



# school bulletin

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

April 8, 2016

## Williams to Chair National Group

Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education President Felton Williams has been elected chair of the Council of the Great City Schools, the primary coalition of the nation's largest school districts. The Washington, D.C.-based Council includes 72 school districts as members, representing more than 7.2 million students.

"With Dr. Williams' leadership experience in Long Beach, we are confident that the Council's board will steer urban school reforms forward," said Council Executive Director Michael Casserly.



**Williams**

Williams will succeed Superintendent Richard Carranza of the San Francisco Unified School District, effective July 1, to lead the policy-making body of the national coalition. The Council's board is composed of the superintendent and a school board member from each of the districts.

## State Treasurer Visits

California State Treasurer John Chiang visited Millikan High School this week, speaking with students about issues facing California. He answered students' questions on topics ranging from taxes to education and fracking. The visit was part of the Millikan History Department's election year focus on civic engagement. Government and economics teacher Varo Asorian helped to arrange the visit.

## School Board to Hold Wednesday Meetings

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education's recently approved schedule of 2016-17 meetings includes a shift from Tuesday to Wednesday evenings.

The aim of the revised schedule is to reduce scheduling conflicts with other local governmental agencies such as city councils, which also tend to meet on Tuesdays. Under the revised schedule, board meetings generally will be held at 5 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

The shift to Wednesday meetings begins with the Aug. 17 meeting. Find the full schedule of meetings at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) > Offices > Board of Education > Meeting Schedule.

**COLLEGE ACCESS –** Cabrillo High School alum Keyon Anderson and Poly High School alum Dominique Vera participated in a White House summit at the invitation of First Lady Michelle Obama. Both graduated from CSULB with help from the Long Beach College Promise.



## LBUSD Alums Advocate at White House

For Poly High School alum Dominique Vera and Cabrillo High School alum Keyon Anderson – both of whom graduated from Cal State Long Beach – advocating for increased college access during a recent White House summit was a highly personal achievement. The two spoke about the Long Beach College Promise program at First Lady Michelle Obama's "Beating the Odds: Ladders of Opportunity Summit."

The Long Beach College Promise is a nationally renowned partnership among the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and CSULB. The College Promise offers Long Beach's youth pathways from pre-K through college and onto careers, including one tuition-free year at LBCC and guaranteed admission to CSULB for qualified Long Beach students.

"The Long Beach College Promise saw me through many experiences – good and bad – over the course of my youth," said Vera, who graduated from CSULB in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. It was the College Promise that gave her the support she needed to achieve her dreams of a college degree. So when she received an invitation from the first lady inviting her to testify before

White House and Capitol Hill officials about how the College Promise gave her an opportunity to "beat the odds," she was thrilled.

"The guarantee of an affordable college education helped me to stay strong and persevere," said Vera, who now hopes to give back to her community. "Although the theme of Ms. Obama's summit was 'beating the odds,' I came to the conclusion that I should be changing the odds and challenging the odds so I can enable everyone."

In addition to partnering with the first lady in developing successful strategies for helping youth climb ladders of opportunity, the Long Beach College Promise partnership has been hailed by President Obama as a national education model, and promise partners have been engaged in his efforts to make community college universal for all responsible students via his America's College Promise campaign.

"My favorite part of the summit was being with other people who are actually trying to move the needle," Anderson said. "I'm able to see how different my life is with my education. I can't imagine what my life would be like without it."

Read the full story by writer Sharon Hong at [csulb.edu](http://csulb.edu).

## Educator by Day, World Champ on Weekends

Derek Pye doesn't talk about his national and world records much at school. As a para-educator helping special education students at Millikan High School, and as a track coach at Bancroft Middle School, he prefers to keep the focus on the academic and athletic accomplishments of his students.

But the Wilson High School graduate has quietly amassed an array of international honors in track and field. Last month Pye, 48, set a new world record for his age group in Albuquerque at the USA Track and Field

Master's Indoor National Championships in the 60 meter hurdles, completing the race in 8.16 seconds. Other recent age group honors include:

- National record in 2015 in the outdoor 110 meter hurdles
- USATF Male Athlete of the Year in 2014 and 2015
- Indoor National Champion in the 60 meter dash in 2014
- Indoor World Champion in the 60 meter hurdles in 2014

(Continued on next page)

**WORLD CHAMP** – Wilson High School graduate and LBUSD employee Derek Pye set a new world record for his age group last month in the 60 meter hurdles. Here he competes in the 2015 Indoor Nationals in Winston Salem, N.C. Pye coaches track and assists special education students and teachers as a paraeducator. **Photo by Rob Jerome.**



## • Paraeducator, Wilson Grad is World Champ

(Continued from first page)

• Outdoor National Champion in the long jump in 2013

The list goes on.

Pye began as a special education teacher at Bancroft, where he has coached boys and girls track for 20 years. He shifted from classroom teacher to paraeducator because it allowed more time to balance his coaching, training and weekend competitive track meets, including the ones that his son Ereq Pye, a sophomore in the Poly PACE program, now competes in.

After attending Wilson, Derek Pye went on to Long Beach City College and Cal State

Long Beach. Today, he enjoys seeing his former students earn full-ride scholarships and more – students like Pedro Ramos, who accepted a scholarship to UC Riverside, where he obtained his degree and is now heading to law school.

“We get a chance to see a lot of former athletes do well and get to go to college, which is really big for their families as well,” Pye said.

Upcoming competitions for Pye include events in Australia, Spain and South Korea, but first there are the prestigious Penn Relays from April 28 to 30 at the University of Pennsylvania. If he wins big, his students probably won’t hear it from him, whether on the track or in the classroom.

“It’s not about me at school. It’s their time,” Pye said. “I just tell the students to give themselves a chance.”

## Teacher of Year Nominations Due

The Los Angeles County Office of Education is sponsoring the 2016-17 Teacher of the Year Program, which is open to fully credentialed teachers from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. This includes library media teachers who collaboratively teach with classroom teachers, and adult school teachers who provide instruction in the same curriculum as those who teach in the elementary or secondary grades. Instructors who have administrative responsibilities are also eligible, but only if teaching is their primary responsibility.

The deadline to submit nominations is April 15. Contact Jennifer Crockett in the Professional Development Center at [jcrockett@lbschools.net](mailto:jcrockett@lbschools.net) or ext. 2900 to nominate a teacher or to request an application.

### 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

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

FELTON WILLIAMS, President  
JON MEYER, Vice President  
DIANA CRAIGHEAD, Member  
MEGAN KERR, Member  
JOHN MCGINNIS, Member

## In Memoriam

**Murl G. Elliott**  
former custodian supervisor  
February 11, 2016

**Delbert Dake**  
former teacher  
March 8, 2016

**ROBOTICS** – Hamilton Middle School students Omar Lara Ramirez, Fabien Avina and Nam Tien earned second place at the VEX Robotics California State Championship in Pasadena. Their teacher is Ethan George. The team was one of two from Hamilton to qualify for the state event.



## Names in the News

Gant Elementary School fifth grader **Dina Miranda** was a finalist and second place winner in the Los Angeles County Scripps Regional Spelling Bee.

Music teachers **Andy Osman** and **Stephanie Carter** each won an Outstanding Veteran Music Educator Award from the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. Osman teaches at Poly High School. Carter is a retired teacher who has returned to work at multiple schools here.



**Miranda**

Deputy Superintendent of Schools **Jill Baker** has earned a Women of Distinction Award from Soroptimist International of Long Beach. Baker will be honored at a May 7 brunch for her leadership and for improving student performance. The event begins at 10 a.m. at The Reef, 880 South Harbor Scenic Dr., Long Beach. Learn more at [soroptimist-long-beach.org](http://soroptimist-long-beach.org).



**Baker**

Third grader **Rylee Soto** of MacArthur Elementary School won a new bicycle for her first-place entry in LBUSD’s Healthy Recipe Contest. Soto won for her Healthy Ice Cream Sandwiches. Find the recipe in the April menu for elementary and K-8 schools at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

The nonprofit Long Beach Camerata Singers honored Hughes Middle School instrumental music teacher **Naomi Norwick** with the Music Educator of the Year Award. Norwick teaches several groups, from beginning orchestra to symphonic band and jazz band. She was honored for building one of the finest programs in the state. Hughes consistently earns top ratings at competitions.



**Norwick**