



# school bulletin

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November 19, 2010

## National Panel Lauds Teacher Education Here

Long Beach's teacher preparation system is a national model, according to a report this week calling for America's teacher education programs to be revamped.

A panel commissioned by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) released the report at a Washington, D.C. news conference, calling for teacher education programs to shift away from an emphasis on preparation that is loosely linked to school-based experiences. Instead, "clinical practice should be placed at the center of teacher preparation," NCATE asserts. Schools need to adopt a new staffing model patterned after medical preparation, in which teachers, mentors and coaches, and teacher interns and residents work together as part of teams, the report suggests.

"This new vision of preparation will require the development of partnerships with school districts in which teacher education becomes a shared responsibility between P-12 schools and higher education," NCATE states. In Long Beach, however, such partnerships with higher education have been long established.

"A long-standing partnership between the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College (LBCC), Cal State Long Beach and 46 community organizations has addressed everything from student transitions

and institutional alignment to development," states the report titled *Transforming Teacher Education through Clinical Practice: A National Strategy to Prepare Effective Teachers*.

The Long Beach partnerships, with financial support from local businesses, are getting results, the report states:

"The initiative has increased graduation rates in schools as well as enrollment and graduation rates from the participating colleges. The partnership has also found that California State University Long Beach teacher graduates are more prepared to address the needs of local students and, therefore are employed at a higher rate than graduates from other teacher preparation programs. Through the work of the partnership, the school district has cut their teacher

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## Non-Reps, Classified Tighten Belts Further

Classified employees, along with managers and other non-represented employees will face up to seven more furlough days and will contribute 5 percent toward health insurance costs, the Board of Education has decided.

As many as seven furlough days will occur in the 2011-12 fiscal year. The 5 percent contribution goes into effect January 2012. The same employees are facing five unpaid furlough days this school year.

The latest belt tightening is a response to the state's ongoing cuts to public education.

The school board OK'd the changes for some classified employees at a special meeting last Friday when it approved a new contract with Unit B of the California School (Continued on next page)

## Principals for a Day See Schools Firsthand

Nearly 200 guest principals shadowed principals in the Long Beach Unified School District this week during the annual Principal for a Day event, the largest single-day involvement of business and community leaders in local schools.

As Superintendent for a Day, Verizon President Tim McCallion shadowed LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. Also shadowing Steinhauser was Long Beach City College Superintendent and President Eloy Ortiz Oakley, and Cal State Long Beach President F. King Alexander. The education leaders joined business leaders in reporting their experiences at a "State of Education" debriefing at the Center Theater in the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center.

At the debriefing, LBUSD earned praise

from Verizon's president, McCallion.

"I'm really encouraged by what I saw and heard today, especially with data gathering, accountability and follow through," McCallion said. "If any school district can handle the challenges of the future, it's Long Beach Unified."

Verizon's corporate giving includes education as a top priority. Among Verizon's initiatives is its [thinkfinity.org](http://thinkfinity.org) website with free educational resources for teachers.

The annual Principal for a Day event allows business and community leaders to 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. More than 1,000 business partnerships with schools have begun as a result of the event.

## CAMS Students On CBS Evening News

Students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science are featured as success stories in a CBS Evening News segment on achievement gaps affecting African American males.

The CBS video and text, which remain available at [cbsnews.com](http://cbsnews.com), describe a recent study released by the Council of the Great City Schools showing that significant achievement gaps persist nationally among many male students who are African American.

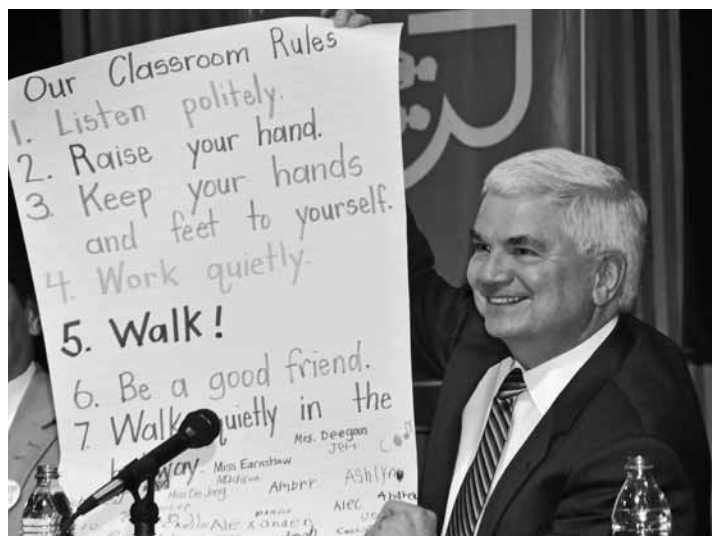
Black students at CAMS, however, were depicted as beating the odds.

CAMS is a high school run by the Long Beach Unified School District on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills. The school placed 22nd out of 21,000 public high schools nationwide in last year's U.S. News and World Report ranking of America's top high schools, and it has received wide acclaim for the academic achievement of its minority students, including students from low-income families.

CAMS youngsters in CBS's national story explained their drive to succeed.

"I just push myself to make sure I get there and that the generation behind me can look up to people like me," said student Jonathan Morant.

Visit [lbcams.schoolloop.com](http://lbcams.schoolloop.com) to learn more about CAMS.



### TIMELESS LESSON —

Verizon President Tim McCallion shares what he learned while visiting Cleveland Elementary School as Superintendent for a Day. The visit was part of LBUSD's annual Principal for a Day event. The most important lesson, said McCallion, is "be a good friend," which is why Verizon supports schools.

## LBUSD Seeks Personnel Commissioner

The Long Beach Unified School District is now accepting applications for appointment to the Personnel Commission. The appointment will be for a three-year term.

The Personnel Commission is the public body responsible for the administration of a "merit system" for the selection, retention and promotion of classified (non-teaching) employees in a public school system. By law, the commission is composed of three members appointed for three-year terms with the term of one member expiring each year.

To qualify, an applicant must be:

- A registered voter and a resident within

## Foster Parenting

The nonprofit ChildNet Youth and Family Services is seeking foster parents. The organization, which offers adoption assistance, parenting education and other services, is recognized for its care and treatment of abused, neglected and abandoned children.

Learn more at [childnet.net](http://childnet.net).

## Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for health benefits continues through Nov. 30.

Open enrollment is the one chance each year to change current benefits, add or remove dependents from benefit plans, or enroll in a flexible spending account (FSA). Enrollment packets were mailed to employees' home addresses.

## Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for associate producer/production designer, middle school office supervisor and site specialist-Special Projects.

## Dates to Remember

### December

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1         | World AIDS Day  |
| 2-9       | Hanukkah  |
| 2         | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8  |
| 3         | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Food For Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8       |
| 7         | Pearl Harbor Day  |
| 7         | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8            |
| 8         | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christmas," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8      |
| 9         | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Hanukkah/Passover," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8  |
| 10        | Emily Dickinson's Birthday  |
| 10        | Human Rights Day  |
| 10        | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8  |
| 14        | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8          |
| 15        | Bill of Rights Day  |
| 15        | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 16        | Boston Tea Party Anniversary  |
| 16        | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8  |
| 17        | Wright Brothers' Flight Anniversary                                   |
| 17        | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8           |
| 20-31     | Winter Recess   |
| 21        | First Day of Winter   |
| 23-24     | Christmas — Observed  |
| 25        | Christmas Day   |
| 25        | Clara Barton's Birthday   |
| 26-Jan. 1 | Kwanzaa   |
| 31        | New Year's Day — Observed   |

the Long Beach Unified School District boundaries;

• A known adherent to the Merit System (or civil-service system) and supporter of the concept of employment, continuance in employment, in-service promotional opportunities and other related matters on the basis of merit and fitness.

Applicants may not be members of the LBUSD Board of Education or a community college district or county board of education, or an employee of LBUSD.

Applications are available now in the LBUSD Personnel Commission Office, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, Long Beach, CA 90813, or at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29.

## • National Panel

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turnover rate down to 7 percent, which is 13 percentage points better than the national average for urban school districts as reported by the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. Long Beach State teacher graduates fill approximately three-quarters of those vacancies each year and stay in the field of teaching longer than the national average."

Many of the report's other recommendations have been implemented in Long Beach, including a new teacher program designed in collaboration with higher education, early clinical field work as early as a university student's freshman year, and a requirement that aspiring elementary teachers complete 120 service learning hours in classrooms as part of their preparation.

California is one of eight states that has agreed to implement the recommendations. As part of the NCATE Alliance for Clinical Teacher Preparation, these states will work with national experts to pilot new models of clinical preparation. Working with NCATE and other organizations, including the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, the Association of Teacher Educators, national teachers' unions and their state and local affiliates, the Alliance also will learn from other states working to transform teacher education.

NCATE issued its latest report after convening a national "Blue Ribbon Panel," a coalition of more than 30 organizations. LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser was one of two K-12 superintendents to serve on the panel.

Read the full report at [ncate.org](http://ncate.org).

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

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## • Belt Tightening

(Continued from first page)  
Employees Association Long Beach Chapter 2. Similar changes for nonrepresented employees and CSEA Unit A workers had already been approved by the school board at a prior meeting, but Unit B's contract was delayed after workers rejected their deal by a 51 percent vote. In a re-vote on a slightly revised contract, 86 percent of Unit B later approved, allowing the Board of Education's final OK at the special meeting. The Unit B deal also brings the same five furlough days that teachers and other employees are taking this school year (starting next week).

Unit A includes clerical and support services employees. Unit B includes construction, maintenance, repair and transportation workers.

The school district's compromise with CSEA includes job protection and job restoration. LBUSD will restore roughly 36 percent of the remaining members on a reemployment list who have been laid off since April 19.

Job protections in the approved CSEA deals include an agreement not to layoff bargaining unit members for the remainder of this fiscal year and next fiscal year, with some exceptions. If the state reduces LBUSD's funding by \$50 or more per pupil, for instance, negotiations may be reopened.

All district employees, including teachers per their latest contract, also face changes to health benefits, including the elimination of the PacifiCare plan, a change in pharmacy plans and other modifications that will save money while still providing employees with competitive benefits, including a wide range of health plan options and health care providers.

For those paying 5 percent toward health plans starting in 2012, following are examples of the quadriweekly cost to the employee. Figures are estimated and are likely to change:

- Blue Shield PPO (employee + family): \$99.55;
- Kaiser HMO (employee + one): \$52.95;
- Blue Shield HMO (employee only): \$24.55.

A more detailed worksheet is available online at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Risk Management in the A-Z index.

## View Budget Update

The Board of Education at its Nov. 9 workshop examined the effect of ongoing state budget cuts on the Long Beach Unified School District. A detailed PowerPoint presentation by staff included best and worst case scenarios regarding ongoing state budget cuts, a summary of recent cuts by the school board, and other information. View the PowerPoint presentation at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Budget Update.

## Buy Logo Watches

The opportunity is here to purchase Long Beach Unified School District watches at low cost. The deadline for orders is Thursday, Dec. 2. Order forms were emailed to site secretaries this week. Send an email to [cdennison@lbschools.net](mailto:cdennison@lbschools.net) or call Cheryl Dennison on ext. 4610. The cost is \$22, with watches available in two sizes, logo on the face, black band and one-year warranty. Orders will be filled the week of Dec. 13 by the Confidential and Supervising Secretaries Association (CASSA).