



school bulletin

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

May 17, 2019

The ‘Sweet Spot’ of Coaching Educators

An article co-authored by two local educators in the international Journal of Reading Recovery describes the Long Beach Unified School District’s expanded use of effective coaching techniques to help teachers and administrators continually improve their craft.

The article, “The Sweet Spot of Coaching: Where Teachers and Administrators Find Common Ground While Developing a Comprehensive Literacy System,” appears in the Spring 2019 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 35 years as a teacher, literacy specialist and Reading Recovery teacher leader.

Reading Recovery aims to reduce the number of first graders who have difficulty learning to read and write. The journal is produced by the Reading Recovery Council of North America, a not-for-profit association of professionals, advocates and partners.

The article notes that the effectiveness of coaching on performance is well-documented across industries. In LBUSD, coaching is key to maintaining the school district’s high rate of teacher retention (95 percent) while developing teachers as leaders. Almost all of the school district’s administrators come from within the teacher ranks.

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Sato, Cabrillo Excel At Design Contest

Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science students recently placed second, and Cabrillo High School students placed third at the state finals of the Chevron Design Challenge.

Chevron partners with Project Lead the Way – a leading provider of science, technology, engineering and math curriculum – to offer the contest, which gives students the chance to address a problem related to portable, renewable and affordable energy.

This year’s contest focused on solar energy as well as energy from fusion, or the process of merging the nuclei of two smaller atoms into one larger atom.

The Design Challenge rewards outstanding student projects and highlights the importance of engineering design that solves real-world problems. Students build portfolios and then submit them on an Innovation Portal. A panel of judges reviews the portfolios. The top five teams are invited to virtually present their portfolios to a panel of judges.

Winning teams receive grants for their school, including \$5,000 for first place, \$2,500 for second place, and \$2,000 for third place.

Top L.A. County Schools Include 13 Here

Thirteen schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are among 300 in Los Angeles County that are leading the way toward closing achievement gaps for low-income African American and Latino students, according to a new study, “Top Los Angeles County Public Schools for Underserved Students.”

The schools were recognized this month during a celebratory event at USC. The university’s Rossier School of Education and its Sol Price School of Public Policy partnered with the non-profit Innovate Public Schools on the study, which also was supported by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. Read the report at innovateschools.org.

Local schools earning the honor included Alvarado, Chavez, Holmes, Oropeza, King, Lafayette, Lincoln, McKinley, Muir, Roosevelt,

Signal Hill, Stevenson and Washington. These schools were recognized for the performance of historically underserved African-American and/or Latino students in either English, math or both.

“Some schools are finding ways to help all of their students succeed,” the report states. “We hope educators, civic leaders, parents and students across Los Angeles can get inspired by their example. We believe all schools in Los Angeles County can become Top Public Schools.”

Many of the schools on the list of honorees share certain school-wide practices and beliefs. These “World-Class Schools” are mission-driven, build and develop a great team, offer rigorous academics for all students, cultivate a

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Cabrillo, Port Partnership Nationally Honored

The Washington, D.C.-based University Professional and Continuing Education Association recently awarded its national UPCEA Engagement Award to the partnering organizations of a career-based academy at Cabrillo High School.

The Port of Long Beach Academy of Global Logistics at Cabrillo earned the honor along with Cal State Long Beach’s Center for International Trade and Transportation, and the university’s College of Continuing and Professional Education.

Presented at UPCEA’s annual conference in Seattle, the award recognized “an outstanding mutually-beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources between a UPCEA member institution and one or more external constituents” such as local communities, corporations or government organizations.

This year’s awardees exemplify “innovative and impactful education,” said Mary Angela

Baker, chair of the awards committee.

The logistics academy at Cabrillo High develops business-educated students prepared for the challenges of global logistics, supply chain management and international trade through hands-on experiences and academic learning.

The academy, launched in 2016, introduces high school students to career opportunities in global trade and logistics and shows them how to prepare for those careers through a wide range of training and education programs including certificates, certifications, and degrees offered by Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach.

UPCEA is the leading association for professional, continuing, and online education. Founded in 1915, UPCEA now serves more than 400 institutions, including most of the leading public and private colleges and universities in North America.

THREE-PEAT – For the third year straight, Tincher Preparatory School students won the title at the annual Robo Bowl, where local middle schoolers learn about science, technology engineering and math while putting their robotics knowledge to the test. View story and video at lbschools.net.



• Coaching

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The 10-page piece delves into a modern history of professional development that began here more than two decades ago, describing a collaborative system built on trust and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Coaching, once an isolated activity between two teachers, is now used between fellow teachers, between fellow administrators, and between administrators and teachers.

Collaboration among these personnel includes discussions of school walkthroughs, a process that is detailed in the article.

The school district's model of coaching transcends rank, allowing for everyone to maintain a learner stance. For example, this approach results in an assistant superintendent being able to actively learn from a literacy teacher, and a literacy teacher to actively learn from a peer or administrator.

"Whole-school improvement and the development of comprehensive literacy systems must involve teachers, school administrators and central office leaders – all of whom collaborate, communicate and contribute to the sweet spot that reveals itself from working together," the article states.

Read the full report by finding this article at lbschools.net.

Five Finalists Vie for Employee of the Year

Nearly 30 nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year Award have been narrowed down to five 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 24 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill.

The event includes food, games and prizes.

A total of 28 nominations ultimately resulted in 16 nominees because some employees received multiple nominations.

This year's finalists are Pamela Auman, speech-language pathology assistant at Buffum TLC; Elsa Baul, accountant at Accounting; Brenda Cassman, intermediate office assistant at Millikan; Mary Ann Lazatin, office supervisor at Hamilton; and Albert Marquez, plant supervisor at Gant.

The remainder of this year's nominees are Valerie Briggs, instructional aide special at Wilson; Cheryl Dennison, office supervisor at Cubberley; Kris Donald, intermediate office assistant at Nutrition Services; Ana Garcia, nutrition services worker at Hamilton; Yurietta Luviano, textbook/library services supervisor at Textbook Services; Ana Munoz-Aguirre, nutrition services supervisor at Robinson; Susan Pavlovsky, instructional aide – deaf/hard of hearing at Lakewood; Edwin Rivera Martinez, nutrition services worker at Lafayette; Tanya Robertson, school support secretary at EPHS; Maria Rodriguez Muro, custodian at Lafayette; Tamara Wilhite, instructional aide special at Cubberley.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Cheryl Dennison	June 9	Brenda Camrin Bcamrin @lbschools.net

Washington Opens New Fitness Center

Washington Middle School recently dedicated a new fitness center, complete with state-of-the-art equipment funded by a \$40,000 UCLA Sound Body Sound Mind grant.

For more than a decade, UCLA Health has provided modern fitness centers, fitness education curricula and educator training to schools across the country.

The grand opening of the Washington fitness center included a ribbon cutting, and students showed how to use the new equipment.

UCLA Health partnered with the Long Beach Unified School District's Marshall Middle School to open a similar fitness center at the school last year and will help to dedicate yet another center at LBUSD's Franklin Middle School later this month.

Schools implementing the program have seen significant gains in the number of students passing state physical fitness exams.

View video of the recent Washington dedication event at lbschools.net.

Art Contest Winners

Local high school students have participated in two recent art contests, and some of their award-winning artwork will remain on display to the public.

The Long Beach Museum of Art is currently exhibiting, "Food for Thought," featuring works from 80 high schoolers. The exhibit continues until May 26 in the Museum's Toyota Children's Gallery. Participating schools are Jordan, Lakewood, McBride, Millikan, Poly, Reid, Renaissance and Wilson. Renaissance senior Marisol Cruz's painting, "My Veins Are Not Made from Grape Vines," won first place in this show.

Cruz's artwork also was entered in the annual U.S. Congressional Art Contest for the 47th District, where she won second place. Her artwork will hang for the upcoming year in Congressman Alan Lowenthal's Washington, D.C. office. First place in this contest went to Millikan 12th grader Jhaila Thomas. Her winning piece, a mosaic portrait of Frida Kahlo, also will hang in the U.S. Capitol along with the winning works of art from all of the U.S. congressional districts. Thomas also won a trip to D.C. this summer, when she and her family will tour the exhibit. The third place winner is Millikan senior Hannah Rodrigues. Her artwork will hang in Congressman Lowenthal's Long Beach office.

View artwork at lbschools.net.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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• Top Schools

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culture of joyful learning, are data-driven and engage parents as co-educators and leaders.

The report includes an in-depth "data story" featuring LBUSD's Signal Hill Elementary School, which closed achievement gaps for African American and Latino students in both English and Math.

LBUSD educators also presented information on local schools during breakout sessions at USC's recent celebration event. Among the presenters were Jill Baker, deputy superintendent of schools; Brian Moskovitz, assistant superintendent of elementary schools; Sophia Griffieth, principal at Muir Academy; Ann Erksine, technology teacher on special assignment at Signal Hill Elementary; Tammy Lavelle, former principal at Signal Hill and current principal at Roosevelt Elementary; and Scott Tardibuono, principal at Signal Hill.

Schools Recognized For Reducing Waste

Several local schools earned recognition and praise from the nonprofit Grades of Green and its recent waste reduction campaign.

California Academy of Mathematics and Science student Nicole Catangay earned the Waste Campaign Best Student Leadership Award, mobilizing a campaign team to create change. The Hughes Middle School Green Team was one of the 13 finalists out of 80 student teams from 77 cities and 13 countries.

Collectively these student teams reduced more than 114 tons of waste and presented their solutions to thousands of community members to inspire waste reduction action. Students learned to pack trash-free lunches, they sorted materials for recycling and advocated for environmentally friendly practices.

Other participating schools here included Whittier, Keller, Rogers, Stephens and Washington.

Poly Mathematicians Compete Nationally

Poly High School has some of the best math students in the country, as demonstrated by their 18th-place finish in the 2018 Ciphering Time Trials, a mathematics contest administered by National Assessment and Testing (natassessment.com).

Coach Pam Amici prepared students for this contest, which features ten three-minute rounds in which individuals attempt to quickly answer three problems. Student William Terlinden had the highest score at Poly.

National Assessment and Testing administers mathematics competitions that schools can participate in via email.

Open Enrollment

Remember that open enrollment in medical, dental, vision and Flexible Spending Account plans continues through May 31.

Enroll online at www.lbusdbenefits.com, or call 866-844-9744, option 4, Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.