



school bulletin

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

October 23, 2020

Student Speaks at National Town Hall

Glenn Perez Rodriguez, a junior at Lakewood High School, participated in an all-student panel at the national town hall meeting for the Council of the Great City Schools last Friday. He was one of only 10 students nationwide to be selected.

The Council of the Great City Schools is a coalition of 76 of the nation's largest urban public school systems, including the Long Beach Unified School District, dedicated to promoting the improvement of education for children in the inner cities.



Rodriguez

The 75-minute "Students Speak Out on Race and Equity" virtual forum featured Rodriguez and students from nine urban school districts as they discussed the current issues of race and social justice in the United States.

The panelists shared a hope for schools and districts to begin incorporating student voices in discussions regarding race and social justice issues.

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Molina Donates \$655K in Books

The Long Beach Unified School District is the recipient of a grant providing 75,000 new children's books valued at \$655,000 from The Molina Foundation.

The donation is part of 651,802 books and magazines valued at nearly \$5 million that the Foundation has given to groups in California through the 2020 Book Buddies program called Families Learning Together.

"Especially in this time of distance learning and limited access to print materials, we truly appreciate The Molina Foundation's generous gift to our students," LBUSD Library Curriculum Leader Crystal Miranda said. "We are very grateful for these 75,000 brand new books that will be put directly into students' hands."

The library services team is working on a safe plan to distribute the books to Long Beach students as soon as possible.

The Families Learning Together program's goal is to provide resources to help children, parents and caregivers create word-filled homes through reading and learning together. More than 1.5 million books and magazines worth more than \$13 million have been distributed nationwide through this program in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Molina Foundation, a national nonprofit organization based in Southern California, is dedicated to the mission of reducing disparities in access to education and health.

National 'Excelencia' for Latino Students

The Long Beach College Promise and a partnership with two LBUSD high schools were cited as key programs that earned Long Beach City College the 2020 Seal of Excelencia. The seal is a certification from the national not-for-profit Excelencia in Education that celebrates an institution for intentionally serving Latino students and other students of color.

Two LBUSD schools, Cabrillo and Jordan high schools, partnered with LBCC to help every senior apply to the college. Both schools were selected by LBCC after being identified as having the highest percentage of Latino and African American students in the district. The Promise offers Long Beach students two years of free tuition at LBCC.

Every week, LBCC staff visited Cabrillo and Jordan students to help them learn more about their educational options, financial aid and application requirements. Staff also assisted with creating an educational plan that outlined the courses required to achieve educational goals.

LBCC has since seen a 36% increase in Latino enrollment overall and a 42% increase from both high schools.

LBCC is one of five institutions nationally

to be recognized with the Seal of Excelencia. Also recognized are California State University, Sacramento; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Texas at Austin; and University of Texas at San Antonio.

"Accelerating Latino student success requires institutions go beyond enrollment and show intentionality and impact in serving students," said Deborah Santiago, co-founder and CEO of Excelencia in Education. "These certified institutions set the pace for much needed institutional transformation and are confronting structural barriers and inequities of longstanding."

The Promise has earned national recognition for increasing educational and employment opportunities for Long Beach students since its inception in 2008. LBUSD's partners on The Promise include LBCC, Cal State Long Beach, the City of Long Beach and the Port of Long Beach.

Elements of The Promise have included increased access to early childhood education; college tours for 4th and 5th graders; a middle school pledge by students and parents committing to college readiness; a tuition-free first and second year at LBCC; and guaranteed admission to CSULB for qualifying students.



National Honor from Assistance League

The Board of Education of the Long Beach Unified School District accepted the National Assistance League Operation School Bell Award during this week's school board meeting. The honor celebrates a long and impactful partnership that has helped to clothe and provide school supplies, food and other necessities to tens of thousands of local school children.

The award has been given only three times in Long Beach during the 80-year history of the local chapter.

"Long Beach Unified School District has been Operation School Bell's biggest advocate for several years and has helped in numerous ways," said Valerie Hayward, president of the Board for Assistance League of Long Beach. "LBUSD is the epitome of a strong supporter and partner of our programs. We are honored to work with such an exemplary school district."

Hayward said LBUSD has readily obliged when asked to help promote Operation School Bell to school administrators, with Assistance League staff always present at the principals' meetings early in the school year to explain how to access services.

The school district's assistance delivering students' backpacks also has been invaluable, Hayward said.

"We pack on average 1,000 or more bags per packing day. In the past our member volunteers would caravan to schools and

deliver the backpacks. We reached out to the district, and they immediately had their fleet maintenance manager contact us. Over the past few years, we have been working with the fleet maintenance manager to help deliver the backpacks to two or more schools in a day. Students have been receiving their school uniforms more quickly."

During the past year, the school district also worked closely with the Assistance League to address food insecurity issues in the

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NO KID HUNGRY –
The nonprofit No Kid Hungry California donated \$237,500 to help feed local students. **Story on next page.**

• Lakewood Student at National Town Hall

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“My district actually started some spaces for student discussions – and that is great, but I want to see more,” Rodriguez said during the forum. “The fact that they actually care about students and how we are thinking and feeling means so much to me as a student, knowing that the district that supports me and that makes the policies that affect me actually cares about what I think.

“If they expand all of that to not only just me but every other student, and if they give all those students the opportunity to actually tell them what they are thinking, I feel like that is just the beginning of a much greater opportunity and that is just going to open the door to such a great end result,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez is a 16-year-old with a strong leadership background and desire to serve his community. He was raised by Guatemalan and Mexican parents and has attended schools in Bellflower and Long Beach.

His experience includes serving as a youth leader for Californians for Justice (CFJ), and as a leading cadet for his school’s Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps as well as a student consultant for the Instructional Leadership team. Rodriguez has also been a member of Cyberpatriot, a national youth cyber education program created by the Air Force Association to inspire students to pursue careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics

• National Honor

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community. Operation School Bell collaborated with the Assistance League’s Assisteens Auxiliary in piloting the Adopt A Family Student Food Program.

“Dr. Baker (LBUSD superintendent) offered both her personal and professional support of the pilot project while working with our Assisteens member volunteers,” Hayward said. “The project was to pack beans, rice and seasonings into 5,000 food packets that would later be distributed to district students. On the day of the event, former Superintendent Chris Steinhauer, Dr. Baker and Mr. Mark Chavez from Nutrition Services, members of the Board of Education and other LBUSD volunteers helped with the packing of food for the program.”

Operation School Bell is the signature program of Assistance League, providing assistance to children in need. Chapters determine the specific needs in their local communities, then develop, fund and implement the programs. The Rick Rackers Auxiliary manages the Operation School Bell program at Assistance League of Long Beach

Last school year, Operation School Bell provided more than 12,000 LBUSD students with new school uniforms and school supplies. Many of the students also received a book courtesy of Barnes and Noble and City National Bank.

In 1994, LBUSD became the first public school district in the nation to adopt school uniforms in kindergarten through eighth grade. Hundreds of other school districts nationwide have since followed this example by implementing school uniforms. The Assistance League and Operation School Bell have been instrumental in the success of the widely emulated uniform initiative.

fields. Currently, he is president of the Lakewood Ambassadors Club.

During his time as a leader at CFJ, he worked on campaigns that featured the voices of students and challenged racial disparities in schools.

Although he is still deciding on his post-high-school plans, he recognizes he has a responsibility to serve his community and has not ruled out the possibility of running for political office.

Flu Vaccine Clinics

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services is hosting several community flu vaccination clinics at no charge for people without health insurance or those whose healthcare provider does not offer flu vaccines.

The clinics will operate on the following days and times through Nov. 21 or while supplies last:

- Thursdays, 3 to 6 p.m., Long Beach City College Veterans’ Stadium, 5000 E. Lew Davis St.
- Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave.

Individuals also can contact their healthcare provider or pharmacist for a flu shot. Residents may also schedule a flu shot appointment at the Health Department by calling 570-4315 during regular business hours. A small administrative fee will apply at the time of the appointment.

For more information about the 2020 flu season, visit longbeach.gov/flu.

Nonprofit Gives \$237,500 to Feed Students

The Long Beach Unified School District has received two grants for a total of \$237,500 from the nonprofit No Kid Hungry California to help end childhood hunger.

The most recent grant of \$140,000 arrived after an initial award of \$97,500 to help feed students during the ongoing pandemic.

In response to the pandemic and school closures, LBUSD implemented free grab-and-go meals for all children ages 1 to 18. Breakfast and lunch are offered for pick up at no charge at participating school sites.

“This school year looks different than any we’ve seen before, but one thing remains the same. Kids rely on us not just for their education, but also for nutritious meals,” LBUSD Nutrition Services Director Mark Chavez said. “These grants from No Kid Hungry will help ensure that we can continue to provide our students with the nutrition they need to learn, while also helping their families make ends meet during this difficult time.”

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Board Supports Props 15 and 16

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education recently adopted resolutions declaring support for Propositions 15 and 16, which appear on the Nov. 3 statewide ballot.

Prop. 16 would permit government decision-making policies to consider race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in public employment, education and contracting decisions.

The resolution adopted by the board on Sept. 16 states that Prop. 16 will allow LBUSD students “regardless of sex, race, ethnicity or national origin, to access social and economic opportunities to achieve their highest potential.”

On Oct. 7, the board also adopted a resolution in support of Prop. 15, which proposes to increase funding sources for public schools, community colleges and local government services by changing tax assessment of commercial and industrial property.

“Now more than ever, in light of the national and state economic crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 global pandemic, California’s schools and community colleges require additional revenues for the provision of services to children and families,” states the resolution adopted by the school board.

Prop. 15 would invest up to \$4 billion annually in K-14 public schools, with additional funds going to cities and counties.

For more information on the California general election, visit sos.ca.gov/elections.

The funds are part of nearly \$4.5 million in grants awarded by No Kid Hungry since the beginning of the pandemic to California nonprofits and schools serving meals to children and families.

For more information on grab-and-go meals, visit Nutrition Services in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

Dates to Remember

November

1	National Native American Heritage Month
1	Daylight Saving Time Ends
2-9	Elementary Schools Conference Days
3	Election Day
3	First Quarter Ends
11	Veterans Day — Holiday
12	Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Birthday
19	Gettysburg Address Anniversary
23-27	Thanksgiving Recess
26	Thanksgiving Day
30	Mark Twain’s Birthday

In Memoriam

Jerry Delguercio
former painter, Maintenance
June 20, 2020

Celeste Brandlin
former teacher
July 30, 2020

Ashley N. Bunch
teacher, Early Head Start
September 21, 2020

Wilma G. Magee
former teacher
September 30, 2020