



May 15, 2020

## Sato a Leading Biomed, Engineering School

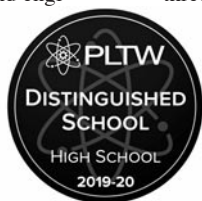
Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science is one of 143 high schools in the nation to earn the Project Lead The Way Distinguished School designation this year “for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities” through biomedical science and engineering.

The nonprofit PLTW is a leading provider of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum, teacher training and other resources to engage students in real-world learning.

“When we opened Sato Academy just five years ago, it was a personal goal for me to create a program worthy of being recognized as a PLTW Distinguished School,” Sato Principal Mona Merlo said. “The work and dedication of our staff, students, parents and community have made this goal a reality. I am grateful to work with our amazing team and PLTW to provide an outstanding program for students that prepares them for college and career.”

Through PLTW courses, students develop STEM knowledge and in-demand skills that they will use in school and for the rest of their lives on any career path they take.

The Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student



access, engagement and achievement in their PLTW courses. To be eligible for the designation, Sato Academy had to meet several criteria:

- Offered and had students enrolled in at least three PLTW courses;
- Had 25 percent of students or more participate in PLTW courses, or of those who participated in PLTW, at least 33 percent took two or more PLTW courses;
- Had 95 percent of students take the end-of-course assessments;
- Had strategies, procedures and supporting data on reasonably proportional representation with regard to race, ethnicity, poverty and gender.

PLTW serves millions of students and teachers in more than 12,200 schools throughout the United States.

PLTW curriculum also has been used at Long Beach’s McBride and Cabrillo high schools, and at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science. CAMS earned the PLTW Distinguished School honor last year, and last month CAMS was named the top California high school by U.S. News and World Report.

For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit [pltw.org](http://pltw.org).

## 3 High Schools Make National Top 300 List

Three high school schools in the Long Beach Unified School District – including two of its newest ones – are among a list of the top 300 in the nation. The recently released Jay Mathews Challenge Index is America’s oldest high school ranking system, beginning in 1998 with Newsweek and The Washington Post.

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science ranked 77, while McBride High School ranked 112, and the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science ranked 240.

The list includes public and private schools, using a simple ratio of the number of Advanced Placement, International

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## 22 Schools Among Best in L.A. County

Twenty-two schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are among 278 in Los Angeles County that are leading the way toward closing achievement gaps for low-income African American and Latino students, according to a study, “2020 Top Los Angeles County Public Schools.”

The report was released by the nonprofit Innovate Public Schools organization in partnership with the USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation, and the USC Rossier Center on Education Policy, Equity and Governance.

Local schools earning the honor include Bryant, Chavez, Dooley, Herrera, Holmes, Jefferson, King, Lafayette, Lincoln, Mann, McKinley, Muir, Oropeza, Powell, Riley, Robinson, Roosevelt, Signal Hill, Stevenson, Washington, Webster and Willard.

View the report by finding this article at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## CSULB Center to Tackle Achievement Gaps

The California State University announced this month that Cal State Long Beach has been selected as the host site for the CSU Center to Close Achievement Gaps. The center, set to open this spring, will focus on identifying and refining proven strategies to eliminate equity gaps at all levels of education and will share training, tools and evidence-based best practices with colleges of education across the CSU and education partners across California.

The Long Beach Unified School District and CSULB have partnered for many years on preparing educators to meet the demands of urban classrooms. The new center could serve as a key resource for aspiring and practicing educators in Long Beach and beyond. CSU’s teacher preparation program is the largest in the state and among the largest in the nation.

“Creating a continuous pipeline from preschool to bachelor’s degree for underserved and low-income students is critical to eliminating equity gaps, ensuring that all students are afforded an equal opportunity to achieve success and elevate their lives through a high-quality education,” CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White said. “Equity and educational excellence are vital to California’s future, and the CSU’s Center to Close Achievement Gaps will give California’s current and future educators the advanced tools and training to achieve these ideals.”

The new center’s goals include:

- Providing resources and assistance to local educational agencies to eliminate gaps in academic achievement among subgroups of K-12 students as identified on the Department of Education’s California School Dashboard, including gaps by race, ethnicity, income, English learner (EL) and disability status
- Providing professional educator preparation

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## Virtual Graduation And Summer School

Because health officials continue to advise against large, in-person gatherings due to the ongoing global coronavirus pandemic, schools cannot offer traditional graduation or K-8 promotional ceremonies. The Long Beach Unified School District, however, is planning to provide a memorable, virtual graduation celebration. Additional information on virtual graduation and other close-of-school processes will be coming soon to families and school staff.

Likewise summer school will take place virtually this year, and the school district will provide very few in-person activities during the summer months.

For ongoing updates on school closures, view LBUSD’s Coronavirus Response website at [lbschools.net/coronavirus](http://lbschools.net/coronavirus).



**AMONG THE BEST** – For the second year in a row, Signal Hill Elementary School earned recognition as one of Los Angeles County’s top public schools. Twenty-one other local schools earned the recognition for closing achievement gaps for low-income African American and Latino students.

## Take a Minute to Do the U.S. Census

An accurate U.S. Census count helps to secure millions of dollars in funding for local schools. As of this month, the nation had responded since the first wave of census mailings went out in March. The response rate in Long Beach was about 55 percent by the end of April, roughly the same as the statewide response rate so far.

The Long Beach Unified School District continues to work with the City of Long Beach on the 2020 Complete Count Campaign. By partnering with organizations throughout Long Beach, the campaign aims to achieve a complete count of every person in the city.

The census questionnaire takes minutes and can be completed online, by phone or by mail. Visit [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) to answer a dozen questions about where you live, household size and some demographic details. A link to that web page is provided on the home page of each LBUSD school's website. The census questions also can be answered by phone, at (844) 330-2020, or by filling out and mailing back a printed questionnaire, which tends to be sent to the households of people who have not responded online. Households that do not respond could eventually be visited by official census takers.

At stake for Long Beach is Title I funding for disadvantaged populations, and resources to support Head Start, child care, the National School Lunch Program, and other vital health, housing and energy assistance services. Many of these programs have significant effects on low-income communities, the very places considered "hard to count."

## • CSULB Center

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throughout the CSU and serving as a resource for local educational agencies to close achievement gaps

- Creating a statewide network by inviting additional CSU campuses and their education partners to establish regional networks to incorporate and disseminate best practices

Cal State Long Beach was chosen through a highly competitive request for proposals and committee review process. Funding comes from a one-time state allocation of \$3 million.

## Virtual Event for Inspiring Students

Some of the Long Beach Unified School District's most exemplary and resilient students will be honored during the Most Inspiring Student Virtual Award Ceremony scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 28 on LBUSD's YouTube channel.

Each year, the Long Beach Education Foundation honors these students and their families at the Most Inspiring Student Awards Dinner, but this year's winners will be announced virtually during a video presentation because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Each school selects a student who serves as an example of perseverance and determination.

The school district's YouTube channel is available via the Video & Multimedia icon on the home page at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).



**EDISON SCHOLAR** – California Academy of Mathematics and Science student **Zackery Adler** earned a \$40,000 scholarship from Edison International to study mechanical engineering.

## Names in the News

California Academy of Mathematics and Science student **Zackery Adler** earned a \$40,000 scholarship from Edison International to pursue science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) studies. While visiting a marine biology lab, Zackery learned that scientists were using ultraviolet to measure the concentration of microplastics in seawater. However, he realized there are currently no effective methods to remove the microplastics. Zackery has a mission to develop a system, like the way whales filter krill, to remove pollutants from the ocean. He is also a dedicated Eagle Scout, captain of the VEX robotics team and founder of the "Trash-Talking Chess Club." He plans to major in mechanical engineering. View video at [edison.com](http://edison.com) under Community > Edison Scholars or by finding this article at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

**Nader Twal**, a program administrator in the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, is the subject of a new video produced by the Center for Advancing the American Dream. The center was founded by philanthropist Michael Milken. Twal, who received the prestigious Milken Educator Award in 2003 when he was a teacher at Millikan High School, is the son of Jordanian immigrants. In the video, Twal discusses how educators play a vital role as "ambassadors for the American Dream." The video will be featured among the immersive exhibits at the Advancing the American Dream Visitor Center, which will open in 2023 in the Riggs Bank buildings, located on historic Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. The video also is available now at [caad.org](http://caad.org) under Resources > American Dream Video Project, or by finding this article at [lbschools.net](http://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

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## Open Enrollment in May for Benefits, FSA

From May 1 to 31, employees can enroll in, or make changes to, their medical, dental, vision and Flexible Spending Account plans for the 2020-21 plan year. The new plan year starts July 1 and ends June 30, 2021.

For employees who do not make changes, current elections will continue for the 2020-21 plan year, with the exception of the FSA plans. By IRS rules, current FSA enrollment does not carry over to the next year. For those with a current plan year (7/1/19 – 6/30/20) FSA, you have until 9/15/20 to use your available balance, and until 9/28/20 to submit those expenses to WageWorks.

Enrollment packets are being mailed to home addresses on file. Enroll online at [www.lbusdbenefits.com](http://www.lbusdbenefits.com), or call 866-844-9744, option 4, Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Although open enrollment and web access (to view and change benefits) ends at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, the call center access for enrollment support and other questions ends at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 29. Please plan accordingly.

## • Top 300 List

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Baccalaureate or Cambridge tests given at a school each year, divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year.

An Equity and Excellence column shows the percentage of all seniors who passed at least one AP, IB or Cambridge test at some point in their high school career. The listing also provides the percentage of students whose families qualify for subsidized meals because they cannot afford them.

Visit [jaymathewschallengeindex.com](http://jaymathewschallengeindex.com) to learn more.

## State Cuts Loom

Instead of \$3 billion in more funding next year, budget officials from California Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration last week projected \$18 billion less over two years for K-12 and community colleges, a historic decline of more than 20 percent in the constitutionally guaranteed level of funding. The governor is expected to release his revised state budget this week.

Reduced revenue and rising expenses could create a \$54 billion state deficit for 2019-20 and 2020-21.

## In Memoriam

**Kathleen A. Tierney**  
former teacher  
March 23, 2020

**Carole L. Wensman**  
former Nutrition Services supervisor  
March 26, 2020

**Toni L. Crawford**  
teacher, Lakewood  
April 23, 2020

**Duane M. Crawford**  
former teacher  
April 27, 2020