



# school bulletin

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

June 15, 2017

## Sincere Thanks to All Who Help Students

By Christopher J. Steinhauer  
Superintendent of Schools

The American Dream is alive and well in our schools. Every day, thousands of students and families, including many who arrived in our neighborhoods with little or nothing, look to our public schools as the primary path to a better life. We uphold a great responsibility, and we remain firmly committed to equal opportunity for all students, regardless of where they live, how much money their parents make, or any personal challenges they may face.

The result of our commitment and collaborative efforts is that today we have nationally recognized schools throughout all geographic areas of our school district. We saw recent examples on last month's Washington Post list of America's best high schools. Nine of our high schools appeared on the list, including, for the first time, Cabrillo High School on the Westside and Jordan High School in North Long Beach. Each of these schools is considered to be among an elite group of the top 12 percent of high schools in the nation. Although the poverty rate is about 80 percent at Cabrillo and Jordan, these schools are beating the odds. That's a testament to the hard work of our students, parents, employees and many community partners.

Such schoolwide victories are made possible by many smaller, quiet victories for individual students. Wherever our students attend school, we strive to remove barriers for them and their families, for instance, by recruiting under-represented students into Advanced Placement courses and covering the cost of AP exams for all students, creating a potential savings of hundreds of dollars for each family. Many of these families also save thousands of dollars on college tuition as students earn college credit while still in high school.

We have much more work to do, but the future looks bright. We will always remember 2016-17 as the school year in which about 75 percent of local voters approved \$1.5 billion in Measure E school bonds. These funds will be used as wisely and efficiently as possible, giving future generations of students and staff the facilities they need and deserve. That's another huge victory for our children.

To all who have made these and so many other amazing accomplishments possible in our schools, I sincerely thank you, and I hope you will take some time to celebrate the many victories, both big and small, that have added up to one incredibly memorable school year.



Steinhauer

## Retiring Employees Served for 55 Centuries

A total of 220 Long Beach Unified School District employees with a combined 5,497 years of service are retiring.

Leading retirees in seniority is 40-year teacher Christopher Kinder.

### Certificated Retirees

40 years—Christopher Kinder, EPHS;

37 years—Robert Piercy, Wilson; Jane Brooks, Cabrillo; Donna McKeenan-Marr, Mann; Russell Widman, Hoover; Bruce Osterholt, Webster;

36 years—Ozella Presley, Beach; Triphina Moore, Lakewood; Ronald Bacon, Oropeza; Craig Hagman, Franklin; Kim Kohlenberger, Millikan;

35 years—Karen Whalen Silver, Newcomb; E. Gayle Kwelberg, Poly; Gregory Mendoza, EPHS; Terrel Reyes, Lakewood;

34 years—Kevin Mickelson, Millikan; Mark Curran, Fremont; Jeff Watten, Wilson;

33 years—Sandra Ludman, Signal Hill; Cheryl Ambellan-Mehit, Cubberley;

32 years—Deborah Garjian, Alvarado; Elizabeth Bergher, Los Cerritos; Barbara

Mueller, Gant; Mary Kennedy, Emerson; Allison Cassiday, Holmes; Colleen Miller, Newcomb;

31 years—Michael Feary, Jordan; Christina Labor, Bryant; Victoria Williams, Lincoln;

30 years—LuAnn Abler, Dooley; Shauneen Bell, Rogers;

29 years—Phyllis Ward, Twain; Janet Saunders, King; Aarona Pollard, McBride; Claudia Paquette, Kettering; Lou Ellen Underwood, Cubberley;

28 years—Judith Rock, Gompers; Julie Edwards, Millikan; Ann Rash, Muir;

27 years—Patricia Tilton, Gompers; Robert Floyd, Garfield;

26 years—Adrienne Matte, Stanford; Susan Davis, Bixby; Patrick Markey, Jordan; Nancy Valenti, Los Cerritos; Grace Ewert, Cubberley; Debra Hunt, Avalon;

25 years—Diane Riska-Taylor, Hughes; Rosalie Steuck, Washington;

24 years—Rebekah Gibson, Jordan; Sylvia Moorehead, Head Start; Felonise Carbonaro, Gompers; Maria Constantino, Poly; Monica Davis, Leave of Absence; Kathleen Young,

(Continued on next page)

## Classified Employee of Year Announced

Angela Rivers, executive secretary in the Office of School Support Services, has earned the Classified Employee of the Year Award from the Long Beach Unified School District. The award was announced during a recent celebration in honor of classified employees.

"I'm so humbled and thankful," Rivers said. "I never thought that I would win because I know a lot of the ladies on the list, and they're awesome. But it feels good. I feel like I'm floating on cloud nine right now. I love the Long Beach Unified School District."

Nominated by several of her colleagues, Rivers was praised for maintaining a professional, positive demeanor despite a challenging workload.

"Every person that Angela comes in contact with is well supported and treated with dignity and respect," wrote colleague Markena Kirkwood. "She goes out of her way to make sure that every person who calls or visits the office is welcomed and helped to the best of her ability. She always shows genuine commitment to everything she does with a positive attitude. She is very helpful and uses her time efficiently and wisely."

More than 70 nominations submitted for the award were narrowed down to seven finalists, including Rivers. Nominations were submitted by colleagues and reviewed by a committee of classified employees. The winner and finalists also were honored at the June 12 Board of Education meeting.

The six other finalists were Joanne Begley, secretary at Tucker/Student Health Services; Jammy Espinoza, middle school office supervi-

sor 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; and Jackie Scarborough, elementary office supervisor at Lowell.



**EXEMPLARY EMPLOYEE** – Personnel Commission Executive Director Kenneth Kato presents the Classified Employee of the Year Award to Angela Rivers, executive secretary of the Office of School Support Services.

## • Centuries of Dedicated Service from Retirees

(Continued from first page)

Madison;  
23 years—Thomas Cordova, Franklin;  
22 years—Marian Haney, Gant; Darlene Norville, Head Start; Linda Bell, Chavez; Joyce Cox, Nursing Services;  
21 years—Clarissa Berry, Alvarado; Penny Gower, Riley; Patricia Miller, Mann; Melinda Yatsui, Dooley; Christopher Miller, Jordan;  
20 years—Christy Cleveland, Harte;  
18 years—Yolanda Hamm, Head Start;  
Timothy O'Brian, Webster; Karen Boras, Barton; Anne McConaghy, Whittier; Michaela Quinby, Webster; Barbara Ohanessian, Lincoln;  
17 years—Carolyn Amberry, Lincoln; James Cross, Lakewood; Nancy Daus, Central CDC;  
16 years—Gloria Dominguez, Head Start;  
15 years—Jacqueline Parke, Millikan;  
Charlyne Schmeer, Lindbergh;  
14 years—Debra Shrader, Music Office;  
13 years—Ruth Watson, Leave of Absence;  
12 years—Jennifer Curry Scott, Lakewood.  
A total of 52 others with a combined 1,312 years of service asked not to be listed.

### Classified Retirees

39 years—Jean Hammond, Jordan;  
37 years—Delilah Lara, Garfield;  
35 years—Lawrence Ligon, Transportation;  
John Nimmons, Maintenance; Senter McGinest III, Poly; Sharon Dana, Twain;  
34 years—Jose Martinez, Monroe; Jennifer Thomas, School Safety and Emergency Preparedness; Robin Carlson, Henry;  
33 years—Carey Flake, Cleveland;  
31 years—Christine Vaughn, Jordan; James Urbanik, Maintenance; Kathleen Piscopo, Research;  
30 years—Alicia Garcia, Payroll; Dorothy Jerzycke, CAMS;  
29 years—Nancy Johnson, Riley;  
26 years—Gracie Hind, Millikan; Deann Davies, Bixby; Michele Fraser, Fremont/Twain; Sherry Thorpe, Accounting;  
25 years—Eduardo Bresciani, Cabrillo;

## Nurse of the Year

Lucy Carbajal, a nurse at Henry and Keller schools, has won the School Nurse of the Year Award from the Long Beach School Nurses Association.

Carbajal, who also works as a part-time district lead nurse, is described by colleagues as kind, upbeat and smart.

"The staff, kids and parents love her," said Lead Nurse Rose Van Meeveren.

Carbajal has been a nurse for 26 years and a school nurse for 19 years.

On the way to work one day, she pulled over and called 911 when a man was standing on the freeway overpass ready to jump. She approached the man and was able to talk to him until the police arrived and prevented him from jumping.

"She is truly a hero," Van Meeveren said.

The other nominees for the award were Lupe Hernandez, Laura Foster, Christine Gibson, Jennifer Pou, Jessica Amata, Teresa Smolin and Paula Evans.



**Carbajal**

Dorothy Nguyen, Poly;  
24 years—Deborah Nelson, Millikan; Peggy Nething, McKinley; Michael Probst, Maintenance;  
22 years—Luanne Mauro-Atkinson, Head Start;  
21 years—Kathy Reilly, Barton; Cydney Arenda, Whittier; Barbara Christensen, Nelson; Arlene Wilson, Head Start;  
20 years—Rosalind Galima, Buffum;  
19 years—Linda Clark, Harte; Glory Fields, Wilson; Lidia Flores, Jefferson;  
18 years—Carol Kunkle, School for Adults; Miguel Castillo, Nutrition Services;  
17 years—Karen Abrahamson, Lindsey; Tyren Duncan, Accounting; Tiana Rideaux, Cabrillo;  
16 years—Marilyn Robinson, Poly; Alice Briggs, Stephens;  
15 years—Vickie Vidriales, Transportation;  
14 years—Carol Garcia, Millikan;  
12 years—Elizabeth Masters, Wilson.  
Forty-three others who served 912 years asked that their names not be printed.

## Names in the News

Cabrillo High School math and engineering teacher **Kenneth Fisher** is one of five recipients of the 2017 Carlston Family Foundation Outstanding Teachers of America Award. The awards are given each year to exceptional California public high school teachers, nominated only by former students, who believe their teachers made a life-changing impact.

"From my conversations with Ken's former students, it was exceptionally clear that his instructional skills and techniques, as well as his personal guidance, significantly contributed to both their academic and personal success," said Timothy Allen, executive director of the foundation. "They shared with me how he impacted their lives by giving of his personal time, sharing his passion for calculus and engineering, creating interesting and relevant lessons and activities to enhance his instruction, challenging them to always do their best work, and supporting them even when they did not believe in themselves."

**Shantel Brodhead**, student success coordinator at Jordan High School, recently earned a year-long, \$25,000 grant from the ECMC Foundation to support her efforts to close achievement gaps for African American students at the school. Funds will go toward activities that encourage student involvement and leadership, provide effective instruction, high expectations and a comprehensive program of academic and social support. In collaboration with existing support on campus, Brodhead will help to make sure students take advantage of college and career advising, psychological wellness counseling and other elements that build trusting relationships on campus.

**Kat Tacea**, teacher librarian at Lafayette Elementary School, wrote a grant that will bring \$7,000 to the school from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. The school was one of 160 selected nationwide. Lafayette will use the funds to update dual immersion, Next Generation Science Standards and e-book materials.

Last year Tacea was named Teacher Librarian of the Year by the Long Beach School Librarians Association. She also has earned National Board Certification.



**INSPIRING STUDENT** – Second grader Zamora Arzu of Birney Elementary School accepts a Most Inspiring Student Award at the annual dinner recognizing students from each school. Honorees were selected for their resilience, often in the face of difficult obstacles. Joining Zamora are her mother Charity Lloyd, keynote speakers Aaron and Regina Cash, and Birney Principal Athena Uribe. Aaron Cash is an accomplished international dancer and choreographer, and Regina Cash is director of Academic and Professional Programs at Cal State Long Beach's College of Continuing Education. Frank Mottek, news anchor for KNX 1070 Radio, shared Master of Ceremonies duties with Long Beach Education Foundation President Mike Murray.

## Future Administrators

The Future Administrators program application window is scheduled for Sept. 5 to 15. Interested teacher leaders are encouraged to attend one of two informational meetings offered on Tuesday, Sept. 5 from 7:30 to 8 a.m. and again from 3:30 to 4 p.m. in Room B-16 at the Teacher Resource Center. The Leadership Development Office will be outlining the September application and selection processes. For updated program information, go to Leadership Development in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). Interested candidates should:

- Complete and submit the FA application (available Sept. 5 to 15 via link to a Google form on the Leadership Development website);
- Hand-deliver an updated resume, letter of intent, and a copy of the most recent evaluation to the Leadership Development Office by 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15.

The program includes workshops, shadowing days with assistant principal mentors, and site visitations.

Ideal candidates will have served in formal site leadership roles such as department chair, grade level lead, SBDM and instructional leadership team, have a minimum of five years of classroom teaching experience, and hold a valid California administrative credential or certificate of eligibility.

## Librarian of the Year

Diane Taylor of Hughes Middle School has earned the Teacher Librarian of the Year Award from the Long Beach School Librarians Association. Taylor has worked as the teacher librarian at Hughes since 2004 and is retiring this year. She was recognized at a recent Board of Education meeting, where Nina Jackson, president of the Librarians Association, presented the award and read excerpts from the award nomination.

"From the moment you walked into the library, it was obvious that Dr. Taylor had a passion for kids and for reading," one teacher wrote. "The environment was inviting with pictures, stuffed animals and plants, not to mention shelves filled with quality books for the students to read. There was never a time before school, at lunch, or after school that you didn't find a crowd of students in the library with Dr. Taylor at the center."

Taylor told the board that she was grateful for her time in Long Beach schools, and for LBUSD's support of school libraries.

"I feel that I had the privilege for 25 and a half years to work for Long Beach Unified, to work with amazing kids, amazing parents and amazing staff," Taylor said.

## McBride Solar Boat Earns First in Region

Students from McBride High School earned first place recently in the Central and Bay Region of the Metropolitan Water District's 15th annual Solar Cup. The competition is the largest student-based solar-powered boat race in the nation. Students apply their skills in math, physics, engineering and communications while learning about water resources, conservation and alternative energy.

"I am very proud of our students for their amazing work ethic and willingness to challenge themselves," McBride Principal Steve Rockenbach said.

Schools from 43 teams and six counties competed at Lake Skinner in southwestern Riverside County.



**REMEMBERING JOAN** – Dignitaries and family members participate in a recent ceremony to rename the Alamitos Bay Bridge after Joan Lind Van Blom, the champion rower and Olympic medalist who worked for 35 years in the Long Beach Unified School District as a physical education teacher and curriculum leader. Van Blom died in 2015 from an aggressive form of brain cancer at 62. State lawmakers agreed to rename the bridge after State Sen. Janet Nguyen proposed legislation.

**EDUCARE PROJECT** – Workers use a large crane to begin assembling modular structures that will be part of the new Educare regional preschool on the Barton Elementary School campus. The project is the result of a public-private partnership that aims to create a model for early childhood education.



## Educare Preschool Breaks Ground at Barton

County, city and school district officials broke ground last month at the site of a new early education center on the Barton Elementary School campus in north Long Beach.

The model preschool, to be known as Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach, is a collaboration of public and private partners and is one of 22 schools in the national Educare Learning Network.

The partnership includes the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach Education Foundation, L.A. Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, The Advancement Project, Educare Learning Network, Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Ounce of Prevention Fund and other private donors.

The project, partially supported by school bond funds approved by local voters, will serve youngsters and parents from the immediate neighborhood near the Carmelitos low-income housing project.

Toddler and preschool classes will begin this fall in portable classrooms while the new buildings are being completed.

When it is fully open in spring 2018, the program will serve up to 191 youngsters from low income families.

The \$18 million project includes 16 classrooms in three one-story modular buildings, a drop-off area and playground, a two-story administration building and a new 68-space parking lot. Major infrastructure improvements are being made to the Barton campus.

The Educare school will provide a research-based program that prepares preschoolers for kindergarten.

"The partnership between Long Beach Unified and Educare will enable hundreds of our most vulnerable students to receive the early education scientifically proven to provide a pathway to success," said Megan Kerr, vice president of the LBUSD Board of Education, who spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony.

## CEC Awards

The Council for Exceptional Children Chapter 108 recently honored several students and employees. Student of the Year awards went to Annie Belle A. of Kettering, Alizay A. of Barton, Brandon V. of Tincher, Christopher C. of Bancroft, Emmalie E. of Cleveland, Gavin J. of Gant, Jorge Brian H. of Tucker ACT, Kyler G. of Kettering and Nevaeh R. of Bancroft. The Tom Theborge Speech and Language Grant went to Hallee F. of Millikan. Receiving the Peggy Stivers Outstanding Senior Grant was Taryn S. of Millikan. Students were nominated by their teacher, principal, counselor or other school staff and selected for showing tremendous improvement and enriching the lives of all they meet.

"Hats Off Awards" are presented to people outside the field of Special Education who provide exemplary support to students with special needs. This year's recipients are Wendy Atwell, drama teacher at Millikan; Beth Cohen, assistant principal at Lakewood; Catherine Hawkins, math teacher at Lindsey; Susana Juarez-Corrales, third grade teacher at Holmes; Jonathan and Jennifer Lawton, owners of the Grocery Outlet stores; Erica Sands, digital arts teacher at Poly; Amy Schwartz, physical education teacher at Millikan; Leonor "Lily" Tejeda, secretary at Cleveland; and Jennifer Waters, dance teacher at Millikan.

### 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

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## In Memoriam

**J.H. Hillard, Jr.**  
Nutrition Services worker, Nutrition Services  
March 15, 2017

**Mary Ann Johnson**  
former teacher  
June 2, 2017