



May 11, 2018

## Nine Finalists Vie for Employee of the Year

More than 80 nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year Award have been narrowed down to nine 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 25 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill.

The county-fair-themed event includes food, games and prizes.

A total of 87 nominations ultimately resulted in 17 nominees because some employees received multiple nominations.

This year's finalists are Everardo Avila, pest control technician; Joanne Begley, staff secretary at Tucker/Student Health Services; Dawn Couch, office supervisor at Lakewood; Teresa Cullen, office supervisor at Prisk; Emil Espejo, campus security officer at Lakewood; Gloria Gilmore, plant supervisor at Browning; Kathy Shabel, payroll technician; Rhasheda Slayton, plant supervisor at Renaissance; and Melissa

Wolney, behavior intervention specialist at Buffum TLC.

The remainder of this year's nominees are Kurt Atkins, production center supervisor at Nutrition Services; Cheryl Dennison, office supervisor at Cubberley; Claudia Flores, staff secretary at Tucker; Christa Guntner, instructional aide-special at Tincher; Tiffany Lopez Alvarado, instructional aide-special at Buffum TLC; Ana Moya, school support secretary at Buffum TLC; Ivan Salas, instructional aide-special at Hamilton; and Cynthia Williams, instructional aide-special at Tucker ACT.

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.

## Board OKs Raise For CSEA Members

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education approved a contract last week that includes a salary increase for members of the California School Employees Association. CSEA members will receive an ongoing raise of 1 percent, plus a one-time increase of 1 percent.

The board approved the same salary increase last month for Teachers Association of Long Beach members and non-represented employees.

For all qualifying employees, the ongoing 1 percent raise is retroactive to July 1, 2017. The one-time, or "off schedule," payment provides 1 percent of earnings for the entire 2017-18 fiscal year. Employees will see the ongoing 1 percent raise reflected on paychecks no later than June 22, 2018, and retroactive checks no later than June 15, 2018. Then the one-time payment of 1 percent would be issued as soon as September.

For more information on the agreements with TALB and CSEA, go to Employees > Bargaining Updates at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## International Journal Details Literacy Effort

An article co-authored by two local educators in the international Journal of Reading Recovery describes the Long Beach Unified School District's work to broaden the impact of an effective literacy program called Reading Recovery.

The article, "Broadening the Sphere of Influence: Reading Recovery as Part of One District's Comprehensive Intervention Approach," appears in the Spring 2018 edition of the Journal of Reading Recovery and is co-authored by Jill Baker and Kathleen A. Brown. Baker is LBUSD's deputy superintendent of schools. Brown has worked for 33 years as a teacher, literacy specialist and Reading Recovery teacher. She also has served as Reading Recovery teacher leader in the school district for 18 years.

Reading Recovery aims to dramatically reduce the number of first graders who have extreme difficulty learning to read and write, and to reduce the cost of these learners to school systems. The journal is produced by the Reading Recovery Council of North America, a not-for-profit association of professionals, advocates and partners. The council is an advocate for Reading Recovery throughout North America.

Long Beach has integrated Reading Recovery into its "Intensive Intervention Model" with classroom coaching, staff development and coordination among the central office, the school principal, the Reading Recovery teacher leader and K-2 classroom teachers.

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## CAMS Competes in World Robotics Event

Among the more than 15,000 students from around the world who descended upon Houston for the FIRST Championship international robotics competition last month were members of the self-proclaimed Nerd Herd from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science.

"Our season was one of the best yet, with our team ranking second and third at the Las Vegas and Los Angeles regionals respectively, and qualifying for championships," said CAMS student Richenny Bovannak, one of three team captains.

A not-for-profit organization founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) inspires innovation and leadership in young people through engaging, team-based robotics challenges.

The Nerd Herd was knocked out in division semi-finals at Houston, ending their season as third in the Newton Division. Four hundred teams compete at the championship in six divisions, including Newton, all hoping to advance to the highest, or Einstein, division.

"This is the first time our team has made it to playoffs at champs, so we are all very proud of all the hard work and effort that was put in this year to put together a fantastic competitive robot," Bovannak said. "All students and mentors are elated to have had this amazing experience, and hope for more successful seasons to come."

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

**WORLD CLASS** – Students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science Robotics Team excelled at a recent world robotics contest in Houston. The self-proclaimed Nerd Herd made it to the playoff level of championship competition. See the entire team photo at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).



## McBride Wins 2nd in State STEM Contest

The ninth grade Mystic Green Wolves team from McBride High School earned second place statewide in the annual eCYBERMISSION competition sponsored by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program.

The program, administered by the National Science Teachers Association, is a web-based contest for students in grades six to nine. Student teams identify a problem in their community and use scientific practices or engineering design to develop a solution.

The McBride team, consisting of Kayla Maguire, Kayleen Lindberg, Donovan Ballard and Ty Pavlovich, worked together with team advisor John Jacobson to design a machine to

remove trash from the ocean. The teams submitted their Mission Folder project through the eCYBERMISSION website. First place state winning teams received \$1,000 per student in U.S. savings bonds, and second-place teams received \$500 per student.

"The remarkable projects submitted by these students demonstrate their commitment to tackling some of their communities' most daunting challenges. The U.S. Army is truly awed by the thoughtfulness and originality behind the ideas put forth by these students," said Louie R. Lopez, U.S. AEOP cooperative agreement manager.

In the next round of the competition, judges will evaluate the top three scores from each region in each grade level. Sixty regional finalist teams will compete to advance as one of 20 finalists at a national event on June 17 to 22 in Washington, D.C.

The contest is one of several science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives sponsored by U.S. AEOP. Learn more at [ecybermission.com](http://ecybermission.com).

## Jordan Best Buddies Art Sale is May 17

Jordan High School Best Buddies celebrates its fifth anniversary Art Show and Sale at the Museum of Latin American Art from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 17.

Students with developmental disabilities showcase their paintings and craft projects. The students have been mentored by local artist Chatismo and students from Jordan's Excellence through the Arts pathway. This family-friendly event features folklorico dancers, the Jordan Latin American Club dancers, a taco truck and a jewelry sale. Students' original paintings on canvas will be available for a \$25 donation. Proceeds benefit the Jordan Best Buddies Club, which promotes friendship among students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers.

For more information, contact Annee Boyer at 423-1471, ext. 2256, or Stephanie Osborne at 423-1471, ext. 2253.

## Special Olympics, Jordan Join Forces

Jordan High School partnered for the first time with Special Olympics Southern California recently to host the Long Beach Spring School Games at the school.

The event offered sports training and athletic competition for students with intellectual disabilities and other special needs. Students from several local schools participated, while Jordan High students volunteered to support and guide the participants, who received ribbons for taking part.



**GENEROUS DONATION** – Stephen Colbert of "The Late Show" announces a \$29 million donation by tech firm Ripple to support the nation's teachers and classrooms, including dozens in the Long Beach Unified School District.

## DonorsChoose.org Assists 46 Teachers

Forty-six more teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District got their classroom wishes granted as part of a recent \$29 million donation that funded all projects in one fell swoop on the national [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org) crowdsourcing website.

The donation by Ripple, a San Francisco-based cryptocurrency and international payment company, was announced on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on March 27.

Colbert is on the DonorsChoose board. In 2015 he funded all the DonorsChoose requests in his home state of South Carolina, for a total of about \$800,000.

In all, Long Beach's 46 teachers will receive \$46,561 for 51 projects. DonorsChoose also has funded hundreds of other local classroom projects in recent years. The organization, founded by a Bronx public high school teacher in 2000, is a nonprofit charity that connects K-12 classrooms with donors who are eager to provide resources that students need. Funded items include art supplies, sports equipment, musical instruments, lab equipment, educational kits and games, instructional technology, books and more.

More than 11,000 public school districts in the United States have used the website [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org) to receive more than \$600 million in donations toward classroom materials and experiences.

## Open Enrollment

Until May 31, employees can enroll in or make changes to medical, dental, vision and Flexible Spending Account plans for the 2018-19 plan year. The new plan year starts July 1 and ends June 30, 2019.

For employees who do not make changes, current elections will continue for the 2018-19 plan year with the exception of the FSA plans. By IRS rule, current FSA enrollment does not carry over to the next year. Employees on the Blue Shield medical plans who don't make any changes will continue on the equivalent Aetna medical plan.

Enroll online at [www.lbusdbenefits.com](http://www.lbusdbenefits.com), or call 866-844-9744, option 4, Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time.

## • Literacy Effort

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"Based on our experience, we believe that every district committed to changing the dynamic between central office and schools in service to students has the power to do so," the article states. "With a shared vision for student success, central office and school-based roles exist that complement one another and help create a culture of shared accountability and greater opportunity."

Read the full report by finding this article at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## In Memoriam

**Alda Card**  
former teacher  
March 12, 2018

**Jack Hoar**  
former consultant  
April 11, 2018

**Timothy O'Brian**  
former teacher  
April 17, 2018

### 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)

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## Hundreds Gather for Early Childhood Ed

The Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee, which represents 30 organizations serving young children and their families, brought together more than 400 educators and others – including school and city officials – for a recent symposium focused on equity, diversity and inclusion.

The mission of the committee is that all children in Long Beach grow up healthy, safe and educated. The Saturday event at the Long Beach Convention Center included a variety of break-out sessions and speakers, among them Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education President Megan Kerr and Deputy Superintendent of Schools Jill Baker. Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia also spoke.

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