Dedicated Teachers Devoted 200 Decades

A total of 76 teachers and certificated employees are wrapping up their careers this year. Together they have amassed 2,043 years of service to the students of the Long Beach Unified School District:

- 42 years—Bonnie Elsten, Muir;
- 40 years—David Bead, Wilson;
- 38 years—Susan Buckley, The Willows;
- 37 years—Barbara Furusawa, Burcham;
- 36 years—Louis Trumbo, Stevenson;
- 34 years—Catherine Mikolajczak, Los Cerritos; Lynn Boren, Mann;
- 33 years—Susan Klotz, Burnett; Sylvia Davis, Lakewood; Herman Clayborn Jr., Hamilton; Diane Spurlin, Addams; Teresita O’Bannon, Cabrillo;
- 31 years—Ken Mendonca, Hi Hill; Terry Behrens, Muir;
- 30 years—Carla Watson, Stephens;
- 28 years—Marion Williams, Wilson; Nancy Ross, Fremont;
- 27 years—Linda Midgett, Wilson; Thomas Rasmussen, Holmes; Pearlie Bailey-Nelson, Cibburn, Gant;
- 23 years—Diana Chase, Lakewood; Mary Robey, Poly; Catherine Furman, Prisk;

Employees Involved In Strategic Planning

The Long Beach Unified School District has embarked upon strategic planning that will solicit major employee input. It will continue through next spring. Already, a committee of certificated and classified employees, union representatives, district leaders, parents, students and community members has begun meeting to develop the districtwide plan.

They will take a fresh look at the district’s mission statement, values and vision. The finished product will be a brief, jargon-free document that spells out clear goals, strategies and measures.

"All great organizations should re-examine these important questions from time to time," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of schools. "This is a chance for all of us to shape our school district’s future and build on our tradition of excellence.

Strategic planning will include as many employees as possible. Employee, student and parent survey data will be used, and employees will receive updates as the plan is developed.

Retiring Classified
Served 1,400 Years

Retiring this year from schools, offices and key support services are 72 Long Beach Unified School District classified employees with a combined total of 1,408 years of service:

- 34 years—Tyler Smith, Facilities;
- 30 years—Noemi Alarcon, Franklin;
- 28 years—Dorothy Johnston, Franklin; Jacquelyn Hightower, Transportation; Judith Belanger, Gompers;
- 26 years—Barbara Chostner, Millikan;
- 25 years—Robert Hambrick, Maintenance; Donna Moyer, Hill; Pamela Mitchell, Riley;
- 23 years—Diana Bracco, Operations; Sharon Ayala, MacArthur; Mary Hatch, Buffum;
- 22 years—Claudia Gomez, Wilson; Linda Diffs, HRS;
- 21 years—Joann Slosar, Mann; Jeanne Ross, Middle/K-8 Schools;
- 19 years—Patricia Martoni, Accounting; Dorothy Pugh, Muir;
- 18 years—Mary Ann Mendoza, Millikan; Rachel McCauley, Holmes; Connie Hendrixson, Accounting; Michael Yocam, Hudson; Yolanda Benavidez, Career Education; Belinda Burton, Employee Relations; Rose Miller, Twain;
- 16 years—Lindy Maury, MacArthur;
- 15 years—Terry Lee Petersen, Muir; Doreen Putnam, Nutrition Services; Janet Smith, Bartney; Gilberto Saldivar, Maintenance; Linda Allen, Keller; Ronald Yin, ISR;
- 14 years—Mary Perez, Gompers.

A total of 39 others with a combined 725 years of service requested that their names not be printed.

Scholars Win More, Exceed $20.7 Million

Academic scholarships worth more than $20 million have been won by graduating seniors in the Long Beach Unified School District this spring.

The Class of 2005 so far has amassed $20,701,956 in scholarships and monetary awards to reduce their college costs this fall. This new scholarship total exceeds last year’s $20,310,202, which included a half million dollars in one-time Bread Prize scholarships.

Among the big-ticket scholars were two CAMS students admitted to Olin College of Engineering, each receiving a full scholarship of $132,000. CAMS also has three graduates who will be attending Caltech.

Jordan scholars include winners of the Bill and Melinda Gates Scholarship, UC Berkeley and UCI Chancellor’s Scholarships.

Lakewood’s valedictorian received a President’s Scholarship to CSULB, and several students earned full scholarships to USC, Arizona State, Utah State and Pepperdine.

Milikan students won full rides to Loyola, UCSC, UC/CR and University of Tennessee.

Five Poly graduates received Julie Inman Courage Awards for overcoming obstacles. Others won major scholarships to the U.S. Naval Academy, Stanford, Cal Tech, MIT, Tulane, USC, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Dartmouth and Swarthmore.

Twenty Renaissance graduates this fall will be attending six UC campuses, several CSU campuses and Marymount College.

Wilson scholars earned Governor’s Scholarships, 232 admissions to UC and 372 to CSU campuses. They will be attending all nine UC campuses, 22 CSU campuses and 91 private colleges and universities.

Students from all high schools also received Service Above Self awards from Long Beach Rotary and many other non-monetary awards.

A Successful Year

Thanks to you our students have enjoyed a very successful school year. As a result of your heroic efforts, we have not let them down.

Their scholarships and awards attest to their efforts and the quality of K-12 instruction and support services they have received from you.

Despite serious state problems that have impacted California school districts, you have persevered, and our students have excelled.

Please take a little time to savor all that you have accomplished this year. Best wishes for a wonderful summer and continued success.
Moms Wild About Summer Recreation

Harried moms whose kids start climbing the walls a few days after school's out this summer should be "Wild About Nature." That's the theme of the new 2005 summer recreation program open to all students from first grade through high school. It will be offered at 19 local school playgrounds June 22 through July 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Besides popular sporting events, field trips, games, activities and craft making, students will enjoy barbecues, talent shows, reading books and learning cheerleading techniques. But the best may be collecting bugs and other hands-on activities at the El Dorado Nature Center. Nature walks will be held at local parks, along with a Fishing Derby at El Dorado Park, a track meet at Millikan High School and a talent show at the band shell in Recreation Park.

"We have something for everyone that will be educational and enjoyable," said Jodi Metz, school recreation supervisor. She stressed that the supervised activities are free, and selected locations will offer free lunch. But it should not be considered as custodial care.

"It is a drop-in program. Our doors close at 4 p.m. and parents should have a back up if their child needs a ride home. "Donations of craft supplies, games, books and food for the fun summer barbecues are all gratefully accepted," Metz said. "Each school's recreation leader will be sending home a wish list to help make this year's summer recreation the best ever."

Participating locations include Barton, Birney, Bixby, Buffum, Fremont, Gant, Garfield, International, Longfellow, MacArthur, Madison, McKinley, Muir, Newcomb, Prisk, Riley, Sutter, Tincher and Webster schools.

A student does not have to be enrolled at one of these schools to enjoy these summer activities.

Names in the News

Winners of the Rotary Club of Long Beach Service Above Self Awards are Mary Ann Chua, Andrew Lane and Kim Jeremia, Cabrillo; Mayra Torres, EPHS; Shelly Fernandez, Carole Fernandez and Elizabeth Gutierrez, Jordan; Jonathan Stenstrom, My Vu and Kianaundra Jackson, Lakewood; Barbara Brown, Millikan; Diana Navas, Behai Ta and Alex Montes, Poly; Tiffany Boyd, Jasmine Peterson and Perla Zaragoza, Renaissance; Vicente Rodriguez, Natalie Rothell and Michelle Caswell, Wilson.

A+ for Energy Grants

Five Long Beach Unified School District teachers were recently awarded A+ for Energy grants for their energy education projects.

Winners of $10,000 grants are Charles Johnson, Millikan; James Wilkie, Hill; Robert Rockwell, Avalon; and Candace Jennings, Prisk. Amanda Valinsky-Fillipow, who received a $10,000 grant last year, earned a $5,000 grant for continuing energy education activities.

Valinsky-Fillipow was also featured recently in a Public Service Announcement that ran on KABC-TV highlighting the A+ for Energy program.

The Job Board

- Barton Elementary School is seeking an intervention specialist teacher to oversee a behavior intervention program and provide support and professional development to teachers. For information, contact Luana Wesley, principal, at ext. 2605.
- Bancroft Middle School has openings in its GATE/EXCEL program for a sixth grade science teacher and a seventh grade history teacher. In-depth knowledge of content standards and effective teaching skills and an understanding of how to differentiate instruction for high achievers are desirable. For information, contact Debbie Stark, principal at ext. 3500 or dstark@lbusd.k12.ca.us.
- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for grounds supervisor-high school, Head Start nutrition manager and mail delivery driver.

Promising Practice

Long Beach School for Adults is the winner of a 2005 Promising Practices Award for its Web-Enhanced Language Skills project. The project helps adult students improve their English language skills while at the same time gaining valuable technology skills.

The award is being presented this week at the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) Summer Institute.

Dr. Santos-Camerino

Cecilia Santos-Camerino, principal at Henry, recently earned her Ed.D. from the University of Southern California. The title of her dissertation is “Teacher Evaluation and Its Impact on Teacher Practice.”

Commission’s Award

The Personnel Commission recently received the Prospector Award from the California Council for Performance Excellence program of the California Council for Excellence. The award was based on an evaluation of criteria used to judge organizations seeking a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

The award is being presented this week at the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) Summer Institute.

Eighth Graders Win College Scholarships

Five eighth graders each earned $500 college scholarships recently, courtesy of the Lyman W. and Nancy E. Lough Eighth Grade Scholarship Fund.

The awards go to students with average grades (2.0 to 2.9 GPA), good citizenship and a potential for future success. The winners traditionally are students who are beating the odds and continuing to learn despite tough circumstances, such as a disability, a difficult home life or other challenges. The winners and their schools are: Olivia Leader, Bancroft; Gabriel Gomez, Hughes, Candice Clark, Newcomb, Christopher Strailer, Rogers; and Candice Menefee, Stephens. Each winner receives a plaque. Their scholarship checks are presented upon enrollment in trade school or college.

The unique scholarships in escrow started after the Loughs provided funds 13 years ago. Any Long Beach Unified school with eighth graders can nominate one student to become a finalist. Each year, the five scholarship winners are selected from a group of 20 finalists, each of whom receives an engraved plaque.

Individuals and corporations who would like to sponsor a scholarship in escrow may do so for only $100 per year. The money is earmarked for a deserving student in eighth grade, with $100 per year added during each year in high school for a total of $500 by the time the student enters college. Students who know that someone believes in them have a powerful incentive to stay in school and to prepare for college or career training beyond high school.

As part of the Lough Awards an additional $180-per-year scholarship from the Frangesch Memorial Fund went to student Adrian Cox of Hoover. The fund was established in 1998 in memory of John Frangesch, a popular LBUSD elementary school principal who died shortly after his retirement. The Frangesch award selection criteria are the same as those used for the Lough Awards. It contributes to either fund, contact the Long Beach Education Foundation at 997-8054.

Retirement Events

Honorone Date Contact
Barbara Kimber June 23 Denita Denhart ext. 2615
Winona Scott June 30 Elizabeth Anklam ext. 5635

In Memoriam

Frances Price former teacher
March 25, 2005
Mary Tscherny former reading specialist
May 18, 2005