



# school bulletin

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

April 3, 2015

## Raveling to Address Inspiring Students

**The newly elected Basketball Hall of Famer and former Washington State, USC and Iowa head coach owns the original notes from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.**

George Raveling, who will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September, has been confirmed as the featured speaker at the Long Beach Unified School District's annual Most Inspiring Students Awards on May 20.

The event, scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Long Beach Hilton, is sponsored by the nonprofit Long Beach Education Foundation. The gospel music-themed evening, complete with student performances, will honor one student from each school for working hard and persevering, often despite difficult odds.

"I'm delighted to be a part of such an inspirational event," said Raveling, 77, who is now Director of International Basketball for Nike. "I look forward to hearing the stories of these exemplary students. I hope that by sharing some of my experiences, I can encourage these young people to keep striving to be their best."

Frank Mottek, news anchor for KNX 1070 Radio, will share Master of Ceremonies duties with Long Beach Education Foundation President-Elect Mike Murray and President Jeff Fellenzer.

"We're honored and thrilled that George Raveling has agreed to join us for this memorable evening," said Fellenzer, who teaches "Sports, Business and Media" in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at USC. "George's work ethic and daily determination to be the best, most productive person he can be, his constant thirst for information and learning, and his motivation to help others fulfill their goals and dreams, is inspiring."

Raveling, the first African-American head coach in Pac-12 history, has won multiple coach of the year awards. He owns the original copy of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Raveling obtained the document after volunteering for security detail at the historic speech delivered to a crowd of nearly 250,000 during the 1963 "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom." Details on how Raveling obtained the speech are the subject of a Jan. 19 feature story in Sports Illustrated.

The cost for the dinner event is \$100 per person. All proceeds support the Foundation and its work with students. To reserve a seat, send an email to [lbef@lbschools.net](mailto:lbef@lbschools.net).



**Raveling**

## College Promise Awarded \$5M by State

The Long Beach College Promise partners have earned a \$5 million prize as part of California Gov. Jerry Brown's Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. The award recognizes innovations that smooth transitions from K-12 schools to colleges and universities. The prize also rewards colleges and universities that have improved the ability of students to achieve a bachelor's degree in four years. The Long Beach College Promise achieved one of the highest scores among the state's 58 applicants.

"We're excited to receive this significant funding and the recognition that comes with it," said Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser of the Long Beach Unified School

District. "The Long Beach College Promise truly is an innovative, collaborative effort that is getting great results for students. We look forward to using these needed resources to further our important work."

The Promise began in 2008 as a collaboration among LBUSD, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach to increase the success of local students in higher education. The City of Long Beach joined the partnership last year, with a focus on early education and internships.

"We are delighted that Governor Brown has recognized how the strength of this partnership, across different institutions, is leading to

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## LBUSD Teacher Retention 'Extremely High'

An article in the national Hechinger Report notes that Long Beach Schools "improved dramatically over the past decade," in part because of a high rate of teacher retention here.

"Teachers are voting with their feet. That is, they're staying," wrote Lillian Mongeau of the independent, nonprofit Hechinger news organization. "Long Beach boasts a 94 percent retention rate for new teachers, which is extremely high for an urban district."

Hechinger focuses on producing in-depth education journalism and distributing it to national media.

The latest report at [hechingerreport.org](http://hechingerreport.org) includes a Q&A with Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Christopher J.

Steinhauser. While the title of the piece is, "How one California superintendent changed troubled schools," the first sentence states that the superintendent "credits his team more than his own leadership for a decade's worth of improvement."

The writer, Mongeau, noted that LBUSD's Academic Performance Index (API) score, a number on a 1,000-point scale based largely on standardized test performance, rose from 648 in 2002, when Steinhauser took office, to 784 in 2012, the last year for which base API scores are available. Graduation rates increased from 75.9 percent in 2010, when California first adjusted how it calculates

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## USA Today Notes Work-Based Effort Here

A recent USA Today article, "Closing the gap between school and work," features local high schools' efforts to make learning more relevant and engaging for students.

The article leads off with Lakewood High School student Manida My learning in a simulation lab as part of a health sciences pathway that includes a partnership between the Long Beach Unified School District and Long Beach Memorial Hospital. Other LBUSD schools that participate in the "sim lab" include Poly, Cabrillo and Jordan high schools.

"Dressed in hospital scrubs, Manida My heard 'code blue' and saw her patient's heart-beat on the monitor. All she could think was, 'What should I do?' Her first patient, 'Johnny,' was critically injured in a traffic accident caused by texting and driving," wrote USA Today reporter MaryJo Webster.

"At first, I was really nervous. My heart was racing," My, the Lakewood High senior, said in the article. "I realized I had somebody helping me and I was more confident... Even though it was kind of scary, it was a good kind of thrill."

The article details the advantages of such programs, including reduced dropout rates for high-risk students, and opportunities for top students to get hands-on experience.

The USA Today piece also features McBride High School's criminal justice pathway where ninth graders last fall conducted a mock trial based on "The Odyssey" for their English class. Students played roles as prosecutor, defense attorney, judge, witnesses and jury members to put Odysseus on trial for murdering the suitors who took over his home while he was gone. (They found him guilty).

"(Students) had to look at the story through a different context," said Beverly Moutet, lead teacher in McBride's criminal justice pathway. "It made them analyze the characters more deeply and helped them understand the story better."

The article is a sequel to two videos that USA Today recently posted on its website featuring CAMS, Cabrillo and Poly students engaged in work-based learning. Find the article at [usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com) by searching for "Closing the gap."

**FREE BOOKS** – Long Beach Councilman Dee Andrews teamed with Jordan High School student volunteers and the nonprofit New Life Beginnings to deliver free books to more than 100 students at Lincoln Elementary's WRAP afterschool program. The event launched the Sixth District Literacy Program.



## • College Promise Wins \$5M Innovation Award

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greater success among our students as they complete their higher education goals," said LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley. "As we expand the vision of the Long Beach College Promise to meet President Obama's challenge in his proposal for America's College Promise, this prize will help us get to the next level."

As part of the Promise, every LBUSD student visits LBCC and CSULB during their fourth and fifth grade years. Upon graduation from high school, students are guaranteed a free semester at the community college, and CSULB guarantees admission to all Promise students who complete college admission requirements.

"I want to thank Governor Brown for his vision in creating the Innovation Award," said CSULB President Jane Close Conoley. "If widely replicated, the College Promise has the potential to create a sea change in the way California delivers education to millions of students. We estimate that by reducing time to degree a single semester, our students could defray about \$10,000 in college related costs. This is a win-win for our region, and as we scale-up these practices, it will be a win-win for the state and nation."

Since the inception of the Long Beach College Promise:

- More than 58,940 LBUSD middle school students have completed a College Promise education plan and signed a pledge to prepare

for college;

- More than 33,500 LBUSD fourth graders have visited LBCC, and 35,200 LBUSD fifth graders have visited CSULB;

- The numbers of LBUSD students successfully completing transfer level math and English at LBCC have increased by 300 percent and 260 percent respectively.

- More than 9,800 students have taken advantage of the free semester at LBCC.

- LBCC's alternative assessment model has saved students from having to take remedial courses that would have required an additional 1,200 semesters to complete at a cost of \$498,732. By reducing remediation even further during the senior year of high school, these savings could easily triple within two years.

- The number of LBUSD graduates enrolling in CSULB has increased by 43 percent, and students are arriving better prepared to succeed.

"I've made education my top priority as mayor, and I am honored and proud that Long Beach has received this recognition and these additional resources," said Mayor Robert Garcia. "This is further evidence that the Long Beach College Promise is an outstanding, effective program, and it's also a great opportunity to expand and enhance the support we provide to our students."

Long Beach's award is part of a \$50 million fund designated in the 2014-15 state budget. All of California's community college, California State University and University of California campuses were eligible to apply and compete for the prize.

## Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2015-16 school year. Refer to the Teachers Association of Long Beach agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

Requests for Transfer forms are available at schools and the TALB office, and can be downloaded at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Human Resource Services in the A-Z index (then click on For Current Employees). Computers are available for use in the HRS lobby.

Teachers may submit requests for transfer whether or not that position appears as a vacancy. Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply for transfers is Friday, May 1. For more information call ext. 8635.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## • Teacher Retention

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 graduation rates, to 80.6 percent in 2013. "And Long Beach has begun to be recognized in California for its turn-around."

Asked about the differences a student from 10 years ago would notice in a Long Beach school today, Steinhauer responded:

"Ten years ago, in elementary school, you would not be learning about college as a fourth and fifth grader. Ten years ago, the eighth grade algebra would've been very restricted. That's not the case today. The vast majority of the kids are in algebra and doing well. In high school, you would've seen that the demographics of AP (Advanced Placement) classes did not represent the demographic makeup of the system. Fast-forward to today and it's the complete opposite. It's truly open access. And the students are doing quite well and the passing rates have done well too."

Asked whether low staff turnover is important, the superintendent responded:

"The consistency of a school system, especially for big urban districts, is absolutely important," Steinhauer said, noting a lack of teacher and administrator turnover here. "In fact, I have the reverse. I have thousands of people who apply every year who are highly qualified who want to teach in our school system because they see the support, they see the professional development, they see the ongoing learning that everyone has. Once you have a community that's built that continuity, you can really achieve anything."

Read the full article at [hechingerreport.org](http://hechingerreport.org) (search for Long Beach).

## Credential Current?

All certificated employees are required to keep their credentials and permits current at all times. The State of California does not allow certificated employees to work without possessing a valid credential or permit. If employees allow a credential or permit to expire, or if they do not provide the state with evidence of meeting renewal requirements, they cannot remain in paid status in any California public school district.

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires all clear and professional credential holders to renew their credentials online. The online renewal process requires payment by VISA or MasterCard. The renewal web page is [ctc.ca.gov](http://ctc.ca.gov). Click on "Online Services for Educators."

The renewal fee is \$72.50 (including a \$2.50 credit card convenience fee) and the renewal process may be completed as early as a year in advance of the credential expiration date.

Questions about credentials may be directed to a credential services specialist at ext. 8208.

## In Memoriam

**Cassandra Knight**  
 former bus driver  
 March 3, 2015

**Stevie Shaw**  
 teacher, Nelson  
 March 16, 2015