



# school bulletin

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

February 9, 2018

## Dreaming Big Requires a Plan

By Christopher J. Steinhauer  
Superintendent of Schools

Starting this month, we began sharing highlights of our Local Control and Accountability Plan by distributing an electronic publication titled "Academic Excellence" to parents, students, staff and others in our school communities. You will receive a few "sequels" from us in the coming weeks.

The families we serve have big hopes and dreams for their children. We share those hopes and dreams, so we take great care when developing our plans and allocating resources. Our plans are detailed in a 250-page state-required document known as the Local Control and Accountability Plan, or LCAP. Many people aren't inclined to read all that fine print, so we're boiling it down into a series of brief reports.

Included in our reports are some encouraging results of our efforts so far. You'll see that our work is paying off with significant gains in student success. Much credit for that success goes to the diverse group of school and community representatives who spend many hours providing us input as we refine our plans and continue to improve, year after year.

If you missed the first publication, you can still find it at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). In the coming weeks, watch your email and our website for additional highlights of the LCAP.

Thank you to everyone who supports our students and schools. Together, we'll keep dreaming big.



Steinhauer

## 20 Teachers Earn National Certification

Twenty teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District recently earned National Board Certification, the highest professional distinction in teaching.

More than 160 teachers here have earned the honor over the years. The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves submitting portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification is the nation's only advanced teacher certification.

The newest nationally certified teachers are Dori Bradbury-Hicks, Signal Hill; Alicia Castillo, Lafayette; Kelsey Cooper, Whittier;

Whitney Gomes, Jordan; Thuyvi Nguyen, Muir; Heather Peterson, Newcomb; Juliette Prince, CAMS; Julie Santana, Cubberley; Jessica Castaneira, Gant; Yoshiko Okamoto, Hoover; Ruth Mohr-Silofau, Wilson; and Stacy Burgraff, Newcomb.

Teachers who recently earned renewal of the certification are Kari Milton, Bancroft; Dianne Swanson, Los Cerritos; Elizabeth Curtis, Burbank; Stanley Enge, Wilson; Gregory Hodel, Jordan; Diana Spooner, Lincoln; Laura H. Castillo, McBride; and Pamela Penn, Marshall.

Each of the teachers was honored at this week's Board of Education meeting.

## Effort Afoot to Streamline Grade 11 Testing

Proposed state legislation that would allow school districts to administer a nationally recognized test such as the SAT instead of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium test in Grade 11 was introduced in Sacramento last week. The Pathways to College Act (Assembly Bill 1951), is authored by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D - Long Beach).

"As a teacher for more than 20 years and as Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, I know this will reduce testing time and provide teachers and students



O'Donnell

more time to bridge the gap in learning," Assemblymember O'Donnell said at a news conference, where he was joined by Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education President Megan Kerr and Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer.

Students in LBUSD already take the PSAT and SAT during the school day at no cost because LBUSD allocates some of its funds for these purposes. Even so, 11th graders here still must also take the SBAC. The proposed legislation would provide resources for school districts statewide to offer college entrance tests like the SAT or ACT, allowing those exams to substitute for the SBAC.

"By providing local control, AB 1951 allows educators to offer college assessment and career resources, better preparing students for college as early as the 8th grade," Board

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## Mayor's Fund Supports Preschool Program

A trip to the supermarket. A visit to the laundromat. Cooking a favorite recipe at home. All of these are opportunities for parents to teach their children at an early age.

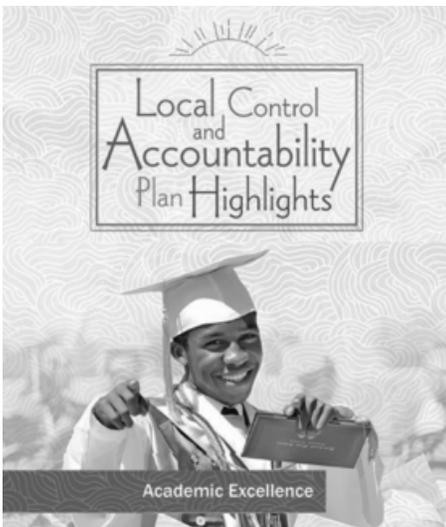
Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia announced the launch of a new online program last week to support such learning.

The ReadyRosie program, accessible by email or text message, helps parents teach their children by incorporating learning activities into everyday home life. The program is available in English and Spanish (with exploration underway into producing content in Khmer) and provides a self-directed method for families to access activities, best practices and other material.

Sponsored by Boeing, the program is the first of its kind in Long Beach and will be launched throughout Long Beach Unified School District preschools, at each City of Long Beach Public Library branch, and with a handful of private preschool providers.

Joining the mayor for the announcement at the Queen Mary were LBUSD Board of Education President Megan Kerr, LBUSD

(Continued on next page)



**ONLINE HELP** – A new program offers home activities for preschool parents.

## Cabrillo Teams With Virtual Reality Group

Cabrillo High School's Reach to the Stars afterschool program – which brings Ivy League grads and industry leaders in science, technology, literature and the arts to students – recently hosted a presentation by the director of the non-profit Discovery Lab Global. The organization recruits high school and college students globally offering them opportunities to work on biomedical, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and space science projects through the use of 3D virtual reality.



**Williams**

"It is amazing what student innovators are working on through 3D virtual reality," said Cabrillo teacher Ethel Laczko, who facilitates the afterschool program.

Providing the presentation was DLG Director Rob Williams, a retired Air Force officer who ran a multi-million-dollar Air Force strategic workforce development program for 10 years as its founding director before retiring to start up DLG. He is a former engineering professor in brain signal processing, a Defense Advance Research Projects Agency program manager in advanced drone technologies, and an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineer of the Year Award recipient.

Williams described projects that have the potential to support start-up concepts to assist the elderly and Alzheimer patients, as well as global science, technology, math and engineering (STEM) outreach, including a "Mission to Mars" virtual reality project conducted by students in Peru. Go to [discoverylabglobal.com](http://discoverylabglobal.com) for more information.

Cabrillo's Reach to the Stars program started in 2012 and encourages students to attend some of the nation's top colleges and universities. Other program activities include workshops on leadership, college entrance exams and interviews.

## Summer Internships

The nonprofit Long Beach Career-Linked Learning's Summer 2018 Internship Program connects Long Beach students to internships at businesses in Long Beach and surrounding areas. The goal of the program is to help people ages 16 to 24 to develop personal and professional skills that contribute to their success in the workforce.

Long Beach CaLL is a partnership among the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach

Internships are work-based learning experiences with direct supervision and evaluation by an adult. Internships deepen the understanding of the environment, expectations and requirements of the workplace. Long Beach CaLL's Summer Internship Program is a minimum of 60 hours, 120 preferred, over a minimum of six weeks between June 18 and August 25.

Applicants must be at least 16 years old by June 15, 2018. The deadline to submit internship request forms is March 31.

More information for employers and students is available at [longbeachcall.org](http://longbeachcall.org).

## Black History Event

Employees at the Long Beach Unified School District's Administration Building will observe Black History Month during an event from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27 in the Community Room.

"Celebrating a History of Excellence in Education" will include guest speakers and entertainers Broderick Rice, Ryan Ballard and Paula Smith. A light, catered lunch will be provided.

### • **Preschool**

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Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, Boeing Global Engagement Manager Vanessa Smith, numerous Long Beach elected officials and other education partners. The event also highlighted the first-year accomplishments of the Mayor's Fund for Education.

"Investing in quality early education is one of the most effective ways to increase high school graduation and college success," Mayor Garcia said.

The nonprofit Mayor's Fund, which works closely with community and education partners to support their programs, secured a one-year, \$70,000 grant from Boeing to help launch the ReadyRosie program.

"It is new partnerships like this one that really get me excited, both as a parent and as a Boeing employee," said Boeing's Vanessa Smith. "Through this program, we are able to provide parents and caregivers easy-to-access tools that harness our little ones' natural curiosity."

During its pilot year, ReadyRosie will be offered to pre-kindergarten students. Discussions are under way to expand the program to grades K-5.

"LBUSD is thankful to have collaborative partners like the Mayor's Fund for Education," LBUSD Board President Kerr said. "Helping all children become kindergarten-ready and supporting family engagement sets students on a trajectory for success and helps our teachers build upon a strong foundation of skills."

Event attendees were treated to a two-week free trial of the ReadyRosie platform, courtesy of ReadyRosie Founder, Emily Roden, so they could see how the program engages children from birth through the early grades.

"We at ReadyRosie are thrilled to bring the program to Long Beach," Roden said. "I'm confident the program will yield great benefits in a city as collaborative as this one."

For more information on ReadyRosie, visit [mayorsfundfored.org/readyrosie](http://mayorsfundfored.org/readyrosie).

#### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## Aviator Inspires Students at Poly

Shaesta Waiz, the youngest woman to fly solo around the world in a single-engine aircraft, shared her inspiring story with Poly High School students in the school auditorium this week. Waiz is the founder of Dreams Soar, Inc., a nonprofit organization devoted to encouraging the next generation to become passionate about aviation and other science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) related careers.



**Waiz**

Waiz was born in a refugee camp. She traveled with her family from Afghanistan to America in 1987 to escape the Soviet-Afghan war. She grew up with her parents and five sisters in Richmond, CA.

"I believed my future consisted of getting married at a young age and starting a big family," she said. "It wasn't until I found aviation that I started thinking about having a career and going to college."

Waiz became the first person in her family to earn bachelor's and master's degrees — both from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She was the first female certified civilian pilot from Afghanistan. Then she flew 25,000 nautical miles across five continents, crossing three oceans and visiting 22 different countries. She completed her worldwide trip last October, reaching more than 3,000 students at 32 outreach events in 14 countries.

Learn more at [dreamssoar.org](http://dreamssoar.org).

### • **Grade 11 Testing**

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President Kerr said. "The Pathways to College Act opens doors for all students to have college and career choices by making college admissions testing more accessible and affordable."

Superintendent Steinhauser worked with O'Donnell on the legislation.

"The SAT is more meaningful and relevant to students and parents because it's the main test affecting college admission nationally," Steinhauser said. "The PSAT and SAT also allow our students to take advantage of free, customized support including online tutorials through Khan Academy."

About a dozen other states have used or plan to use a college entrance exam as an alternative assessment to meet state and federal requirements for grade 11 testing.

If enacted, the California bill would take effect in the 2019-20 school year.

## In Memoriam

**Wanda Hopkins**

former librarian

Dec. 9, 2017

**Barbara Smith**

former intermediate office assistant

Jan. 11, 2018