



Oct. 2, 2015

## College Promise Expands Free Tuition

Long Beach City College will double its free first semester to a full year of tuition-free classes for local students as part of a significant expansion of the Long Beach College Promise, the nationally recognized program that is helping to provide better college preparation and access to thousands of students.

The expansion, supported in part by a new \$5 million grant from the state, was announced as part of an annual report and community celebration at LBCC last week for the Promise program. The report provides data showing steady, significant gains in college readiness and access for local students.

LBUSD launched the Promise in 2008 with LBCC and Cal State Long Beach. The City of

Long Beach joined the partnership last year, with a focus on preschool and internships.

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 the free coursework at the community college, and CSULB guarantees admission to all local students who complete college admission requirements. Students and parents receive additional counseling and other support along the way.

More than 500 people, including White House education officials, attended last week's celebration event, where 25 LBUSD eighth

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**COLLEGE PROMISE EVENT –** "We've long been fans of the Long Beach College Promise," said U.S. Under Secretary of Education Ted Mitchell during a recent College Promise celebration at LBCC. Gov. Jerry Brown recently awarded a \$5 million innovation grant to the program. **See "Gov. Brown on the College Promise," next page.**

## Teacher Training in National Spotlight

Education Week, known as "American education's newspaper of record," published an extensive article this week detailing the Long Beach Unified School District's innovative efforts to provide personalized professional development, or training, for teachers.

In the article, "Long Beach District Sets Course to Personalize Teacher PD," associate editor Stephen Sawchuk describes Long Beach as a closely watched district that has been widely recognized for its support of teacher professional development.

The article explains how the school district used a grant from the Gates Foundation to

develop a new online platform called myPD.

"At its most basic, the platform serves as a repository for the district's curriculum units and catalog of PD courses," Sawchuk wrote. "But its built-in features for teacher feedback are what really make the system hum."

The author compares the system to personalized fitness apps.

"Just as such plans lay out goals for shedding pounds, specify exercises tailored to those goals, and give a timeline, the Long Beach platform helps teachers set teaching goals, find aligned resources, and track their progress."

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## Waiver Renewal Supports Local Control

The U.S. Department of Education has again granted a one-year extension of a waiver from certain No Child Left Behind federal rules for a collaborative of six school systems including the Long Beach Unified School District.

Like the Local Control Funding Formula approved by California in 2013, the federal waiver returns more control and flexibility to the local level. The waiver replaces a restrictive, punitive system with one that rewards improvement and provides help to schools that need it.

The Education Department granted the original one-year waiver in August of 2013 to the school districts, whose consortium is called the California Office to Reform Education, or CORE. Together, the CORE districts serve more than 1 million students – more than most states. One-year extensions of the waiver were granted last September and again this month.

The other participating school districts are Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco and Santa Ana. The waivers were approved in exchange for locally developed plans to prepare all students for college and careers, focusing more aid on the neediest students, and support-

ing effective teaching and leadership.

"The last six years have seen dramatic progress for America's school children. The high school dropout rate is down, and graduation rates are higher than they have ever been," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stated upon announcing the waiver extension. "As a result of our partnerships with state and district leaders to couple flexibility with reform, we are seeing remarkable strides and bold actions to improve student outcomes. States, districts, principals and teachers are showing incredible creativity in using different means to achieve the same goal—getting every student in America college and career ready."

The CORE districts have used their waiver to engage in annual peer-to-peer review of waiver implementation, creating innovative district-to-district accountability for sharing promising practices and improving achievement in lower performing schools.

The latest announcement from the Education Department states that the CORE districts "have continued to work with the Department to resolve all monitoring findings and have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to continuous improvement."

## Naples School Earns National Blue Ribbon

Naples Bayside Academy is among 335 schools to earn the National Blue Ribbon Award for 2015 based on academic excellence and progress closing achievement gaps, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced this week. The award is one of public education's highest honors.

"This honor recognizes your students' accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success," Duncan said. "Your journey has taught you collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong relationships in school and with your community. You represent excellence – in vision, in implementation, and in results – and we want to learn as much as we can from you."

Naples will collect its award during a Nov. 10 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"We're so excited. We've been working really hard on this for four years," said Naples Principal Beth Flynn, who credited the elementary school's strong community-wide support. "It's been a great team effort."

The award plaque recognizes safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.

Prior winners of the award here include Cubberley K-8 School, Rogers and Hughes middle schools, the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, and Lowell, Twain and Prisk elementary schools.

## CCEJ to Honor Retired Principal

The California Conference for Equality and Justice will host the Gene Lentzner Human Relations Awards on Thursday, Oct. 15 at Keesal, Young and Logan on Oceangate in Long Beach.

The reception starts at 5.30 p.m., followed by the program at 6:30 p.m. The Gene Lentzner Human Relations Award will be given to the following people for their exceptional contributions to improving human relations in Long Beach: Matthew A. Saldana, a retired principal from the Long Beach Unified School District; Bill Cruikshank, executive director of Meals On Wheels Long Beach; and Jessica Quintana, executive director/president of Centro C.H.A.

The awards are given in the name of Gene Lentzner because of his life-long commitment to bringing diverse people together to improve human relations in the Long Beach area.

For more information or to purchase tickets for \$75 each, visit [cacej.org](http://cacej.org) or call 435-8184.

## • Teacher Training

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Once they've logged on, teachers create a profile for themselves, selecting which of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession they want to improve on. They can perform a self-assessment, rating themselves on the standards' five-tiered scale.

The school district still offers face-to-face professional development courses, but the new system adds self-paced online modules and videos of Long Beach teachers demonstrating some of the teaching standards in action.

Teachers decide whether to allow principals to access their professional profiles—including the goals they've set for themselves, the student data or peer feedback they've added, or how they rate their own progress.

"As Long Beach officials like to say, the myPD system is not designed for remediation, or to 'make' a teacher a professional; it assumes they already are one."

View the entire article at [edweek.org](http://edweek.org).

## In Memoriam

**Paul Perry**  
former teacher  
July 11, 2015

**Yvonne Webster**  
former custodian  
Aug. 22, 2015

**Shirley Abercrombie Mason**  
former outdoor education camp teacher  
(Hi Hill)  
Aug. 26, 2015

**Hjordis de Leon**  
former teacher  
Sept. 2, 2015

**Clyde C. Thompson**  
former principal  
Sept. 8, 2015

## • College Promise Celebration Event

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graders received scholarships ranging from \$50 to \$250 for showing academic improvement.

Cited by White House education leaders as a model that helped shape President Obama's America's College Promise initiative, the Long Beach College Promise is building a stronger community and economy as graduates become better prepared to join the workforce.

"We've long been fans of the Long Beach College Promise," said U.S. Under Secretary of Education Ted Mitchell, who spoke from an outdoor stage at the event. "As President Obama was putting together the initial proposal for America's College Promise, we looked to Long Beach as a model. Long Beach continues to inform the administration's priorities around America's College Promise as we work with Congress to secure passage of the act."

Also publicly praising the Promise at the event were Michael Cohen, director of the California Department of Finance, and Former California State Sen. Darrell Steinberg, who was honored by LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser with the Long Beach College Promise Champion Award for exemplary support of college and career readiness efforts including the Promise.

Among the results detailed in the 2015 Long Beach College Promise report:

### At the K-12 level

- 49 percent of LBUSD students meet University of California and/or California State University admission requirements, an increase of 7 percent over the past four years.

- LBUSD graduating seniors earned \$96 million in scholarships and grants in 2015.

- Expansion of high quality early childhood programs including universal access to preschool for underserved populations by 2018.

### At the community college level

- Nearly 12,000 students have received one free semester of college at LBCC.

- LBCC will expand tuition-free education to one full academic year.

- Of the LBUSD seniors who go on to enroll at a two-year college, 77 percent enroll at LBCC.

### At the university level

- Four out of 10 LBUSD graduates choose to enroll at CSULB.

- The Promise has increased admission and enrollment of LBUSD students to CSULB by 35 percent.

- CSULB has increased six-year graduation rates to nearly 65 percent.

At the city level, in 2015 Long Beach launched its Internship Challenge, an initiative to double the number of internship opportunities for students.

### 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)

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The College Promise's recent \$5 million prize was part of California Gov. Jerry Brown's Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. The Promise program achieved the highest score among the state's applicants. Funding from the award will be used to expand and enhance the Promise by using new technology to improve counseling and guidance for students at all of the institutions, reducing remediation through the use of additional interventions during high school, strengthening efforts to build career pathways among the partner institutions, and closing achievement gaps by expanding opportunities for students in the city's underserved communities.

View the full report at [longbeachcollegepromise.org](http://longbeachcollegepromise.org).

## Gov. Brown on the College Promise

The Long Beach College Promise's recent \$5 million prize was part of California Gov. Jerry Brown's Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. The Promise program achieved the highest score among the state's applicants. The inscription on the award states:

### Office of the Governor

#### Long Beach College Promise

California has long committed itself to creating opportunities for all Californians seeking higher education. We often celebrate the report, "A Master Plan for Higher Education in California, 1960-1975," which articulated this commitment, but it was inherent in state policy a century before that document was published and it remains true today.

California is also a state of entrepreneurs and innovators. Its citizens continually reimagine our society and our economy, creating whole new industries and areas of inquiry in the process.

The state continues to maintain its commitment to educational opportunity, but the burden on students and their families has grown in recent years. The pressures on the state budget continue to expand as well. Our state's future relies on a strong effort to both harness our tradition and spur real innovation.

The Awards for Innovation in Higher Education seek to do that, and your work exemplifies the best of that effort. Your award reflects your willingness to set ambitious goals, imagine creative ways to solve seemingly intractable challenges, cultivate deep support to try a different approach and then actually implement the innovations.

As you are well aware, this work is only beginning. Your award provides you with an opportunity to push harder and experiment with new ideas. I encourage you to share the lessons you have learned and support others as they seek to join the effort to reinvigorate higher education in California.

Sincerely, Edmund G. Brown Jr.

## Revised LBUSD Map

Long Beach Unified School District's map includes several updates for the new school year and is available under Map, LBUSD in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). The two-page map, which is printable on 8.5 by 11-inch paper, includes addresses and phone numbers for schools and central services.