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 experience in use of effective coaching techniques to help teachers and administrators continually improve their craft.


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 effectiveness. LBUSD is developing teachers as leaders. Almost all of the school district’s administrators come from within the teacher ranks.

(Continued on next page)

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.

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.

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 constituencies” 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.

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 innovatepublicschools.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 show 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 (Continued on next page)

Cabrillo, Port Partnership Nationally Honored

The Port Partnership Nationally Honored: Cabrillo High School – long beach unified school district
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 and Assembly Member Derek Almond 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 also used the program the Washington Wood Center included a ribbon cutting, and students passed state physical fitness exams.

View video of the recent Washington dedication event 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, 129 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill.

The event includes food, games, and prizes. A total of 28 nominations ultimately resulted in 16 nominees, receiving a range of nominations of excellence because some employees received multiple nominations.

This year’s finalists are Pamela Aum, speech-language pathology assistant at Buuffum 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 Dennis, office supervisor at Cumberley; Kris Donald, intermediate office assistant at Nutrition Services; Ana Garcia, nutrition services worker at Hamilton; Yujieta Luviano, textbook/library services supervisor at Textbook Services; Ana Munoz-Aguirre, nutrition services supervisor at Robinson; Susan Pavlovsky, instructional aide at Hefford; and Tanya Robertson, school support secretary at EPHS; Maria Rodriguez Muro, custodian at Lafayette; Tamara Wilhite, instructional aide special at Cumberley.

Retirement Event

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<td>Brenda Camrin Bcamrin @lbschools.net</td>
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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, sort 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 (natassess.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.lbschoolbenefits.com, or call 866-844-9744, option 4, Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 90802.

(562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUER
Superintendent of Schools

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Stop from the post office.

• Coaching

(Continued from first page)

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.

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