



February 7, 2020

## Actually, It Is Rocket Science

Students from Cabrillo and Wilson high schools' Urban Math Collaborative have partnered with Bob Barboza, Long Beach's version of The Science Guy, to tackle project-based learning that may come in handy during explorations of Mars.

The math collaborative now serves about 175 Wilson and Cabrillo students after starting three years ago as an outgrowth of Jordan High School's Long Beach Math Collaborative. Both programs aim to increase the number of under-represented students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Through mentoring and an emphasis on study skills and rigorous instruction, the programs help to make sure that students, specifically young men of color, are meeting the A-G entrance requirements for admission to the University of California and California State University systems.

Students wearing white lab coats and orange NASA jumpsuits regularly meet with Barboza, whose Barboza Space Center ([barbozaspacecenter.com](http://barbozaspacecenter.com)) partners with multiple agencies on aviation and space education. The most recent project for 10 "Tiger Team" scholars among the math collaborative students at Wilson and Cabrillo was to build and program computers that would be used for math calculations on future projects. The students demonstrated their wares by hosting a booth at a recent Pathways Program for Aviation and Space at Ontario International Airport.

During the Saturday event in Ontario, the students also interacted with representatives of the Transportation Security Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other experts on airline pilot training, drone training, air traffic control, aeronautics and astronautics, satellites, robotics engineering including design

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**A LEG UP –** Students and staff from Cabrillo and Wilson high schools joined design engineer Bob Barboza, fourth from right in front, and his crab-like Mars rover prototype robot during a recent Pathways Program for Aviation and Space at Ontario International Airport.



## Cabrillo Earns AP Female Diversity Award

Cabrillo High School has earned the College Board Advanced Placement Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles classes. Schools honored with the award have expanded young women's access to AP computer science courses.

"We're proud to see the creativity, commitment and enthusiasm that Cabrillo's young women have demonstrated in their study of AP Computer Science Principles," Cabrillo Principal Cheryl Cornejo said. "Congratulations to these students and the staff who are working so hard to prepare our scholars for the workforce of today and tomorrow."

Out of the 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, 818 earned the honor based upon the 2018-19 school year. Winning schools have achieved either 50 percent or higher female representation in one or both of the AP computer science courses, or the percentage of female computer science examinees meets or exceeds that of the school's female population.

"Cabrillo High School is empowering young women to see themselves as creators, innovators and problem-solvers," said Stefanie Sanford, College Board global policy chief. "We hope to see even more high schools inspire female students to harness the potential of an AP computer science education."

The introduction of the AP Computer Science Principles course in 2016 was the largest course launch in AP Program history. In 2019, nearly 100,000 students took the AP CSP exam, more than doubling participation in three years. During that time, the number of female AP CSP students has far outpaced overall growth, with an increase of 136 percent.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses helps to ensure gender parity in high-paying technology jobs and to drive innovation, creativity and competition. A 2014 Google study found that women are more likely to pursue computer science if they are given the opportunity to explore it in high school.

## Forums Set on Superintendent Selection

The first of a series of community forums on the selection of a new superintendent for the Long Beach Unified School District is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11 in the Cabrillo High School Auditorium, 2001 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach. Six more meetings also have been scheduled through March 14.

In December, Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser announced his retirement effective at the end of this academic year. The Board of Education has since approved a process to select a new superintendent of schools. The approved timeline calls for a new superintendent to be selected as early as May 6.

The approved process, available at

[lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net), also provides details on the search for internal and external candidates, recruitment strategy and public outreach, including an advisory committee and various community meetings.

The forums will be live-streamed via YouTube. Find the live stream at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) by selecting the Video & Multimedia icon. The school district also will offer a chance for members of the public to provide feedback on the superintendent selection electronically via Thought Exchange from Feb. 24 to March 6. Access to the Thought Exchange will be provided via the school district home page, school websites, emails to students, staff and parents, social media and other means.

The schedule of remaining community forums is:

- 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, Lakewood High School Auditorium, 4400 Briercree, Lakewood
- 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, Jordan High School Community Room, 6500 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach
- 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, Wilson High School Auditorium, 4400 E. 10th St., Long Beach
- 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, Renaissance High School for the Arts, Performing Arts Center, 235 E. 8th St., Long Beach
- 6 p.m. Thursday, March 5, Prisk Elementary School Auditorium, 2375 Fanwood Ave., Long Beach
- 9 a.m. Saturday, March 14, Cabrillo High School Auditorium, 2001 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach.

For updates and related resources, go to Superintendent Selection in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## VIPS Volunteers Celebrate 50 Years

Fifty years ago, then Long Beach PTA Council President and former Board of Education member Arlene Solomon opened her home to a handful of organizers and led the drive to bring Volunteers in Public Schools, or VIPS, to all campuses. Those early efforts drew 12 volunteers.

Today, thousands of dedicated VIPS serve in local schools without receiving a penny. VIPS will celebrate its golden anniversary during a "VIPS Have a Heart of Gold" event from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 31 at The Centre at Sycamore Plaza Weingart Ballroom, 5000 Clark Ave., Lakewood. Continental breakfast will be provided. RSVP to Dulnari Edirisinghe-Aga and Marilyn Bittle at either 997-8307 or [DEdirisingheaga@lbschools.net](mailto:DEdirisingheaga@lbschools.net).

VIPS provides direct assistance to thousands of students in classrooms throughout the school district. After careful screening and training, volunteers work directly with students, prepare educational materials and assist teachers and other school staff.

Learn more under VIPS in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## How You Can Help Shape LBUSD's Plans

The Long Beach Unified School District is preparing for the future by asking for input from employees and the larger community on what has been going well and what can continue to be improved.

Using an electronic format called Thoughtexchange, the school district is gathering feedback that will be part of its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), a document that details how schools will support students and close achievement gaps over the next three years. Thoughtexchange allows everyone a chance to share their ideas and understand what others think.

To participate, find the "LCAP Thought Exchange" headline on the home page at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net), or see the Jan. 28 email sent by the Superintendent's Office. Participants are asked to provide their thoughts and then rate 20 to 30 of the thoughts that others have provided. Participation is confidential, so no one will know who shared or rated which thoughts.

Participants are encouraged to come back often until Feb. 21 to rate new ideas.

## Leaves, Resignations

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2020-21 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator as soon as possible. Resignations and requests for full-year leaves of absence received after June 30, 2020 will not be approved unless the school district is able to hire a suitable replacement. For more information, contact Kimberly Dalton at ext. 8108 or [kdalton@lbschools.net](mailto:kdalton@lbschools.net).

According to Article VI, "Compensation," in the Teachers Association of Long Beach contract, "Employees who have served a complete contract year are eligible for district-paid benefits through Sept. 30." For more information about duration of benefits, contact Risk Management at ext. 8234 or 8236.



**BEST BUDDIES** – Jordan High School student Evan Clark shows off his artwork depicting a piano keyboard and flower during last year's Best Buddies art show at the Museum of Latin American Art.

## Jordan Best Buddies Art Sale is March 26

Jordan High School's Best Buddies Club will present the Seventh Annual Art for Inclusion Art Show and Sale at the Museum of Latin American Art 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26.

The show features paintings on canvas by students with developmental disabilities, folklorico dance performances, hands-on family art activities and \$1.50 tacos.

Student artwork will be available for a donation of \$25. Proceeds benefit Jordan's Best Buddies Club, which promotes friendships among students with intellectual disabilities and their peers. Guest art pieces from students in the Long Beach Unified School District's Adult Community Transition program also will be featured.

For more information, contact Annee Boyer at 423-1471, ext. 2285 or by email at [aboyer@lbschools.net](mailto:aboyer@lbschools.net).

## In Memoriam

**Kim Eckert**  
former staff secretary  
November 4, 2019

### 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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## • Rocket Science

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engineering for Mars, rocket engine design and more.

"We are planning the first school on Mars," Barboza says matter-of-factly. "We want to get students around the world excited about working together and studying STEM as they pursue careers in the aviation and aerospace industry."

At the Ontario event, the team of 10 Wilson and Cabrillo students were initially taken aback by the 500 or so participants milling about the airport hangars.

"But then they started talking to people from the TSA and the FBI, and the students were just really into it. You could see their intensity and engagement," said Cabrillo counselor Terrence Bryant, who along with Wilson counselor Michael Crowder-Jones directs the Urban Math Collaborative.

"We're so excited to be a part of these opportunities," Bryant said.

## Summer Jobs

The Long Beach Unified School District is accepting certificated and classified job applications for summer school and SEAL (summer enrichment).

### Certificated Applicants

Certificated applicants for Special Education (preschool through adult) and general education (high school) can find the Certificated Summer School Application at the myLBUSD portal under HR/PC. Employees also will be able to download a PDF application under Human Resource Services in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). Certificated applicants for the SEAL (enrichment) Program – which will be offered at selected elementary, middle/K-8 and high school sites – can select Human Resource Services in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) to find the SEAL Program Application.

### Classified Applicants

The Personnel Commission seeks 10-month classified employees interested in working for Summer School and the SEAL (enrichment) Program. To qualify for summer employment, the classified applicant must be a permanent/probationary classified employee working on less than a 12-month calendar. The dates of the programs are June 22 to July 17 for elementary, middle and K-8 schools. High school dates are June 22 to July 24. Instructions on accessing the online application are available under Personnel Commission in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) (then select Summer Employment). The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 20.

## Kindergarten Fest

If you've missed this year's Kindergarten Festivals, you still have one more chance. Burcham Elementary School will host a festival for incoming 2020-21 kindergartners and their families 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 22. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. The school is located at 5610 Monlaco Road, Long Beach.

For more information, call 435-4080, ext. 19.