



school bulletin

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

December 18, 2020

Wilson Psychologist Earns State Honor

Donna Kikuchi has earned the Outstanding School Psychologist Award from the California Association of School Psychologists. The award recognizes the contributions school psychologists have made to schools, students and the profession.

This year, only two California school psychologists were recognized. Kikuchi was awarded as the representative for Region II, which encompasses much of Los Angeles County with the Los Angeles Unified School District boundary as the only exception.

A school psychologist since 1988, Kikuchi has been with LBUSD for 29 years. Throughout her career, she has worked at the preschool, elementary, middle and high school levels. Currently, she works at Wilson High School, where she has been



Kikuchi

for 14 years.

"I am so honored and humbled to receive this award. So much of my job satisfaction comes from working with all the wonderful educators at Long Beach Unified, especially those at Wilson and all my school psychologist colleagues," Kikuchi said. "We work together in a collaborative spirit that allows us to advocate for and support our students and their families."

Kikuchi is known for her exemplary engagement with students, with past and current students referring their friends to her psychology office. Over her career, she has modeled professional growth and adaptability, advancing her skills as the field evolved.

CASP, with more than 1,800 members, is the largest state school psychologists' association in the nation. The group provides continuing education, advocacy and other support to school psychologists throughout the state.

CSU Launches Opportunity Gap Center

The California State University Center to Close the Opportunity Gap opened last month at Cal State Long Beach. Officials unveiled the center during a virtual event celebrating the grand opening.

The center is a system-wide effort to study and eliminate opportunity gaps at all levels of education. The event featured remarks from state Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, who authored a bill to establish the center. Also speaking were Joe Johnson, executive director of the National Center for

Urban School Transformation at San Diego State University, and Loren J. Blanchard, CSU executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

"This center will work to address and close equity gaps for our students from their very first school years," Blanchard said. "In collaboration with our K-12 partners, the CCOG will accomplish three things. One, strengthen professional preparation of educators, specialists and administrators.

(Continued on next page)

HIGHLY RATED –

Lakewood High School NJROTC cadets and inspecting officers gathered in March just prior to the suspension of in-person learning in local schools due to the ongoing pandemic. The program recently received a glowing inspection report. **Story on next page.**



New Members Join Board of Education

The Long Beach Unified School District welcomes two new Board of Education members who were sworn into office during this week's regular meeting.

Erik Miller takes the District 2 seat that he won during the November general election. He replaces Felton Williams, who retired after 16 years on the board.

Doug Otto takes the District 4 seat that he won during the earlier primary election in March. He replaces Jon Meyer, who retired after 17 years on the board.

The school board's five districts are divided by geographic area. Districts 1, 3 and 5 were not up for election this year.



Miller



Otto

Poly is America's Top 'Pro Athlete Factory'

As reported by the562.org, Poly High School recently was named America's top producer of professional athletes by a wide margin.

The national high school sports website MaxPreps.com ranked Poly No. 1 with at least 86 NFL, MLB and NBA athletes, including 58 pro football players, 20 major leaguers and eight NBA players.

"Perhaps just as impressive as the inner-city public powerhouse's spot at the top of the list is looking at who's just below them," the562.org's Mike Guardabascio wrote. "The other schools in the top five are all private schools, and none of them are close."

"We appreciate the recognition. It's a testament to the legacy and tradition at Long Beach Poly," boys' athletic director Rob Shock told the562.org.

Poly also was named the top sports program in the nation by ESPN in 2011.

Back then, ESPN observed, "Yes, it has been more than 100 years in which high school athletic teams from the fabled buildings along Atlantic Avenue have been winning championships. And while just about every other school of that age in urban environments around the nation has drastically declined in athletic excellence, nothing has changed at Long Beach Poly."

Learn more at the562.org (search for Top Pro Athlete Factory).

• CSU Center

(Continued from first page)

Two, conduct original research. And three, disseminate tools and resources.”

In partnership with San Diego State University, Cal State Fullerton and San Jose State University, the center at CSULB will focus on identifying and refining proven strategies to eliminate equity gaps at all levels of education and will share resources, tools and evidence-based best practices with colleges of education across the CSU and with education partners across California.

The Long Beach Unified School District and CSULB have partnered for many years on preparing educators to meet the demands of urban classrooms. The new center will serve as a key resource for aspiring and practicing educators in Long Beach and beyond. CSU's teacher preparation program is the largest in the state and among the largest in the nation.

The center's goals further include:

- Providing resources and assistance to local educational agencies to eliminate gaps in academic achievement among subgroups of K-12 students as identified on the state Department of Education's California School Dashboard, including gaps by race, ethnicity, income, English learner and disability status;

- Providing professional educator preparation throughout the CSU and serving as a resource for local educational agencies to close achievement gaps;

- Creating a statewide network by inviting additional CSU campuses and their education partners to establish regional networks to incorporate and disseminate best practices.

CSULB was chosen through a highly competitive request for proposals and committee review process. Funding comes from a one-time state allocation of \$3 million.

Lakewood NJROTC Earns Highest Rating

Lakewood High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps received the highest possible "outstanding" rating in all categories, according to a recently received inspection report from a U.S. Navy captain.

The inspection occurred on March 12, just one day before schools in the Long Beach Unified School District closed for in-person instruction due to the ongoing global COVID pandemic.

Evaluated categories included school system program support, administration of program, academic program, reports and records, cadet performance and student mentoring.

"NJROTC was clearly well-prepared and motivated. The pride and sense of service gave me faith in the next generation," one inspector wrote. "These are dedicated cadets."

Lakewood High's Capt. Don McMackin, U.S. Navy (Retired), is the senior Naval Science teacher at the school.

SDSU Partnership Offers Doctorate

The Long Beach Unified School District's Equity Leadership and Talent Development department has partnered with San Diego State University to offer a new doctoral program in Educational Leadership with a pre-K-12 specialization.

The program will provide leaders who are committed to educational justice with the skills, knowledge and attitudes essential to transforming educational systems so that all students are learning at high levels. It will develop reflective leaders who are capable of responding to their area's demographic shifts, as well as the increasingly complex needs of educational organizations within diverse multicultural regions.

The course of study requires 60 units over two calendar years, including summer terms. All classes are conveniently offered off-campus and with the option of evening or weekend class meetings blended with online learning components. A bachelor's degree and a master's degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above are required.

The deadline to apply is Monday, March 1, 2021. Learn more by finding this article at lbschools.net. The Equity Leadership & Talent Development office can be found in the A-Z index at lbschools.net, or call (562) 997-8328.

Dates to Remember

January

1	New Year's Day – Holiday
1	Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary
1-3	Japanese New Year Festivities
18	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday – Holiday
24-30	National School Choice Week
28	Fall Semester Ends
29	Spring Semester Begins

In Memoriam

Connie West
former school secretary
November 11, 2020

Erlinda Cruz
Nutrition Services worker
November 27, 2020

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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HOLIDAY GROCERIES – Children and families received free groceries just before Thanksgiving at the Grant Child Development Center, thanks to a partnership with the nonprofit Seeds of Morning Glory, Inc. The CDCs have partnered with community organizations to provide families thousands of bags of food, diapers, personal hygiene supplies and more.

Rotary Offers \$10K In Literacy Grants

Long Beach Rotary and its charitable foundation are offering up to \$10,000 for creative, teacher-driven literacy projects (virtual or in-person). Teachers in preschool through third grade, including Special Education, may apply for grants from \$500 to \$2,500. The application deadline is Jan. 15. Grants may be used to purchase books, e-books, teaching aides, training programs or other educational materials during the current school year or in the 2021-22 school year.

Find the grant application under Rotary Literacy Grants in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

The Paul Kennard Teacher Literacy Grants this year honor Mr. Kennard, who envisioned and oversaw the Rotary Reads program in the Long Beach Unified School District for many years.

Since 1999, the Rotary Club of Long Beach has held an annual Reading by 9 Fundraiser where its members and others donate to the Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation to support early education and literacy and the goal of promoting grade level reading by age 9.

Recently, the Rotarians raised \$52,000 to support the Long Beach Reading by 9 effort. Since the inception of the program, nearly \$800,000 has been raised and almost 300,000 books and e-books have been donated. This program provides funding and children's books to Long Beach area schools, libraries, childcare centers, nonprofits and other organizations that promote reading and literacy.