



May 12, 2017

Seven Finalists Vie for Employee of the Year

More than 70 nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year Award have been narrowed down to seven finalists. The top winner is scheduled to be announced at noon during the 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Classified Employee Celebration on Friday, May 26 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill.

Parking is available on site, and the event includes hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes, games and prizes.

A total of 79 nominations ultimately resulted in 15 nominees because some employees received multiple nominations.

This year's finalists are Joanne Begley, secretary at Tucker/Student Health Services; Jammy Espinoza, middle school office supervisor at Jefferson; Karen Kemp, supervisor at Human Resource Services; Gail McCullough, secretary at the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development; Michelle Olsen, intermediate office assistant at MacArthur; Angela Rivers, executive secretary

at the Office of School Support Services; and Jackie Scarborough, elementary office supervisor at Lowell.

The remainder of this year's nominees are Anacristina Munoz Aguirre, Nutrition Services supervisor at Robinson; Julie Crook, executive secretary at Research, Planning, Evaluation and School Improvement; Alan Dumaliang, technician at Physician Services; Juan Carlos Gutierrez, instructional aide special at Tucker/ACT; Mary M. Hill, payroll technician at Nutrition Services; Gary Lim, custodian at Lakewood; Rhasheda Slayton, plant supervisor at Renaissance; and Brent Wildey, plumber supervisor at Maintenance.

Nomination papers were submitted by colleagues and reviewed by a committee of classified employees. The winner and finalists also will be honored at an upcoming school board meeting.

The celebration is made possible by donations from private sponsors, organizations and school district managers and administrators.

Nine High Schools Among Best in U.S.

The Washington Post's 2017 ranking of America's top high schools includes nine schools in the Long Beach Unified School District, a new record for LBUSD, with Cabrillo and Jordan high schools joining the list for the first time.

The ranking lists schools in only the top 12 percent of the approximately 22,000 U.S. public high schools in terms of their ability to offer rigorous college prep instruction.

The Post calculates a Challenge Index by dividing the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school gave in 2016 by the number of graduating seniors.

The report by the Post includes the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches, a figure illustrating the poverty challenges that schools face.

Local high schools' national rankings on the report (with the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches) are:

465 – California Academy of Mathematics and Science (42.6% subs. lunch)
677 – Wilson (56.7% subs. lunch)
845 – Millikan (44.5% subs. lunch)
943 – Poly (58.1% subs. lunch)
1,070 – Lakewood (50.9% subs. lunch)
1,289 – Avalon (68.8% subs. lunch)
1,482 – Renaissance (58.2% subs. lunch)
1,975 – Cabrillo (80.7% subs. lunch)
2,010 – Jordan (78.8% subs. lunch)

Find the full list at washingtonpost.com. Search for America's Most Challenging High Schools.

Students here signed up for more than 14,000 AP exams this spring. That's about 85 percent higher than the number of students who took AP exams four years ago. The significant increase comes after concerted efforts to boost access to AP courses and tests.

A Deep Dive Into the College Promise

An extensive report from the College Futures Foundation describes The Long Beach College Promise initiative as a national model. The Promise initiative extends the promise of a college education to every student in the Long Beach Unified School District, backed by spe-

cific support and guidance for students and families. Partnering organizations include Cal State Long Beach, Long Beach City College and the City of Long Beach.

"Ultimately, partnership initiatives like ones in Long Beach may very well demonstrate to leaders, practitioners, government agencies and private-sector supporters in the field of education and beyond how effective regional collaborations can meet both the educational and economic needs of communities across the nation," states the 100-page report, which is presented in two parts.

Part one of the report by Robert Gabriner, Rose Asera and David Hemphill is titled "What

(Continued on next page)

Tincher Team Wins Annual RoboBowl

Teams from Tincher Preparatory School won first and second place in the recent RoboBowl at McBride High School, where students from local middle schools learned about science, technology, engineering and math while showing off their robotics projects.

A team from Hughes Middle School won third place, and a team from Hamilton Middle School took fourth.

At the RoboBowl, each school's robotics club participates in the competition, which gives students a chance to test their robot designs before attending official VEX Robotics events in the fall. Since the RoboBowl's inception the event has been a partnership with Leadership Long Beach with the aim of advancing STEM education throughout the school district.

Students on the winning Tincher teams were Olivia Hibson, Lucy Boucher, Anahi Bedy, Kayla Maguire, Emma Halal and Ashley Phaingdy. The robotics coordinator at Tincher is teacher Deborah Drab.

Lindsey Academy won the Engineering Notebook Award, while Keller Middle School earned the event's Spirit Award.

ROBOBOWL CHAMPS –
Tincher Preparatory School's Ashley Phaingdy and Anahi Bedy were part of the winning teams in the annual districtwide RoboBowl, where students showcased their robotics projects while learning about science, math, engineering and technology.



STEM EXPO – Barton Elementary School students Kalani Overall and Kamora Rivers pause at a display of a Cal State Los Angeles solar car, one of several exhibits and activities at the school's recent Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) expo. The school partners with local groups to support STEM and arts education.



Scenes from Barton's Annual STEM Expo

"This is the best day of my life!" exclaimed Barton Elementary School student Damian while perusing the school's third annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Expo.

Student ambassadors sporting white lab coats escorted visitors to several exhibitions, including displays and activities provided by Long Beach Gas and Oil, Crimson Pipeline, Long Beach Airport Club, Cub Scouts, Shared Science, and a geologist group from Cal State Long Beach.

Barton regularly partners with local employers and community groups to support a school-wide focus on STEM and the arts.

The recent event also included a display of a solar-powered car from Cal State Los Angeles, with inquisitive students learning how the car drives without gasoline.

Student Emerson Mendoza won a flight simulator experience, a donation from Flight Safety International, for writing an essay titled "Why You Want to Learn to Ride the Plane."

Barton teachers organized booths offering various activities to their students.

A popular booth was the marshmallow construction site where students created structures using marshmallows and toothpicks. Another exhibitor, Dramatic Results, provided students with materials and instructions on how to make catapults. After students made their catapults, they measured how far they could shoot a ball. Some students used trowels to plant succulents in the desert area of the school's garden.

First grade teacher Maria Bogdanovic chronicled the event for this article.

"Families truly enjoyed the afternoon of learning and discovery together," she said.

• What Makes the College Promise Work

(Continued from first page) Makes Partnerships Work" and details the Long Beach initiative and an Inland Empire collaboration, delving into five common themes:

1. A partnership's leadership needs to be informed by clear moral imperatives.
2. Leaders must understand how change processes work within specific institutions and partnerships.
3. Leaders must be able to engage a variety of stakeholders and build long-term relationships and coalitions among them.
4. Evidence and data are vital components for both making the case for the partnership to stakeholders and informing the partnership's strategic directions.
5. Partnership leaders have to understand how reforms and improvements fit together to enhance organizational coherence for the stakeholders and the students who must navigate through multiple institutions.

Part two of the report, "Starting and Sustaining Educational Partnerships: Two Case Studies of Intersegmental Innovation in California," provides full, detailed case studies of the Long Beach and Inland Empire initiatives.

The Long Beach partnership "has a history of more than 20 years, and it is well known regionally, statewide and nationally for its impact on student success," the report states.

"Although the Long Beach partnership story has been told many times, this case study focused on understanding the life cycle of the partnership and how it has changed over time."

Established in 2005 via the sale of a non-profit student loan company, College Futures Foundation awards nearly \$20 million in grants annually and has an endowment of nearly \$500 million. Find the full report under Insights & News at collegefutures.org. Learn more about The Long Beach College Promise at longbeachcollegepromise.org.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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SAT Could Replace SBAC in Grade 11

Legislation to allow the Long Beach Unified School District to administer the SAT instead of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium test in Grade 11 passed 7-0 in the Assembly Education Committee recently. The bill, AB 1602, is authored by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D - Long Beach).

"Long Beach Unified is seen as a leader in improving student achievement. I am proud to partner with my school district to further the goals of increasing student college attendance rates while ensuring that student testing is meaningful," said O'Donnell, a teacher who chairs the Assembly Education Committee. "One of the values of the SAT is that it can be used as a diagnostic tool to gauge where student achievement is needed in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades."

LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer worked with O'Donnell on the legislation, which could take effect next year.

"Our high school students, staff and parents are clearly expressing that they need relief from unnecessary, duplicative testing," Steinhauer said. "Administering the SAT and PSAT allows all of our students to take advantage of free, aligned and customized support in the form of online tutorial services through Khan Academy. The SAT also is more relevant to students and parents because it's the main test affecting college admission."

AB 1602 establishes a pilot project that will include the LBUSD and four other school districts chosen by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The five-year pilot project allows participating school districts to administer an alternative assessment, such as the SAT, to 11th grade students to meet state and federal testing requirements.

AB 1602 now moves to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for health benefit plans continues through May 31 for employees who wish to change their benefit plan choices. Any changes in benefits will be effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

If you don't need to make changes, you don't have to do anything, and your current benefits will roll over for the new plan year.

If you want to make changes, go to benefitenroll.com or call the Employee Service Center at (866) 844-9744, option 4, Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enrollment information will be mailed to employees' homes.

If you're currently contributing to a Flexible Spending Account, your FSA will continue until Dec. 31, 2017. You'll have a separate opportunity to enroll in an FSA for 2018 later this year.

In Memoriam

Rosa Perez
intermediate nutrition services worker,
Edison
April 21, 2017