



# school bulletin

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

May 15, 2009

## Far More Students Here Seek College Aid

The number of Long Beach students applying for federal student aid has increased by 49 percent over last year, the result of a goal set by the Latino FAFSA Initiative in Long Beach, a pilot program spearheaded by Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, and supported by the Long Beach Unified School District, community-based organizations and local colleges.

Last year, 2,155 out of approximately 5,000 graduating Long Beach seniors completed the FAFSA. This year, 3,215 students have completed the form.

"We tackled this ambitious goal because we knew that 90 percent of our seniors typically start the FAFSA. But many just don't finish because they often perceive the application as more complex than filing taxes," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of

schools for LBUSD. "With help from the FAFSA pilot, we saw more families actually completing the form and becoming eligible for federal and state financial aid."

The increased completion rate of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as FAFSA, was a goal set by the initiative, which focused on helping Latino and other youth and their families to fill out the FAFSA at established community centers, called "trusted centers." The students and their parents were encouraged to go to the centers for help completing the free federal financial aid form online.

"These funds can open the door of opportunity to college," said Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster. "The success of the Latino FAFSA Initiative is another example of the Mayor's

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## Beat-the-Odds Mayor to Speak at Dinner

Former Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill will be the keynote speaker at the 13th Annual Most Inspiring Students Awards at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 28 at the Long Beach Hilton. Registration begins at 5 p.m.

The heart-warming event will feature inspiring, beat-the-odds stories of students.

Music from "Grease" will be performed by the Millikan High School Concert Choir and Renaissance High School performing arts students.

The popular fundraiser is sponsored by the Long Beach Education Foundation. One student from each school in the Long Beach Unified School District is recognized at the event.

Mayor Beverly O'Neill led an unprecedented revitalization of Long Beach, California's fifth largest city and the 32nd largest in the nation.

She moved Long Beach into the 21st Century as a prospering, dynamic city focusing on international trade, tourism, emerging technologies, expanding retail and neighborhood development.

A product of the Long Beach public school system, starting with the Long Beach Day Nursery to her graduation with honors from

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O'Neill

## Ice Cream Social Honors Classified Employees

Sixty-five employees have been nominated for the Classified Employee of the Year Award. The finalists and nominees will be honored at approximately 1:30 p.m. during this year's Classified Employees Week Ice Cream Social. The informal get-together featuring games and prizes is scheduled between 1 and 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd Street.

Limited parking will be available at the adjacent Burroughs Elementary School. Overflow parking is available at the nearby Target store, although no shuttle will be operating; attendees will need to walk a few short blocks.

Those attending should RSVP by May 15 to Stephanie Jimenez at ext. 7432 or [sajimenez@lbschools.net](mailto:sajimenez@lbschools.net).

The winner of the Classified Employee of the Year Award will be presented at the June 2

meeting of the Board of Education.

This year's nominees for the award are: Keith Adkins, OMS; Linda Alderson, Jordan Freshman Academy; Brad Angell, Purchasing; Elizabeth Anklam, Lee; Clarence Archer, Transportation; Dominga Beltran, Teacher Resource Center; Robert "Clay" Bergman, Mail Room; Ida Marie Briggs, Barton; Sue Brock, MacArthur; Martha Burciaga, Powell; Alyce Coburn, Hill; Sandra Combs, Research; Sophia Crenshaw, Tincher; Matt Davis, Millikan; Gloria Delacruz, Payroll; Yosie Delgadillo, Carver; Latisha Dockery, Poly; Michael Durham, Risk Management; Jo-Ann English, Teacher Resource Center; Leticia Espinoza-Vopyan, Middle/K-8; Mary Ferregur, Marshall; Lidia Flores, Jefferson; Flavia Fraysure, Birney; Allyson Garcia, Millikan; Sharon Grimes, Marshall; Laura Hardie, Administration Building; Gricelda Hernandez, Addams; Sam Hill, Cubberley; Betty Hucks, Recreation; Marilyn Hummel, School Support Services; Dewayne Hundley, Lakewood; Robby Jackson, Franklin; Joann Kageno, Elementary; Brian Linton, Franklin; Veronica Loza, Emerson; Joe Marquez, Maintenance; Carl McBride, Maintenance; Cathy Moran, Avalon; David Newman, Operations; Beatriz Nieves, Millikan; Ana Ortiz, Butler; Rosemarie Padilla-Tan, Lakewood; Judy Peale, Poly; Irene Pena, Stanford; Yvonne Quackenbush, Tincher; Christine Ragusa, Lakewood; Veronica Ramirez, Webster; Terry Reichardt, Alvarado; Darlene Roberts, Cubberley; Ninette Rosa, Hudson; Antoinette Rouch, Wilson; Ana Santos, Head Start; April Saucedo, School Safety; Cynthia Schiavo, Hoover; James Sharrar, Hill; Virginia Soriano, Lindbergh; Araceli Torres, Webster; Wanda Tucker, Lindsey; Hermina Velasco, Powell; William Viacan, Avalon; Toan Vu, Head Start; Lee Walker, Jefferson; Kathy Whitman, Head Start; Otis Wilbert, Maintenance; Gwen Woods, Poly.

## Petri Named Music Educator of the Year

Music curriculum leader James Petri was recently named Music Educator of the Year by the Long Beach Camerata Singers.

Petri was honored in recognition of his exceptional dedication to music and arts education. Camerata Singers also noted LBUSD's long history of excellence in music education, in particular the continued elementary and middle school programs that provide outstanding preparation for students entering high school music programs.

As music curriculum leader, Petri is responsible for curriculum and program development for all K-12 vocal and instrumental instruction. Petri also serves as vocal music teacher at Longfellow and Burroughs elementary schools.

## Music Center Says BRAVO to Godfrey

Cabrillo High School art teacher Christine Godfrey from Cabrillo was recently honored as a BRAVO Award winner, presented by the Music Center of Los Angeles County. She is the first Long Beach Unified School District teacher to be so honored.

Godfrey was recognized at the Walt Disney Concert Hall for her exemplary teaching in the arts and for her hard work and dedication to her students, profession and community.

Cash awards of \$2,000 to Godfrey and \$7,500 to Cabrillo accompany the recognition.

The Music Center BRAVO Awards were established in 1983 to recognize teachers and schools for innovation and excellence in arts education and are an integral part of the Music Center's leadership in supporting quality arts education for all students. The BRAVO Awards honor educators who use the arts to revitalize teaching, enhance student achievement and foster self-esteem, teamwork and cross-cultural communication and understanding.

## • College Aid

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Office, the City and the school district working together on behalf of our students.”

The Long Beach initiative will serve as a model for other jurisdictions with large Latino populations, but low rates of continuing education beyond high school.

The program is targeted for Latinos in 11th and 12th grades and also encourages them to view two-year and technical colleges, as well as four-year education institutions, as real possibilities to pursue after high school. Students from other ethnic groups also benefit from the services.

The U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid office has more than \$100 billion to help students pay for education beyond high school. Many eligible students—especially those from minority, first-generation and low-income families—don't know about these funds or fail to complete the form to take advantage of the funds.

Federal Student Aid began its grassroots outreach campaign program in Philadelphia and Charlotte in September of 2006, targeting underrepresented minority students and their families. The pilot came to Long Beach this academic school year because of its large Hispanic population, which accounts for 35.8 percent of all residents, and its high graduation rates.

The trusted centers will remain open to assist college students and adults in filling out the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The nine trusted centers include: Academic Up-Rise, Inc.; Centro CHA, Inc.; Avalon High School; Long Beach City College; Jordan High School; Polytechnic High School; Second Samoan United Church of Christ; CSULB: Educational Opportunity Center (EOC); and City of Long Beach - Central Facility Center.

## The Job Board

• Hudson School, a K-8 California Distinguished School on a traditional school calendar, is seeking a high performing teacher to teach 7th Grade English and History in the regular and accelerated learning programs at the middle school level. Teachers with a credential allowing them to teach cored classes for English and history (including multiple-subject credential) and who have or are committed to earning a GATE certificate are encouraged to apply. Those interested should contact Wendy Clafin, principal, at ext. 5625 or [wclafin@lbschools.net](mailto:wclafin@lbschools.net).

• Lowell Elementary School is seeking a fifth grade GATE teacher. Applicants with GATE certification or working towards certification are preferred. In addition, a collaborative spirit, strong communication skills, and advanced technology skills are recommended. An information meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 3:45 p.m. in the Lowell Library. All candidates are asked to bring a letter of interest and a current resume. For more details, contact Laurie Murrin, principal, at ext. 6625.

• Stanford Middle School is interviewing for a 6th grade GATE math teacher and a 7th grade GATE science teacher. Candidates should either have GATE certification or be working towards obtaining certification. Those interested may submit a resume to Kathy Cruz, principal, by Wednesday, May 20. Interviews will be scheduled after this date.

## Teacher Wins Trip to Science Workshop

Erin O'Bryant, a fifth grade teacher at Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School, has been selected to attend the 2009 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J.

O'Bryant will join 200 third-through fifth-grade teachers July 19-24 for an intensive, all-expense-paid professional development opportunity designed to provide teachers with innovative math and science teaching skills.

During the Academy, teachers will discover new ways to excite students using experiments that demonstrate various math and science concepts including force, gravity and probability. Teachers get a clearer understanding of these principles by conducting hands-on experiments that they can share with their students in the classroom.

## Deadline Approaches

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2009-10 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 will not be approved unless the district is able to hire a suitable replacement.

For more information, contact Bobbie Montes, program administrator, at ext. 8108 or via e-mail at [bmontes@lbsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:bmontes@lbsd.k12.ca.us).

## Summer Enrichment

Long Beach School for Adults is sponsoring a fee-based Summer Enrichment Program for students in grades 1-8 at Tincher Preparatory School.

A brochure and registration form for the Golden Bell Award-winning program are online at [lbsd.k12.ca.us/lbsa/sep](http://lbsd.k12.ca.us/lbsa/sep). To request copies by mail, call 218-0493 ext. 228.

## Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Judy Dearing	June 4	Joyce Cox ext. 7172

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## • Inspiring Dinner

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California State University Long Beach, she overcame incredible odds. Her mother was on welfare and her father had life-long problems with alcoholism.

Prior to becoming mayor, O'Neill spent a 31-year career at Long Beach City College beginning as a music instructor and women's adviser. In the succeeding years she became campus dean, dean of student affairs, vice president of student services and superintendent-president.

For reservations, call the Foundation at 997-8023. The donation is \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table sponsorship. Please make checks payable to Long Beach Education Foundation.

## Teacher of the Year?

Do you know of an exemplary teacher who should be recognized? The Los Angeles County of Education is sponsoring the 2009-2010 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year Program.

Besides being superb teachers, nominees must meet one of these requirements:

- Fully credentialed teachers from pre-kindergarten to grade 12;
- Library media teachers who collaboratively teach with classroom teachers;
- Adult school teachers are eligible if they are providing instruction in the same curriculum as those who teach in the elementary or secondary grades;
- Instructors who have some administrative responsibilities are also eligible to apply, but only if teaching is their primary responsibility.

Those who wish to learn more about Teacher of the Year are invited to attend an informational meeting sponsored by the county May 27 (3-4 p.m.) at LA County Office of Education, 9300 Imperial Highway, Downey, Room EC 107. For details, call 922-6360.

Applications for Teacher of the Year are available from Pat Kishi at ext. 2901, or [pkishi@lbschools.net](mailto:pkishi@lbschools.net).

## CDC Safety Honored

The Child Development Centers were recently honored by the Long Beach Department of Community Development for their Traffic Safety Awareness Partner program. CDC was recognized at the city's annual National Community Development Week celebration luncheon recently held at the Museum of Latin American Art.

## Names in the News

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) are **Victoria Cid**, Jefferson; **Maria Pasillas**, Bixby; **Roxanne Porter**, Cubberley; **Maria Sanchez**, Chavez; **Sandy Shewchuk**, Prisk; and **Pilar Wilder**, Hughes.

Wilson Classical High School student **Irie Elizalde** was named an inaugural member of the IE University's Junior Advisory Board. He recently traveled to Spain to meet in conjunction with the school's International Advisory Board.