



KEEPING THE PROMISE

Three years ago, we signed the Long Beach College Promise and committed our institutions to providing local students greater opportunities to pursue and complete their college education.

As this progress report shows, we have seen encouraging signs of success, and the nation has noticed. More high school graduates here are enrolling in college, and more of those students are prepared for rigorous college-level classes. As part of the College Promise, hundreds of students have taken full advantage of a free first semester at Long Beach City College and guaranteed admission to Cal State Long Beach with minimum CSU eligibility requirements. In the past year, our efforts have garnered praise from the White House and from major news media.

Despite this initial progress, our three institutions are not immune from the realities of the state budget crisis, which has resulted in massive cuts to our budgets. We remain firmly committed to accelerating our progress. But before our efforts can truly take hold and help thousands more students, California must find a way to stabilize its volatile funding for K-12 and higher education. Without such a basic commitment of resources from our state, the College Promise is in peril.

GOALS OF THE LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE ARE:

- Increase the percentage of **LBUSD** students who are prepared for and attend college directly from high school;
- Increase the percentage of **LBCC** students who earn degrees and/or career and technical certificates;
- Increase the percentage of **LBCC** students who successfully transfer to CSULB or another four-year college or university; and
- Increase the percentage of **CSULB** students who graduate with a bachelor's degree and/or advanced degrees.

Together, our three institutions will continue doing their part to uphold the College Promise. The question is, will the Golden State uphold its responsibility to nurture the next generation of thinkers and workers – the young men and women who will help California and the nation to prosper? We sincerely hope so. In the meantime, we are pushing for state legislation that will provide our institutions greater flexibility, allowing us to collaborate more freely so we can make better use of our limited resources.

The stakes are high, and the challenges are great, yet again we rededicate our efforts to our schoolchildren. For their sake, we must keep the College Promise.

Chris Steinhauser
LBUSD Superintendent

Eloy Ortiz Oakley
LBCC Superintendent-President

F. King Alexander
CSULB President

Despite extreme budget pressures, the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach remain committed to the promise – and the Long Beach College Promise continues to benefit local students.

★ LBUSD students' English and Math proficiency rates, as measured by the Early Assessment Program (EAP), improved even as participation rates increased significantly.

★ Nearly three of four (74%) LBUSD graduates are pursuing post-secondary education within one year of graduation. Half of those students are enrolled at CSULB or LBCC.

★ LBCC Fall 2010 enrollment of LBUSD graduates increased to 1,674 (an increase of 2.6% over 2009, and up 24% from a low of 1,349 in 2007). LBCC is working to increase students' success by providing local graduates priority registration and additional support to ensure they continue to benefit from the Long Beach College Promise and successfully reach their educational goals.

★ LBCC Students from LBUSD continue to be much more likely to persist in college. The persistence of LBUSD students at LBCC increased by another 1.4% to 69.0% (our third consecutive increase in Fall-to-Fall persistence rates under the Promise) and continues to dramatically outpace the persistence rate (46.4%) of students entering from other high schools.

★ More than 500 students received Long Beach College Promise scholarships through the LBCC Foundation and Long Beach Rotary. The LBCC Foundation has established an endowment of more than \$6 million to pay the first-semester enrollment fees for all qualified students beginning in Fall 2011.

★ CSULB continues to guarantee LBUSD graduates admission with minimum requirements. Admissions for LBUSD graduates have increased over 80% since 2007 (1,095 to 2,013) at CSULB. More than 85% of LBUSD applicants to the university were admitted compared to 33% of other CSULB applicants.

★ LBUSD graduates attending CSULB successfully complete English and Math remediation at a higher rate than other freshmen despite LBUSD graduates being admitted at the minimum CSU criteria.

LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE CAPTURES ATTENTION OF LEADERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Long Beach College Promise and the efforts of its three partners – the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD), Long Beach City College (LBCC) and California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) – have captured the attention of the country’s leaders on Capitol Hill.

Just a few short months ago, LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley and CSULB President F. King Alexander accepted an invitation to the White House to attend a signing ceremony with President Barack Obama and to make a presentation on the success of the Long Beach College Promise and other collaborative efforts at a national educational summit in Washington, D.C. Long Beach was one of just two U.S. cities represented at the event.

“We’re looking at communities that are trying to step up and push new reforms, ideas and innovations,” said Juan Sepulveda, director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, told the *Los Angeles Times*. “Long Beach has been successful with their seamless education partnership. This is something that every community is dealing with.”

Seamless Education aligns curriculum, instruction and teacher training from pre-kindergarten through the doctoral level. The Long Beach program was described as a national model in a case study earlier this year by the Washington D.C.-based Business Higher Education Forum. The partnership connects LBUSD’s educators with business leaders, LBCC and CSULB to help students progress smoothly through their education and into the workforce. The College Promise is an extension of Long Beach’s Seamless Education partnership.



*LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley,
LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser and
CSULB President F. King Alexander at the White House.*

LBUSD was recently named one of the world’s top 20 school systems — and one of the top three in the United States — in terms of sustained and significant improvements in an international report by McKinsey & Company which said, “Over the past 20 years Long Beach Unified School District has become a model for urban public school system transformation in the United States.”

LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE won the 2010 Student Success Award from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office for its work to increase completions through its Student Success Initiative and the Long Beach College Promise, helping more Long Beach students earn certificates & degrees and transfer to a university.

Since the start of the current academic year, **CAL STATE LONG BEACH** has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as the fourth best public regional university in the western United States in its 2011 edition of “America’s Best Colleges Guide”; *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* magazine named CSULB to its list of the 100 Best Values in Public Colleges for 2011; and the campus was recognized as the third “most secure” university/college in the nation by *Security Magazine* in its 2010 “Security 500” rankings.



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

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