSD” defines coherence as “the shared depth of understanding of the nature of the work.” This section describes effectively centralized systems such as curriculum, textbooks and professional development.

“All the while the district (at every level) understands that system coherence requires hard work, constant attention and careful planning; it is always a work in progress.”

Learn more at michaelfullan.com.

Paraeducator Awards

Twelve paraeducators from the Long Beach Unified School District were honored recently at the 2016-17 Council for Exceptional Children Chapter 108 Paraeducator Awards.

Paraeducators work with teachers to help students improve in academics, communication, behavior, self care and vocational skills.

Recipients exemplify outstanding support for students receiving special education services. Awards are presented in memory of former instructional aide Deborah Herdeg.

Recipients and their schools were Brett Bredekamp, districtwide assistive technology assistant; Carey Flake, Cleveland; Susan Ghandchi, Millikan; Joseph W. Gonzalez, Millikan; Jen Howe, Millikan; Sam May, Jordan; Eloise Melton, Lakewood; Cheryl Nichols, Hudson; Jeanette Oliver, Millikan; Lucia Rios, Newcomb; Rickey Srey, Lindsey; and Linda Wilson, Millikan.

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

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

JON MEYER, President
MEGAN KERR, Vice President
DIANA CRAIGHEAD, Member
JOHN MCGINNIS, Member
FELTON WILLIAMS, Member

• AP Equity Data

(Continued from first page)

for AP English Literature and No. 7 for AP U.S. History.

One caveat: large high schools have a greater advantage in Fleisher’s ranking because he uses raw numbers, not pass rate, and LBUSD has some large high schools. NMSI is working on additional rankings that take into account the size of the high schools.

“But already this validates our own data showing that more kids are passing the tests since we began providing greater access to AP courses several years ago,” said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer.

The data source, NMSI, is an organization started as a public-private partnership, led by private donors such as Exxon Mobil Corporation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.

Teacher Grants

Long Beach Rotary and its charitable foundation are offering up to \$7,500 for creative, teacher-driven literacy projects. Teachers in preschool through third grade, including special education, may apply for grants of \$500 to \$2,500. The deadline to apply has been extended to Friday, Feb. 24. Grants will be awarded by June 2017 and may be used to purchase books, e-books, teaching aids, training programs or other educational materials beginning in the 2017-18 school year. Find the application under Rotary Literacy Grants in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

Acts of Kindness

More than 30,000 students at 30 Long Beach Unified School District schools participated in the recent Great Kindness Challenge week, bringing flowers to office staff, picking up trash on the playground, offering an extra smile, and engaging in other acts of kindness.

Dignity Health of St. Mary Medical Center partners with schools on the annual event.

This year’s partnerships, featured in the Gazette, included art projects such as a rock labyrinth at Smith Elementary School, where each student painted their interpretation of kindness on a stone. The rock formation will become part of a permanent drought tolerant landscape at the medical center. Visit thegreatkindnesschallenge.com for more information on the global campaign.

In other acts of kindness, 100 students each were surprised with a new bicycle during a recent assembly at Oropeza Elementary School in what has become an annual tradition for the Long Beach-based Velo Allegro Cycling Club, which promotes cycling and health. About 100 volunteers helped to assemble the bikes.

“It made me cry. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of people who want to make a difference in the world,” Oropeza Principal Mona Cook said.

The cycling group had selected Oropeza for an essay contest. Students expected only the winning essayists to earn a new bike, but ultimately the auditorium stage curtain lifted to reveal more than 100 shiny, new bicycles – one for each child. To view video of the surprised and elated students, find this article at lbschools.net.