



April 2, 2010

## College Promise Gets Results, Needs Funds

A progress report released this month on a two-year-old, local initiative to prepare more youngsters for college success revealed promising results, though education officials cautioned that California's budget cuts threaten to hamper further gains.

Two years ago, leaders from the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach signed The Long Beach College Promise, committing the three institutions to providing local students with greater opportunities to pursue, and succeed in, higher education.

"While California's fiscal crisis will make further implementation of the Long Beach College Promise difficult – and may even slow the pace of improvement – the three institutions remain determined and committed to providing greater educational opportunities for students," stated the progress report's cover letter, signed by LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer, LBCC Superintendent-President

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## Seamless Education 'A National Model'

A recent case study by the Washington, D.C.-based Business Higher Education Forum calls the Long Beach Unified School District's Seamless Education Partnership a national model.

The Seamless partnership, started in 1994, connects LBUSD's educators with business leaders, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach to make certain that students progress smoothly through the education systems and into the workforce.

"The Long Beach Seamless Education Partnership has become a defining feature of the community and a model for the nation," states the 16-page report, titled "Improving Education Through Collaboration: A Case Study of the Long Beach Seamless Education Partnership."

Among Seamless Education's signature programs is the Long Beach College Promise, which promises all LBUSD students the opportunity to receive a college education and provides a variety of educational benefits and services.

The full report by the Business Higher Education Forum is available at [www.bhef.com/publications/pubs.asp](http://www.bhef.com/publications/pubs.asp).

According to their website, BHEF is an organization of Fortune 500 chief executive officers, prominent college and university presidents, and foundation leaders "working to advance innovative solutions to our nation's education challenges in order to enhance U.S. competitiveness."

**AVID MUSICIANS** – Marshall Middle School students performed at Open House recently to help celebrate the school's prestigious designation as a national demonstration site for AVID, a college readiness program. Of the 285 middle schools in Los Angeles County, only six share this national distinction. Find more information and photos at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net).



## Federal Auditors Praise Accountability Here

Federal auditors liked what they saw during a recent visit to the Long Beach Unified School District, praising the district's fiscal practices, instruction, public accessibility, accountability and parental involvement.

Reviewers from the U.S. Department of Education visited McKinley Elementary School, Hamilton Middle School and LBUSD's central offices, thoroughly examining everything from record-keeping practices to parental involvement and the level of central office support for principals and their schools.

Reviewer Julia Keleher, now in her third year on the job, described LBUSD as the best school district she had ever seen.

She and other reviewers were impressed with the training, or staff development, that the district provides to principals and teachers, said Carol Pratt, an administrative assistant with LBUSD who helped coordinate the reviewers' visit. The visitors also were impressed with parental involvement in various school committees, school site councils and training sessions.

"The reviewers were blown away by our parent involvement," Pratt said. "They just couldn't get over how excited the parents were about all the opportunities they have to learn, and how our parents raved about our superintendent being accessible and easy to talk to."

## More California Districts Falling Off the Cliff

The California Department of Education has released a list of 126 school districts that may have trouble meeting their fiscal obligations in the coming months. The list shows a sharp jump in the number of districts facing fiscal worries statewide.

"Massive state budget cuts are crippling our public school system's ability to operate," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. "School districts already have made draconian cuts to programs and services, eliminated summer school, increased class sizes, and cut art, music, libraries, school nurses and sports. Districts now are forced to lay off even more teachers and make deep cuts to educational programs to address projected budget shortfalls or face possible bankruptcy and state receivership."

Once a school district declares bankruptcy, the state assigns a management team to take over operations until the district is solvent again.

The 126 local educational agencies now on the watch list represent an increase of 104 dis-

tricts since 2006-07.

California has an early warning system designed to detect which districts are in danger of failing to meet their financial obligations. Interim status reports on the fiscal health of school districts are prepared semi-annually. The certifications are classified as positive, qualified, or negative.

A positive certification is assigned when the district will meet its financial obligations for the current and two subsequent fiscal years. A qualified certification is assigned when the district may not meet its financial obligations for the current or two subsequent fiscal years. A negative certification is assigned when a district will be unable to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the current year or for the subsequent fiscal year.

The Board of Education in the Long Beach Unified School District approved a positive certification recently, meaning it will continue to meet its fiscal obligations.

A list of districts on the watch list is available at [www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fi/ir/first0910.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fi/ir/first0910.asp).

## • College Promise

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Eloy Ortiz Oakley, and CSULB President F. King Alexander.

Preliminary results show:

- More LBUSD graduates are pursuing higher education, with half of them attending LBCC or CSULB;
- More high school students are being tested on the Early Assessment Program to make certain they are prepared for college work;
- LBCC students from LBUSD have better math skills than other incoming students;
- LBCC students from LBUSD are much more likely to persist, or remain enrolled at the college, than their counterparts from other school districts;
- CSULB's commitment to prioritize local students for admissions has resulted in an acceptance rate far exceeding that of students from other high schools;
- CSULB students from LBUSD and LBCC are more likely to persist, or remain enrolled at the university, than their counterparts from other high schools.

The progress report also highlights key initiatives that the three institutions are implementing to prepare more students for success not only in college, but also in high-demand, high-paying jobs. Included in these efforts is a commitment to cover the cost of enrollment fees for every local high school graduate who enrolls directly at LBCC after graduation, beginning this year.

The full report, made possible in part by a grant from the Boeing Company, is available under College Promise in the A-Z index at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net). Click on Initiative Progress.

## Trade Fair Attracts 1,200 Entrepreneurs

Long Beach Regional Occupational Program's recent Annual Virtual Enterprise Trade Fair attracted more than 1,200 students from throughout the state.

Virtual enterprises are school-based, simulated businesses developed and run by high school students, preparing them for the real world of work. At the fair, students and judges spent virtual dollars to buy services and products from more than 75 virtual businesses.

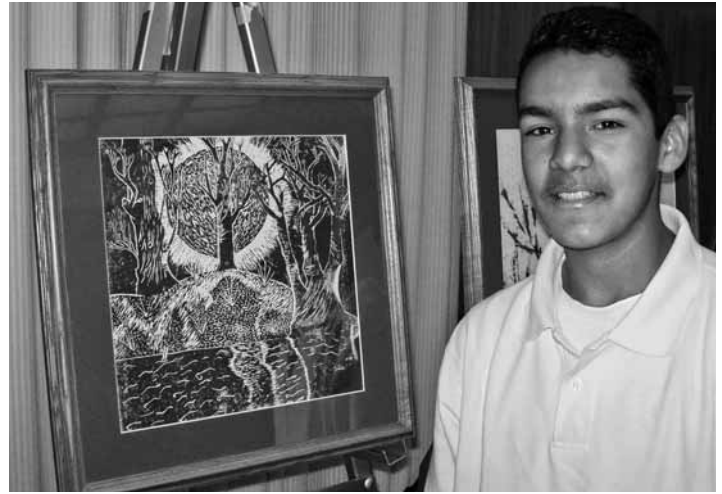
LBUSD's business partners served as judges, helping to select winners for categories such as Most Creative, Most Professional, Best Marketing Plan, and Best Salesmanship. South Pasadena High School's young entrepreneurs won top honors for a video of their unique water bottle product, Atlantis Bottles.

LBUSD high schools are home to nine virtual enterprise classes, which fulfill a University of California admission requirement.

## Lancers Dance Team

The Lakewood High School Advanced Dance Team has qualified for a national competition in Las Vegas on Saturday, April 17. The team is trying to raise funds for the trip. The competition is hosted by Sharp International, a dance competition circuit. Visit [www.sharppinternational.net](http://www.sharppinternational.net) for competition information. To donate, contact Janet Quinn, dance team coach, at ext. 3350.

**WORK OF ART** — Stephens Middle School student Josue Vaca, right, won first place in the middle school category at the recent Los Angeles County Office of Education Student Art Exhibit. Earning first place honors in the high school category were Millikan High School students Jennifer Kovacs and Eric Garcia.



## Time to Nominate Classified Employee of Year

Do you know an outstanding classified employee who deserves recognition? If so, you may nominate (and even re-nominate) this person for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award by April 16.

Nomination forms and contest criteria are available under Classified Employee of Year in the A-Z index at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net).

Completed forms may be faxed to 435-1018

or sent through school district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Classified Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be delivered in person to the office at 999 Atlantic Ave., Third Floor, Long Beach.

The winner and finalists will be recognized at the annual Classified Employee Celebration and Ice Cream Social to be held in May at the Teacher Resource Center.

No school district funds are used for the Ice Cream Social, which is made possible by donations. The winning employee also will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting.

## Middle Schools Hold Academic Contests

More than 800 middle schoolers from throughout the Long Beach Unified School District competed in Math Madness and English Extravaganza competitions on a recent Saturday at Hughes Middle School. The event culminated in Jeopardy-style showdowns, followed by an award ceremony.

Winning schools in the Math Madness competition were Bancroft and Lindbergh (first place), Monroe and Stephens (second place), and Rogers and Stanford (third place).

Winning the English Extravaganza were Hill (first place), Lindsey (second place) and Hudson and Jefferson (third place).

Coordinated by the school district's Middle and K-8 Schools Office, the annual event included significant volunteer participation by Cabrillo and JROTC students, teachers, administrators, families and numerous community partners.

### 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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## Names in the News

Millikan High School speech student **Christian Sanchez-Bartz** took second place in the statewide Poetry Out Loud competition, held recently in Sacramento. The Millikan junior was coached by teacher **Erin Hill**.

Winning first place in the Long Beach Rotary Speech Competition was **Samantha Liberman** of Poly High School. **Sam Kushner-Lenhoff**, also of Poly, took second place. **Max Bradley** of Wilson Classical High School took third.

Five members of the Jordan High School Running Club ran in the recent Los Angeles Marathon. Completing the 26.2 miles were students **Marco Iniguez**, **Shirley Morataya**, **Margarita Gracian**, **Alejandra Lopez** and **Jayzel Laguardia**. The students are members of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Jordan. The running club is coached by **Sandra Del Cid** and **Whitney Gomes**. Del Cid also completed the marathon.

Long Beach students earned high honors at Chapman University's annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest. More than 100 schools from Southern California participated. Lindsey Academy student **Roger Mendoza** won first place and \$500 plus an all-expenses-paid study trip to Washington, D.C. for his essay, "Sharing Wisdom." He will visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites in D.C., and he has been invited to light candles alongside six Holocaust survivors at Chapman University's annual Night of Remembrance Dinner on April 13. Mendoza's classmate, **Lesly Gonzalez**, won second place and \$250 for her essay, "Promise to Remember." Lindsey teacher **Jessica Kane** worked with both of her school's winners.