Hughes Counselors Rank Among Best in U.S.

Counselors at Hughes Middle School rank among the best in the nation, according to the American School Counselors Association, which has named the school as a Recognized ASCA Model Program.

Hughes is one of 60 schools from 14 states that will be recognized June 30 at the association’s national conference in Atlanta.

Last month, Hughes won the Best in the West Award from the California Counselor Leadership Network. This state honor recognizes schools that best implement California’s counseling curriculum.

The latest national honor, awarded to schools that meet the criteria in the ASCA National Model, recognizes schools that deliver comprehensive, data-driven school counseling and an exemplary educational environment.

Counseling practices at Hughes were reviewed by a panel of school counseling professionals before the announcement of the award. The national designation for Hughes is valid for three years.

The Hughes counseling team consists of Bobbi Clarke, Michelle Koga and Vera Pim.

The American School Counselor Association is a worldwide nonprofit organization based in Alexandria, Va. Founded in 1952, the association supports school counselors’ efforts to help students focus on academic, personal, social and career development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

The association provides professional development, publications and other resources, research and advocacy to 24,000 school counselors around the world.

Visit www.schoolcounselor.org to learn more.

FAMILY FITNESS – Hula hooping second grader Angela Gonzalez was one of hundreds of students and parents who participated in Holmes Elementary School’s recent Family Fitness Fair. The event included a series of physical fitness and nutrition stations provided by teachers and community partners.

Wilson High’s Kerns Wins National Honor

Wilson Classical High School Principal Lew Kerns was one of 25 educators nationwide honored as a role model this week by the National Civic League.

The league gave Kerns the 2008 MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education Award, which recognizes America’s 25 most collaborative school principals for making an impact beyond their schools for the betterment of the entire community.

The award comes with a $5,000 grant, which Wilson will use to establish a scholarship fund for students whose volunteerism creates bridges between the school and the community.

Community members and several of Kerns’ colleagues nominated him for the award.

“It’s an honor when your colleagues recognize your work,” Kerns said. “I’ve always believed that the school and the community are

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Academic Initiative Goals OK’d by Board

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has approved student achievement goals for English, math, graduation rates and performance on the California High School Exit Exam. The goals will help schools implement the Academic and Career Success For All Initiative approved by the board earlier this school year.

The initiative’s success will be measured by fifth and eighth grade English and math proficiency, eighth grade Algebra I enrollment and proficiency, High School Exit Exam pass rates, high school graduation rates, A-G college entrance requirement completion rates, college entrance exam performance, AVID college prep participation, Advanced Placement course enrollment and passage, College Early Assessment Program performance, and college admissions.

Targets for 2013 were established for most measurements, while others will be established soon. Progress will be reported annually.

For more details on the goals, go to www.lbschools.net and find Academic and Career Success Initiative in the alphabetical index, then click on Initiative Target Goals.

Librarians Meet With California Legislators

Nine teacher librarians from the Long Beach Unified School District met recently with legislators in Sacramento as part of California Library Legislation Day. Sponsored by the California School Library Association and the California Library Association, the day-long event was created to raise awareness of the importance of libraries in a democratic society.

The Long Beach contingent met with 18 legislators and discussed, among other things, the potential negative consequences of proposed state budget cuts to education.

Members of the Long Beach contingent, and their schools, were Jane Brooks, Cabrillo; Barbara Duffy, Jordan; Jack Hobusch, Jefferson; Melody Hubbard, Webster; Nina Jackson, Franklin; Crystal Miranda, information literacy coordinator; Ryan Koehler, Addams; Pamela Oehlman, Robinson; and Sandra Paton, Lakewood.

• Wilson Principal

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one and the same. The community needs us, and we need them. It’s all about working together for the kids.”

One of Kerns’ major nominators said the principal operates as a conduit between Wilson and the local community.

Recently, Kerns worked with the City of Long Beach Water Department to develop an Earth Day event for citizens of Long Beach. Wilson students volunteered at the event.

“He’s helping our school integrate service learning into the curriculum of several courses,” said Marty Axelson, service learning coordinator at Wilson.

The award recognizes principals who build partnerships with community organizations and parents; resolve conflicts and promote safety in the school and the community; and promote civic engagement and community service.

Each year, Ambassadors In Education alternates recognition between teachers and principals. Previous award winners in Long Beach include teacher Fay Tracy of Newcomb K-8 Academy and teacher Devon Day of Wilson.

Kerns will be presented with his award this month during a ceremony at Wilson. He will receive a crystal apple, and his community involvement practices will be profiled as a resource for other schools and communities across the nation.

Visit www.acl.org/metlife/index.html for more information.

The Job Board

• Bixby Elementary School has an opening for a K-1 autism position. If interested, contact Juan Gutierrez, principal, at ext. 6600.

• Dooley Global Studies Magnet School has an opening for a primary SED teacher for fall 2008. To interview, contact Julie Nyssen at ext. 2655.

• Community Day School grades 7-12 has an ED opening for an experienced certified special education teacher. An M/M or M/S credential also allows for teaching ED. Contact Phyllis Artus at the GOC Office, 422-0357. Express interest by May 19.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for child nutrition specialist, elementary school office supervisor, middle school office supervisor, Nutrition Services supervisor I, Nutrition Services supervisor II, Nutrition Services supervisor III and payroll manager.

Top Author Promotes Jordan’s Job Training

Bestselling author and lecturer Stedman Graham introduced a rigorous new Pathways to Pharmacy career program to students during a recent talk at Jordan High School.

Graham’s visit was part of an effort by CVS Caremark and other partners to make pharmacy jobs more accessible to youth. Graham introduced the program to about 1,000 ninth and tenth graders during an assembly at Jordan.

The high school was selected for the nationwide Pathways summer internship program, which provides students with work-based experience, research and math and science activities. Students tour the CVS distribution center and visit USC’s School of Pharmacy.

“This isn’t just a summer job to make some extra money,” said Stephen Wing, CVS Caremark’s director of workforce initiatives. “It’s a rigorous project.”

Graham’s speech was part of his second "Make It Happen! Stay In School!” lecture series. The author has written such works as "Teens Can Make It Happen: Nine Steps To Success,” which offers advice about creating a vision for life.

CVS launched Pathways in Long Beach last year, with 15 local students completing the project. Students eligible for the internship include youth from small learning communities – high school groups with a focus on particular themes or career fields. Those smaller learning communities include Jordan’s Aspirations In Medical Services (AIMS) Academy.

Leaving the District?

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2008-09 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator as soon as possible.

Resignations and requests for full year leaves of absence received after June 30 will not be approved unless the school district is able to hire a suitable replacement.

For information, contact Bobbie Montes, Program Administrator, at ext. 8108 or bmontes@lbschools.net.

Names in the News

Former principal Beth Ash was recently presented with the Palm Desert Senior Inspiration Award. The award recognizes inspiring, productive and active senior citizens for their contributions to the community.

Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) for May are Jeniece Coles, Cubberley; Martha Herrera, Hamilton; Cathy Martinez, Burnett; Dolores Sanchez, Dooley; Caran Siegfried, Bixby; and Jean Wiblemo, Hoover.

Drumline Doubletime

The Jordan High School Drumline divided forces last Saturday and doubled its success.

While one half of the drumline took first place honors at the Burbank Parade, the other half generated $1,000 in contributions at the Autism Speaks Foundation’s benefit at the Rose Bowl, part of a $1 million fundraising effort.