



LONG BEACH
CITY COLLEGE



LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRESS REPORT • MARCH 2012

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Against all odds, the promise endures.

Four 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. Today, the College Promise is a nationally recognized effort that is getting results.

Against difficult odds, including hundreds of millions of dollars in state funding cuts to our three institutions, we see encouraging signs of success. 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, thousands 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. Our organizations continue to collaborate on pathways that offer students smoother and more efficient transitions from high school to community college and university.

We remain firmly committed to continuing our progress. This fall, LBCC will implement a new initiative called Promise Pathways which provides guaranteed access to courses and academic support for all Long Beach Unified School District graduates who enroll full-time in the fall. In addition, new placement procedures, which better reflect students' college readiness, will enable more local students to enroll and succeed in college level courses in their first semester. We also reaffirm our pledge to provide a local guarantee to students seeking access to the state university system.

As we have stated with increasing urgency in prior reports like these, however, 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 greater peril than ever. In fact, state cuts already are impacting students in significant ways, and yet further cuts to education loom as the state continues to predict budget deficits.

Together our three institutions will continue doing their part to meet the goals of the College Promise, but we must provide our educational institutions the resources they need to succeed. You can help by learning more at www.longbeachcollegepromise.org and by demanding that elected officials in Sacramento protect our students and our future.

Handwritten signature of Chris Steinhauser.

Chris Steinhauser
LBUSD Superintendent

Handwritten signature of Eloy Ortiz Oakley.

Eloy Ortiz Oakley
LBCC Superintendent-President

Handwritten signature of F. King Alexander.

F. King Alexander
CSULB President

GOALS OF THE LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE:

- 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 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.



More Students Attending College:

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.

729 LBUSD students entered CSULB as freshmen in 2011 – more students than ever before – and a 40% increase from 2008 when the Long Beach College Promise began.

LBUSD freshmen now comprise over 18% of CSULB's entering freshman class.

LBCC fall 2011 enrollment of LBUSD graduates increased to 1,675 despite state funding reductions which have curtailed course offerings at LBCC.

Unprecedented Scholarship Support:

Every local high school graduate who enrolled at LBCC this fall paid no enrollment fees - over 1,600 students this year alone - thanks to the Long Beach College Promise Scholarship. The LBCC Foundation has raised more than \$6.5 million and established an endowment with those funds to pay the first-semester enrollment fees for all qualified local high school graduates who enroll at LBCC.

Students are Better Prepared & Persistence is Up!

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

While the number and proportion of CSULB freshmen from LBUSD has grown, the percentage requiring math and English remediation has decreased.

LBCC students from LBUSD continue to be much more likely to persist in college. LBUSD students' persistence dramatically outpaces the persistence rate of students entering from other high schools.

Since the establishment of the Long Beach College Promise, CSULB transfer students from LBCC are retaining at a higher rate than non-local community college transfer students admitted under more rigorous criteria.

COLLEGE PROMISE PARTNERS ATTRACT STATE, NATIONAL ATTENTION

Governor Signs Long Beach College Promise Act



On March 20, 2008 the Long Beach College Promise was signed by CSULB President F. King Alexander, LBCC Superintendent-President Eloy Ortiz Oakley and LBUSD Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

In a move that will help more Long Beach Unified School District students attend and succeed in college, California Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed Senate Bill 650, the Long Beach College Promise Act, lifting a state cap on concurrent enrollment and allowing more local students to take community college courses while in high school.

Sponsored by LBUSD and LBCC, the bill was authored by State Senator Alan Lowenthal, a former psychology professor at CSULB.

The College Promise Act provides participating LBUSD students with an aligned sequence of rigorous high school coursework leading to capstone college courses, creating a more streamlined path to college.

“This bill will give us more flexibility to ensure that our students are adequately prepared to enter higher education institutions and to transfer in a timely fashion,” said LBCC Superintendent-President Eloy Ortiz Oakley.



Over the past year, LBUSD has been lauded by a variety of national officials and organizations citing the school district's college readiness efforts. The Broad Foundation's annual report praised the progress made in LBUSD over the past decade.

The American School Board Journal hailed the district's "world class" gains in student achievement despite tough times, and a representative of the Alliance for Excellent Education wrote of his recent visit to LBUSD: *"I was reminded of what is really possible in urban education. When we hear of great, transformative superintendents, we often hear names like Michelle Rhee (Washington, D.C. schools) or Joel Klein (New York schools). While I wouldn't take away anything from other leaders, to me, Chris Steinhauser and the LBUSD staff should be at the forefront of any conversation on great district leadership and the types of district systems to which the nation should aspire."*



Long Beach City College and the College Promise were cited as outstanding examples of student success in a report recently released by the independent California Little Hoover Commission, which

recommends ways to improve state programs. The report called on the Governor and the California State Legislature to refine the mission of the community colleges and to refocus policies and resources on boosting students' basic skills, increasing their career and technical education options, and improving their preparation for transfer to four-year universities, much like the College Promise.



Cal State Long Beach was one of just five universities nationwide recognized for meeting stringent criteria on affordability, access, and quality in a report released last June by The Education Trust. Recognition was based on enrollment of a proportion of low-income students that is at or above the national average and graduation of at least 50 percent of all its students.

In addition, CSULB President F. King Alexander was one of just 10 university presidents and chancellors invited to a private White House meeting on Dec. 5 with President Barack Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to talk about affordability in higher education. During the meeting, attendees shared how they have worked to promote innovation, reduce costs and increase productivity during a time of reduced state funding.