



# school bulletin

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May 7, 2004

## 14 Title I Achieving Schools Win High Honors

Fourteen Long Beach Unified School District schools won outstanding 2004 No Child Left Behind Title I Achieving Schools awards recently – twice as many as the seven local schools that won \$857,935 last year.

Together, Long Beach and Lakewood dominated the middle school category, winning three of only six middle school awards given statewide this year.

Winners include Birney, Bryant, Burroughs, Emerson, Gompers, Madison, Mann and Signal Hill elementary schools; Hudson, Robinson and Tincher schools; and Hill, Hoover and Rogers middle schools.

"These schools, which often face the greatest challenges, should make everyone in the State of California proud of our investment in public education," said Jack O'Connell, state superintendent of public instruction. He described the winners as "beacons of light."

"They are beating the odds every day," O'Connell said. "They prove that the notion

that all kids can learn is more than just a slogan. It is a reality."

Of more than 5,000 California schools that receive federal Title I funds, 283 made the high achievement gains required to apply for the award. Of those, 214 won. All 14 of LBUSD's finalists won.

Each nominated school underwent a rigorous review by the California Department of Education, including school visits by evaluators from county offices of education.

The 214 winners each accepted a plaque and banner but no dollars at the Title I Academic Achievement Awards "Beacons of Light" Conference at the San Francisco Hyatt Regency Airport Hotel in Burlingame. At the conference, staff from the 14 local winning schools gave formal presentations about their successful practices.

The State Board of Education is reviewing the amount of this year's monetary awards. If  
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**NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT--**Camille Inman, a fourth grader at Signal Hill Elementary, won a blue ribbon for her research on allergies. More than 1,250 students exhibited their science projects at the recent districtwide Science Fair hosted by Cabrillo High School.

## High Schools To Require Computer Literacy

The information highway has become more important than the interstate highway.

Starting with freshmen entering Long Beach Unified School District high schools this fall, students will be required to take a course in computer literacy or pass a computer literacy test. They will no longer be required to take driver education in order to graduate from high school. They can still take driver education as an elective if they wish.

Other changes in high school graduation requirements approved by the Board of Education at its recent meeting include replacing a one quarter freshman course in career guidance with more personalized and effective services from high school counselors to assist with college and career preparation.

To prepare to meet the California High

School Exit Examination writing requirement, students will no longer have to complete a written junior thesis, but will instead need to complete substantial research papers in eighth grade and 11th grade U.S. history courses.

Success in college and careers now requires computer literacy. Many districts are adding a technology graduation requirement, including San Diego, San Bernardino, San Juan, Torrance, Norwalk-La Mirada, Los Angeles, Capistrano and Los Alamitos.

Driver education is not mandated by the state as a graduation requirement. During the past three years, four of the six LBUSD comprehensive high schools have requested waivers of this requirement. Of 20 California districts surveyed, only three still require driver education.

**OFF TO HI-HILL--** Rylee Ashcraft, great-granddaughter of Holley Ashcraft (right), the founder of Camp Hi-Hill in 1948, recently headed up to the popular outdoor school with fellow Fremont fifth graders. Her dad and grandfather, Bob, saw her off as she boarded the bus for Hi-Hill. More than 275,000 local students have gone to Hi-Hill since it opened.



## District Dispels Myth, Wins National Award

The Long Beach Unified School District recently won The Education's Trust's first annual Dispelling the Myth Award as one of the highest performing, most improved school systems in the nation. Education Trust West also honored the district during the first All Kids, All Stars Awards for high performing schools that serve diverse populations.

The Dispelling the Myth Award went to Long Beach and only seven other school districts nationwide.

"Through high expectations, hard work, and smarter ways of working, these schools and districts are helping to dispel the devastating myth that poor and minority children cannot learn at high academic levels," The Education Trust announced. "Day in and day out, they remind us that we can't turn back the clock on our commitment to fulfill the true promise of American education for all of this nation's public school children."

The seven other Dispelling the Myth Award winners were Boston Public Schools, Garden Grove Unified School District and Fontana Unified School District in California, Jefferson

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## Gant Student's Essay Wins National Honor

Gant Elementary School third grader Michael Guerero recently won the national Breaking Barriers Essay Contest. His essay was among nine grand prize winners in the contest, which asks students to write about the ideals of Jackie Robinson, major league baseball's first African American player.

Students in grades K-12 described how they have overcome barriers by remaining calm under pressure, just as Robinson did when he faced racist taunts and threats.

Michael used Robinson's model conduct to improve his behavior toward others.

"This is important to me because I want to be a nicer person, even if they're not nice to me," Guerero wrote. He competed against more than 5,000 entries and met Robinson's daughter, Sharon Robinson.

He won a laptop computer and \$1,000 in Microsoft software, a jacket, and, along with his classmates, signed copies of Sharon Robinson's book, "Promises to Keep." His class received 100 books on heroes, and he stood alongside eight of Robinson's relatives when he was introduced at Angel Stadium.

## Names in the News

**James Orihuela**, teacher at DeMille, was named Two-Way bilingual Immersion Teacher of the Year by 2-Way CABE, the affiliate of the California Association for Bilingual Education. He will receive a three-week course to study language and culture in Spain and \$1,000 to assist with expenses.

**RoxAnn Batovsky**, purchasing office assistant, was honored and recognized at the Legends of Lakewood 50th Anniversary Banquet for her years of community service and involvement with the Girl Scouts of America in the Lakewood area.

Jordan High School tenth grader **Thelma Sabido** and Marshall Middle School sixth grader **Bridget Womack** each won a gold award in the recent AVID Los Angeles County Write-Off. The winning essayists competed with thousands of students enrolled in Advancement Via Individual Determination college prep classes throughout the county.

**Michael Diaz**, seventh grader at Cubberley, qualified for the California State Geography Bee sponsored by National Geographic. Only 100 fourth through eighth graders in the state went to Sacramento on to compete. Michael qualified for the finals, missing no questions in all eight preliminary rounds. He finished in ninth place overall in California. Michael is the second student from Cubberley to participate and the first one to have qualified for the finals. He is the son of substitute teacher **Cyndy Diaz** and TALB President **Tony Diaz**.

## Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Lynne C. Lynch	May 21	Jody Raef ext. 6510
Netta Roberts	June 4	Jody Raef ext. 6510
Louise Hicks	June 17	Janis Barton ext. 5840
Debbie Vignovich	June 19	Kathy Phelps ext. 6620

## • More Top Awards

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County Public Schools in Kentucky, Aldine Independent School District in Texas, Houston Independent School District, and Norfolk Public Schools in Virginia.

The Education Trust worked in partnership with the Broad Foundation and the National Center for Educational Accountability to bring together the finalists and winners of the national Broad Prize for Urban Education at a recent conference, which included the Dispelling the Myth Awards ceremonies. The conference sessions offered a chance for educators and administrators from throughout the U.S. to learn directly from school systems that are helping low-income and minority children achieve at much higher levels.

"Effective and efficient urban school systems are the key to a healthy and thriving democracy," said Eli Broad, Founder of The Broad Foundation. "The Education Trust is providing a vital forum for educators to share best practices and therefore better serve our nation's children. The Broad Foundation is proud to be a partner in this effort."

Education Trust West also honored Long Beach and five other high-performing California school districts with the first All Kids, All Stars Awards. The five other districts were Fontana, Garden Grove, Madera, San Diego and San Jose.

Described frequently as "the most important truth teller in American education," the Education Trust was established in 1990 in Washington D.C. by the American Association for Higher Education to support K-12 reform.

## Employees Honored

California Day of the Teacher will be observed Wednesday, May 12 in schools and offices throughout the Long Beach Unified School District.

Classified Employee Week will be observed May 16-22 in all district schools, sites and offices.

## Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for administrative coordinator--Facilities, carpenter and plant supervisor II.

"I think our children today need role models more than they need critics." — John Wooden

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## Health Plan Deadline

Open enrollment for TALB members and retirees is taking place through Friday, May 21. The Long Beach Unified School District and Superior Administrators, Inc. are hosting information meetings to introduce new health insurance benefit plans approved recently.

Eligible employees may enroll online at [www.superioradministrators.com](http://www.superioradministrators.com) until midnight Friday, May 21, or submit appropriate enrollment forms to Risk Management by 4:30 p.m. on May 21. Site secretaries have the forms. To see if a current provider is in the newly offered CCN Network or to find a CCN provider, check [www.ccnusa.com](http://www.ccnusa.com) and go to Provider Search, then Group Health, then PPO (the PPO network also applies to the school district's CCN EPO plan).

Employees changing dental plans also must do so during open enrollment. Choices are Delta or Delta PMI. Employees adding any dependents must do so during open enrollment.

Questions about health coverage may be directed to Superior Benefits, LBUSD's plan administrator, at (888) 429-9090 or to Risk Management at either (562) 997-8233 or [RiskManagement@lbusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:RiskManagement@lbusd.k12.ca.us).

## The Job Board

- The California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS), a four-year high school located on the campus of California State University Dominguez Hills, is accepting applications for full-time social studies and chemistry teaching positions, and half-time Japanese and Spanish teaching positions for Fall 2004. A desire to work in a collaborative, grade-level team-teaching environment is important. Applicants must fax resumes to (310) 516-4041 by June 4.

- Special Projects is accepting applications for reading specialist. This specialist will work with students who live in the district but attend non-public schools. Candidates must have a multiple subjects credential and extensive experience in raising achievement among at-risk students in reading, writing and math. To apply, submit a resume and letter of interest to Sam Platis, program specialist, by June 14. For information, call ext. 8396.

## • Achieving Schools

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awards comparable to last year's were made, the 14 local schools would receive more than \$1.7 million. The state's budget woes, however, may reduce this amount.

Started in 1984, the Title I Academic Achievement Awards recognize excellence in meeting the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001. The awards honor the highest achieving Title I schools. Criteria for the 2004 award included demographic and academic factors.

To be eligible, at least 40 percent of all students enrolled in these schools must be from low-income families.

Each school documented two years of test results showing growth on the state Academic Performance Index (API). Each winning school achieved at least double its schoolwide API growth target, and double its growth target for disadvantaged students. Winners also made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act.