

## A LONG BEACH GUARANTEE



Diandra Jay/Staff Photographer

Webster Elementary School fifth-graders Onolina Faumuina and Daniela Emery, from right, join classmates and college students from Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach in celebrating the Long Beach College Promise. Educators said the pledge was made to elementary school students because getting on the road to higher education has to start as early as possible.

## Path to college mapped

**PROMISE:** LBUSD students who do their best are assured place in higher education.

By Kevin Butler  
Staff Writer

LONG BEACH — Leaders of the city's community college, school district and university on Thursday jointly pledged to make higher education an attainable goal for all students, including offering incoming pupils at Long Beach City College a tuition-free first semester by 2011.

The "Long Beach College Promise" is a joint effort by LBCC, the Long Beach Unified School District and Cal State Long Beach to begin conducting outreach to parents and students concerning higher education opportunities beginning in the sixth grade.

"From beginning to end, we will be there for you," LBCC Superintendent-President Eloy Oakley told a group of Webster Elementary students at the ceremony at the Walter Pyramid on the CSULB campus.

Part of the plan calls for offering a tuition-free first semester for LBUSD students entering LBCC.

The community college plans on raising about \$6 million to \$7 million to create an endowment to cover tuition for those students who don't qualify for sufficient financial aid, Oakley said.

Cal State Long Beach President F. King Alexander pledged to admit all LBUSD students who meet the mini-



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Christopher Steinhauser, superintendent of the Long Beach Unified School District, tells fifth-graders from Webster Elementary School and students from City College and Cal State Long Beach that because of the importance of education, the district is joining with university President F. King Alexander, behind him, and Long Beach City College President Eloy Oakley, right, in an educational partnership.

mum college preparatory or community-college transfer requirements.

The parties pledged to discuss with students and families, beginning in the sixth-grade, college applications, financial aid and course requirements.

For too long, higher education institutions have focused outreach efforts on high schools while overlooking the important role that middle schools play, Alexander said.

"Middle schools have been neglected for many years by

colleges and universities because we were not aware of how important it is in the college expectations process," he said.

CSULB currently uses dual admission standards based on where an applicant lives. Those living within an approximately 20-mile radius of the campus — an area that includes the entire LBUSD — have to meet only the minimum CSU admission criteria. Those living outside the boundaries face tougher requirements.

The three institutions plan

to work closely together to conduct outreach and help students pursue a variety of higher education options, officials said.

LBUSD Superintendent Chris Steinhauser told more than 100 Webster students at the ceremony that he expected them to promise to work hard. "You need to do the best you can all the time," he said.

Parents also have to be involved in ensuring that students are doing their academic work, he added.

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### Extending the Promise of Higher Education to the Greater Long Beach Community

## Educate. Engage. Empower.

www.LBCC.edu

## Educate.

Long Beach City College (LBCC) is committed to extending the promise of higher education to every member of the greater Long Beach Community.

As an open access institution, our doors are literally open to everyone who is looking to improve their lives through education – whatever their goals may be.

LBCC offers a full range of **degree and transfer programs** for students who want to earn degrees in dozens of fields.

LBCC also has over **90 career and technical certificate programs** which prepare students for entry into a broad range of careers.

### Helping Every Student Succeed

LBCC is working to help every student succeed by providing academic and financial support to every student who needs it. The demands of our students are changing – and we are changing the way we teach to help them meet their goals.

Our new **student success initiative** and **student success centers** provide individualized instruction to help students master the skills needed to successfully complete college coursework or compete in their chosen careers.

LBCC already has the **largest financial aid program** among all California community colleges, but it will expand its scholarship program dramatically to offer **every graduate of a Long Beach area high school a free first semester beginning in 2011.**



*Pictured above from left to right signing the Long Beach College Promise, March 20, 2008: F. King Alexander, President, California State University, Long Beach; Eloy Oakley, President, Long Beach City College; Chris Steinhauser, Superintendent, Long Beach Unified School District*



## Engage.

Long Beach City College is actively engaged in the community.

### Offering College Promise to All

Through the **Long Beach College Promise**, we are working with the Long Beach Unified School District and CSULB to meet the needs of all Long Beach area students.

LBCC works with LBUSD to help its students and families in elementary school to prepare for higher education beginning in elementary school.

Through the LBCC Foundation – and the generous support of the community we serve – **hundreds of scholarships are awarded** to students each year to help them succeed.

Beginning in 2011, the Foundation will guarantee **every Long Beach area student a tuition free first semester at LBCC** – to make sure that every student knows as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> grade that they can go to college.

## Empower.

LBCC empowers its students to tackle their next challenge – either by continuing their education or building their career.

### Transferring Students to Success

Through the Long Beach College Promise, LBCC students receive **guaranteed admission** to the highly sought after and impacted **CSULB**. All transfer students who meet minimum CSU requirements are guaranteed a place at the “Beach.”

LBCC truly prepares our students to succeed. Our transfer students graduate at a higher rate than those who begin their careers at CSULB.

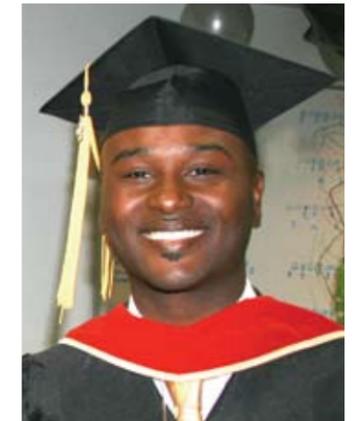
But CSULB is only one option. Hundreds of students each year transfer to other fine universities including: UCLA, USC, CSU Dominguez Hills, among many others.

### Building Successful Careers

LBCC has dozens of programs which prepare students for **successful careers immediately upon graduation**. LBCC’s nursing and medical imaging technician graduates are in high demand as are graduates from technical programs like our FAA-approved Aircraft Maintenance and alternative fuels programs.

Many people come to LBCC to advance their careers further by learning new skills and LBCC provides workforce training for many large and small employers to help their workers keep up with the changing demands of the information economy.

**LBCC is the sponsor institution for the Small Business Development Centers** for Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and provides one-to-one counseling and training services to help small businesses grow and prosper.



## How you can help or get more information:

Individuals and businesses are essential partners in extending the promise of higher education to the greater Long Beach community.

**We need partners who can make commitments** to help our **students** succeed.

The Long Beach Rotary Club and the AES Corporation are two examples of many organizations and companies that have made multi-year commitments to this effort to support our students through the Long Beach College Promise. If you or your company or organization is interested in supporting this effort, please contact the Long Beach City College Foundation at (562) 938-4134.

For more general information about the Long Beach College Promise, please contact LBCC’s Community and Relations and Marketing Department at (562) 938-4206 or [www.LBCC.edu](http://www.LBCC.edu).