



school bulletin

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

October 17, 2008

LBUSD Wins \$250K in Broad Scholarships

The Long Beach Unified School District, recognized for the fourth time as one of the top urban school districts in the nation, will receive \$250,000 in scholarships as a finalist for the 2008 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

The scholarships were announced this week during an awards ceremony at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

"We're thrilled to receive another \$250,000 in academic scholarships for our students," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of schools for the Long Beach Unified School District.

"To be nominated a fourth time for public education's highest national honor, after already winning the prize once, shows that the accomplishments of our teachers and schools are enduring and improving," Steinhauser said. "We're building on success. That's exactly what the Broad Prize encourages America's urban school districts to do. Special thanks go to Eli Broad and his foundation for helping to

put education back on the national agenda. No issue is more important than the education of our children."

The top winner of the prize this year was the Brownsville Independent School District in Texas.

LBUSD was named earlier this year as one of five finalists for the prize, which recognizes urban school districts that are closing achievement gaps among students who come from all walks of life.

"After winning The Broad Prize in 2003, Long Beach continues to make consistent gains, particularly by Hispanic, African-American and low-income students," said Eli Broad, founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. "While all large urban school districts in America have more work to do, the Long Beach community can be proud that they continue to outpace other urban American school districts in preparing students for

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Your Dedication Pays Off for Our Students

By Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent

I shared tremendous pride in our schools, students and staff as I attended the national Broad Prize Award celebration at New York City's Museum of Modern Art this week. What a great honor it was to experience this wonderful recognition of our schools' remarkable successes with representatives of our employee groups, our Board of Education, the PTA and local civic and business leaders. We sat on the edge of our seats as we waited, for a remarkable fourth time, to learn whether we would be named America's top urban school system.



Having won the prize in 2003, and having been assured at least \$250,000 in scholarships for our students this time, we knew we were already winners by virtue of sharing the stage with the other four finalists.

While the Brownsville Independent School District in Texas won the top prize, we were delighted to walk away with a quarter million dollars in scholarships for our high school seniors.

Working together, we earned these scholarships for our kids by living up to our motto of serving every student, every day. The achievements of the five finalist districts prove it can be done. America's urban school districts can deliver the goods for students and families. That's the Long Beach Way.

Like many other large, urban school systems, Long Beach is extremely diverse and faces obstacles such as poverty, language barriers and other serious challenges. But our educators, support staff, parents and others continue to find ways to beat the odds and to help students rise above these inherent challenges. The result is steady, significant progress for all groups of students, and that is what this prize celebrates.

This most recent success inspires us to improve further. We're pushing forward with our ambitious Academic and Career Success Initiative that will give more students greater choices when they graduate from high school. This effort includes greater access to Advanced Placement and other college preparatory courses starting in the middle grades, mentoring, tutoring, parent outreach, enhanced counseling and other assistance.

We're pursuing the Long Beach College Promise with Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach so that every student has the opportunity to enter higher education and earn a college diploma. These and other initiatives are making a huge difference in our students' lives.

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LBCC Chief to Lead Principals for a Day

Leading the charge during this year's Principal For A Day event on Monday, Oct. 27 will be Superintendent-for-a-day Eloy Ortiz Oakley, whose real job is serving as superintendent-president of Long Beach City College. Oakley will job-shadow Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, and the two will speak at a debriefing reception.

President Oakley is a community college success story, transferring from Golden West College to eventually earn his bachelor's and master's degrees.

In March of this year, Oakley, Steinhauser and F. King Alexander, who is President of California State University, Long Beach, signed the historic Long Beach College Promise. This partnership makes higher edu-

cation an attainable goal for every student, and it enhances the existing, nationally recognized Seamless Education partnerships among the three institutions.

The Superintendent for a Day is the ceremonial and inspirational leader of the annual event when area business leaders become principals for a day at elementary, middle and high schools to observe students, teachers and the operations of California's third largest school district.

Chairing this year's event are Ryan Alsop, director of Government and Public Affairs for Long Beach Water, and Shaun Lumachi, president of Chamber Advocacy.

Visit www.principalforaday.com for more information.



JOB SHADOW — Eloy Ortiz Oakley, president of Long Beach City College, will serve as superintendent for a day during the annual Principal for a Day event, which provides business and community leaders an eye-opening look at local schools. Earlier this year, Oakley signed the Long Beach College Promise, helping to make higher education more accessible to students.

• Broad Prize

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college, work and life. We hope that other districts learn from their success."

Among the reasons Long Beach once again stands out among large urban school districts, according to The Broad Prize methodology:

- In 2007, Long Beach's low-income, African-American and Hispanic students outperformed their peers in similar districts in reading and math at all grade levels.
- In 2007, Long Beach's Hispanic and low-income students achieved higher average proficiency rates than their state counterparts in reading and math at all grade levels. In addition, African-American students achieved higher average proficiency rates than their state counterparts in math at all levels and in reading in elementary and middle school.

Between 2004 and 2007:

- Long Beach was more successful than the state in increasing the percentage of all students who achieved proficiency in high school reading and math.

- Long Beach's low-income, African-American and Hispanic high school students showed greater improvement than similar districts in both reading and in math.

- Long Beach also narrowed achievement gaps between Hispanic and white students in elementary school reading and math faster than the state.

Long Beach won the top prize in 2003. Contest regulations prevent the winner from competing again for another three years. Long Beach and Boston are the only school districts nationwide that have been finalists during each year they were eligible to compete.

School districts cannot apply for the award, which is given after a thorough and independent analysis of student performance data from the nation's 100 largest school systems.

Now viewed by many as the Nobel Prize of public education, The Broad Prize is the nation's largest education award.

Graduating high school seniors in the winning and finalist school districts will be eligible to receive \$20,000 scholarships if they attend a four-year university (\$5,000 a year) or \$5,000 scholarships if they attend a two-year college or technical training (\$2,500 a year).

Other finalist districts included Aldine Independent School District, Texas; Broward County Public Schools, Florida; and Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for campus security officer, locker room attendant, instructional aide interpreter-deaf/hard of hearing, instructional aide-special, instructional assistant-intensive behavioral treatment, plant supervisor II, pool attendant, school safety officer and substitute custodian.

In Memoriam

Barbara McGrath
former intermediate office assistant
Sept. 12, 2008

Forest Fire Risk Shuts Down Hi-Hill

The Long Beach Unified School District suspended scheduled visits of fifth graders to Hi-Hill Outdoor School in the Angeles National Forest effective Oct. 10. A letter was sent to inform parents of the cancellation of their child's visit this fall. Concerns about the current hot, dry weather, and forest conditions that pose increased risk of forest fire prompted the decision.

"It may be upsetting for some students who will not have the opportunity this fall to attend Hi-Hill as scheduled," said Jill Baker, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools. "This is a special week for students and something we value, but the maintenance of a safe learning environment is our first priority.

"Parents can rest assured that we will not be placing any children in harm's way," said Baker.

The district is exploring current options for providing students with an outdoor science experience that may or may not include the use of Hi-Hill, even if the fire safety hazard subsides. Parents who have already paid for their child to attend Hi-Hill later this year may request a refund or allow the payment to be held for a future outdoor science experience.

LBUSD was advised by the U.S. Forest

Teach Intervention

The PALMS Office is establishing a pool for teachers who are interested in teaching Saturday intervention classes to middle school students during the 2008-09 school year.

Saturday classes will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each Saturday except three-day weekends and the Saturdays before and after winter and spring break. Teachers' duty day will be 7:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Teachers who are interested in substituting on Saturdays should also apply.

Teachers will be paid their additional hourly rate on the "P" schedule to teach these courses. It is anticipated that there will be a need for math, English, and English Language Development (ELD) teachers. Eligible teachers should hold the appropriate subject area credential or a multiple subject credential. Teachers must be certified to teach English Language Learners. The program will include a complete curriculum with a course outline and pacing chart. Training on course outlines and curriculum will be provided.

Interested teachers should contact Maria Toves for an application at ext. 8031 or mtoves@lbschools.net.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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(562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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Service — the owner of the Hi-Hill Outdoor School property — that the area of the forest where Hi-Hill is located has an elevated fire danger. Except for a caretaker and his family who live there, Hi-Hill will be vacated indefinitely. All Hi-Hill employees were notified that they will be reassigned to other jobs in the district.

Students scheduled to attend Hi-Hill in future weeks may instead be able to attend at an alternate location later this school year.

Donations of camperships for students to attend Hi-Hill will be used for future outdoor education. The district's goal is to resume outdoor education as soon as an alternate site is secured.

Retirement Seminar

Teachers planning for retirement may wish to attend a seminar on CalSTRS service retirement allowance, retirement options, updates on legislation, and disability and survivor benefits.

The sessions will be held Monday, Nov. 24; Tuesday, Jan. 13; and Monday, Feb. 2. All seminars are held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Staff from the Human Resource Services and Risk Management offices will be on hand to answer specific questions.

Attendance is limited. RSVP by Nov. 14 at ext. 8214.

Free Flu Shots

District employees may receive a free flu shot during the week of Nov. 3-7, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Long Beach School for Adults, 3701 Willow, Room 7.

Employees must present evidence of district employment (school or district ID). Vaccines are administered on a walk-in basis — no appointment is needed.

Family Resource Fair

A free Family Resource Fair and Kindergarten Festival Kickoff will be held Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Poly High School, 1600 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach.

The event is a day of information and fun for families with children of all ages, especially those entering kindergarten. Events will include music, arts and crafts and resource booths. Food will be available for sale.

The fair is co-sponsored by the Long Beach Unified School District and the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services.

For information, call 429-6020, ext. 294.

• Steinhauser

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Thank you for your patience and perseverance, and for keeping your eyes on the prize. Your courageous and tenacious efforts continue to lead to higher achievement for our students.

This truly is an extraordinary school district that just keeps getting better. I am so thankful for this opportunity to work with you on a cause greater than ourselves. Like the students and families we serve, you truly are America's best.