



September 13, 2019

International Honors For CAMS Robotics

The remotely operated underwater vehicle team at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science placed third worldwide during a recent competition in Kingsport, Tenn.

The team qualified for the international Marine Advanced Technology Education contest by winning a regional event in May.

CAMS has progressed to the international round three years in a row with improvement each time. Team members include CEO Jiajer Ho, Lead Programmer Isaac Addis, Frank Chagueco, Alexander Vazquez, Aarya Topiwala, Matias Vergara, Jared Arbolario and Kyle Garcia Takata.

The students were invited to compete against the college level students as a result of winning third place at the high school level, said CAMS computer science teacher Sandra James.

"It should be an exciting and fun adventure for them," she said.

Educator Coaching in National Spotlight

An article co-authored by two local educators in *School Administrator*, the national magazine of The School Superintendents Association, describes the Long Beach Unified School District's use of coaching as an effective, research-based method of developing leaders within the organization.

"Coaching as a Way of Being" appears in the magazine's September edition and is co-authored by Jill Baker and Kelly An. Baker is LBUSD's deputy superintendent of schools, and An is leadership development director for the school district.

LBUSD has spent more than a decade building programs for teacher leaders, aspiring administrators, principals and, most recently,

Study Reveals How LBUSD 'Beats the Odds'

An independent research institute that listed the Long Beach Unified School District among California "Districts Beating the Odds" in May has now released an in-depth case study on LBUSD. The report describes "the critical practices and policies that have promoted student learning, especially among students of color."

The "Long Beach Unified School District: Positive Outliers Case Study" was released this week by the nonprofit Learning Policy Institute during a Sacramento event that brought together researchers and officials from the California Department of Education, California Teachers Association, California School Boards Association and other statewide education organizations.

Based in Palo Alto, Calif., LPI seeks to advance evidence-based policies that support equitable learning for every child.

"LBUSD has been nationally recognized as a consistently high-functioning district for more than two decades," states the 75-page

study co-authored by LPI researchers Desiree Carver-Thomas and Anne Podolsky. "All in all, student success in LBUSD was attributed to the district's evidence-based planning, thoughtful implementation and comprehensive systems of support."

Long Beach was one of seven school districts where LPI conducted case studies. In addition to these case studies, LPI issued a new report summarizing its findings across these seven school systems: "Closing the Opportunity Gap: How Positive Outlier Districts in California Are Pursuing Equitable Access to Deeper Learning."

"Rapid and dramatic change in California's education system provided an excellent incubator for school districts to make changes to improve instructional quality and equity," said LPI President Linda Darling-Hammond, who is also president of the State Board of Education. "We hope that other school districts and states will focus on the lessons from these case study school districts to ensure all students have access to deeper learning regardless of the size, location and wealth of the district where they go to school. We know it can be done."

The Long Beach case study delves into the key factors that enable student success here including systemwide cohesion, careful hiring and thoughtful training practices, a willingness to develop new attitudes and approaches to support deeper learning for all, and a focus on students' social and emotional wellbeing.

The report also noted the school district's strong performance on state tests between 2015

(Continued on next page)

central office leaders.

"In Long Beach, coaching is now a way of being," the article states. "Professional growth has been transformed from an isolated activity benefiting a few teachers who happened to be part of an induction program to a cornerstone of district culture and the basis of performance expectations across the 72,000-student school system."

The article notes that a study published this year by RAND showed that formal programs at the district level for growing new principals, including via coaching, are a cost-effective method of improving student performance and retaining principals.

Find the full article at lbschools.net.

Famed U.S. Marine Band to Perform at Poly

A decade has passed since the scarlet coats of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band last appeared on stages along the West Coast. But at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24 the band returns to play a free concert at Poly High School's Andrew Osman Performing Arts Center.

Free tickets are available (limit four per request) starting Sept. 26 at marineband.ticketleap.com/longbeach/. Seating is general admission, and tickets will be honored 15 minutes prior to the start of the concert, when any remaining seats will be released to a standby line.

"The Marine Band is one of the most prestigious bands in the U.S.," Poly Principal Bill Salas said. "Hosting the group is a fantastic

honor."

In the style of the band's 17th Director John Philip Sousa, who initiated the concert tour tradition in 1891, Marine Band Director Col. Jason K. Fettig has chosen a diverse mix of music – from traditional band repertoire and Sousa marches to instrumental solos and a salute to the Armed Forces.

"We always try to highlight music on our programs that celebrates the region we are visiting, whether it be marches that provide a connection or folk music that might be associated with certain areas of the country," said Marine Band Director Col. Jason K. Fettig.

Founded by an act of Congress in 1798, the band is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization.



PLEASANT SURPRISE – Signal Hill Elementary School Teacher Linda Plexico celebrates with a student during an assembly where the teacher was surprised to receive \$1,500 in classroom supplies from Office Depot. Story on next page (and video at lbschools.net).

More Students Earn AP Capstone Diplomas

New data show that 75 students in the Long Beach Unified School District earned the prestigious Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma, and 52 students earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate during the 2018-19 school year.

The AP Capstone Diploma program allows students to develop critical thinking, research and presentation skills, both individually and as a team. Students conduct academic research on topics of personal interest in two interdisciplinary classes: AP Seminar and AP Research, courses that LBUSD began offering in 2016.

"Congratulations to the AP Capstone award winners, who conduct, present and defend academic research on topics they are passionate about," said Trevor Packer, College Board senior vice president of AP and Instruction. "Their ability to manage long-term projects, collaborate with teams and deliver effective presentations will accelerate not only their academic careers but their professional careers as well."

About 7,800 students worldwide earned the AP Capstone Diploma and 4,100 students earned the AP Seminar and Research

Certificate during the 2018-19 school year.

Earning the AP Capstone Diploma is challenging. Students must earn scores of 3 (out of 5) or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research and on four additional AP exams. To receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate, students must earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.

Throughout the program, AP Seminar and AP Research students explore topics across multiple disciplines and have the flexibility to choose topics of personal interest to show mastery of research and presentation skills. Official AP Seminar and AP Research assessments also go beyond a single AP exam to include academic papers, multimedia presentations and defense of findings.

Galapagos Islands Expedition Awaits

Jordan High School Teacher Kelly Meade, who participated in a National Geographic educational expedition to Antarctica nearly two years ago, is packing her bags for another epic journey. She'll head back out with National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions, this time to the Galapagos Islands in December. She plans to share this expedition by making the experience digitally live for classroom instruction during her journey.

Meade also is hosting a National Geographic Educator Certification Phase 1 Workshop (a helpful tool for Single Subject Integration) 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9 at Jordan.

As a member of the collaboration team with National Geographic Explorers and Educators to create California EcoBlitz, Meade is looking for colleagues to participate. The EcoBlitz is an opportunity for students to work with National Geographic Explorers and other classrooms throughout California. An EcoBlitz allows students to identify the biodiversity that exists in their community and compare it with the quantity and types of trash within the same area. Evaluation of the two types of data helps to determine environmental impact.

To sign up for these programs, educators can find this article at lbschools.net for links to registration and additional information.



Meade

Green Summit at Hughes on Nov. 16

Long Beach schools are going green. Teachers, support staff, administrators and parents who would like to assist with recycling and other sustainability efforts are invited to the Green Summit at Hughes Middle School from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 16. The school is at 3846 California Ave., Long Beach.

School district, city and local non-profit representatives will provide information on campus sustainability. Learn about the latest recycling changes and how to get started at your school with sorting and recovering food, cans, bottles, paper and more. The aim is for each school to have a green site coordinator.

A stipend rate is available for teachers/staff attending the summit (register in myPD for either the classified employee or certificated employee section of Course 9160). Parents can RSVP at lbschools.net/green.

Contact pweinstein@lbschools.net, kwasinger@lbschools.net or dvandivort@lbschools.net.

Office Depot Helps School 'Start Proud'

Signal Hill Elementary School received a welcome boost on the second day of school when Office Depot representatives visited and donated 800 backpacks filled with school supplies. During a school assembly, teachers also were surprised with several pallets of classrooms supplies. Parents will receive a \$20 Office Depot merchandise card to purchase additional supplies during the year.

Teacher Linda Plexico earned a special prize of \$1,500 worth of premium school supplies for her extraordinary efforts in the classroom.

Office Depot conducts the donation program nationwide in partnership with Boise Paper and Domtar Paper. This year, the program is providing 18,000 backpacks with supplies during 18 celebratory assemblies at high-need schools.

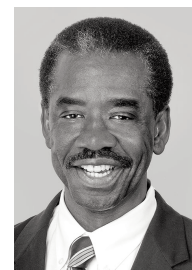
Board President to Speak in Claremont

Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education President Felton Williams will join Claremont Graduate University President Len Jessup for an hour-long discussion that is open to the public 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24 at the university.

The discussion is part of the "CGU in Conversation" series and will explore "Williams' record as a leader in an educational system that emphasizes access to learning for every child," the CGU website states.

Williams earned his doctorate from the university, and in 2017 he was selected as CGU Alumnus of the Year.

The event takes place in the Founders Room of the Honnold/Mudd Library, 800 N. Dartmouth Ave., Claremont. Seating is limited. RSVP is recommended. Learn more and register by finding the Sept. 24 event at cgu.edu/event.



Williams

• LBUSD Case Study

(Continued from first page) and 2017 for its three largest racial and ethnic subgroups, and that students here tend to graduate at higher rates than the average California student. Recent gains in student achievement also were attributed to the school district's many partnerships with other school systems, including local institutions of higher education.

LPI's other case studies looked at the San Diego Unified, Chula Vista Elementary, Clovis Unified, Gridley Unified, Hawthorne and Sanger Unified school districts.

For links to the cross-district study and all of the case studies, find this article at lbschools.net.

In Memoriam

Marie Quesada

former senior Nutrition Services worker
June 2, 2019

Willeene Bailey

former executive secretary
June 6, 2019

Linda Lee Vieth

former teacher
June 15, 2019

Diana Spooner

teacher, Lincoln
June 19, 2019

Douglas Stewart

former assistant principal
June 21, 2019

Gustavo Diaz

former draftsman
July 13, 2019

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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