



LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE

5-YEAR
PROGRESS REPORT
(2008-2013)



*A Breakthrough
in Student Achievement*





Five years ago, leaders from the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach signed The Long Beach College Promise, committing the three institutions to providing local students with greater opportunities to complete their higher education. Today, more high school graduates are enrolling in college, and many more of those students are prepared for rigorous college-level classes. The Long Beach College Promise is the legacy of the Seamless Education Partnership which began in 1994.

A Breakthrough in Student Achievement

The Long Beach College Promise strives to improve three key experiences for students:

1 *College Preparation*

2 *College Access*

3 *College Success*

While the College Promise has produced encouraging results in these three areas since the program's inception five years ago, the latest student achievement data reveal a true breakthrough. The rate of student progress has increased much more dramatically in the last year. For example, the number of Long Beach Unified School District graduates completing college-level (non-remedial) English at Long Beach City College increased by 500 percent over the previous year. The number of LBUSD students completing college-level math (again, non-remedial) at LBCC jumped by 200 percent over the same period.

The College Promise also has aimed to improve college access by providing key incentives and services, including tuition-free semesters for 4,000 students at LBCC, guaranteed admission at California State University, Long Beach for local students who qualify, and college preparation and guidance as early as elementary school to help children understand that higher education is a dream within reach.

The results of the College Promise have the potential to help transform California's public colleges and universities, which are seeking ways to trim spending on costly remediation courses while increasing student retention and graduation rates.

Such success does not happen by accident. It is the result of LBUSD, LBCC and CSULB working together, sharing data and expertise, and genuinely changing the way business is conducted. The collaborative work of these three institutions has been recognized statewide and nationally many times. But now more than ever, the College Promise serves as a model for K-12 and higher education reform in California and beyond.



500%

*increase in
transfer-English
success*

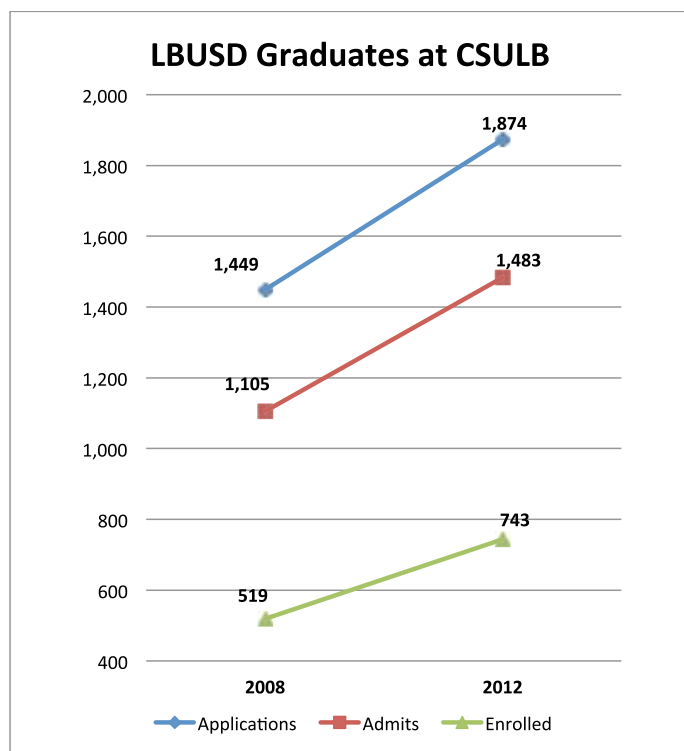
200%

*increase in
transfer-math
success*

4,000

*FREE semesters
of college*

More LBUSD Graduates Attend CSULB



Record numbers of students have applied to enroll at California State University, Long Beach for fall 2013. While recent budget cuts have compelled the university to turn away many eligible applicants, CSULB retains its commitment to serving all eligible LBUSD high school graduates.

Without this commitment, many area high school graduates would face insurmountable family and financial challenges on their path to obtaining a college degree.

At a time when some regional colleges and universities are moving away from guaranteed admissions for local eligible students, CSULB continues to embrace it, and the proof is in the numbers.

Since the establishment of the College Promise, the number of applicants, admitted students and enrolled students from the Long Beach Unified School District has grown each and every year.

The number of new CSULB freshmen from LBUSD has increased from 519 in fall 2008 to 743 in fall 2012. That is an increase of more than 43 percent. Even more notable is that the increase in LBUSD students continued despite the fact CSULB enrolled 2,000 fewer students for two consecutive years (2009-10 and 2010-11) because of cuts in state support to the CSU system.

The university's commitment to local student access also is illustrated in its admissions numbers. In the last admissions cycle, nearly 80 percent of LBUSD applicants gained admission to CSULB compared to just 25 percent of non-local freshmen applicants. In addition, Long Beach City College transfer students gained admission to CSULB at a rate 18 percent higher than applicants from other community colleges.

More than half of the freshmen admitted to CSULB from LBUSD eventually enrolled at the university, while more than three-fourths of LBCC students who were admitted to the university eventually enrolled.

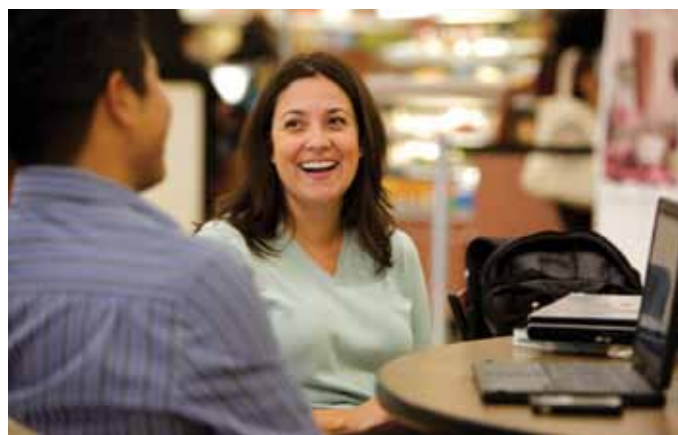
And, these students are achieving success. While the number and proportion of freshmen from LBUSD has grown, the percentage of those students requiring math and English remediation has decreased substantially due to targeted advising and initiatives such as CSU Early Start. Additionally, since the College Promise was enacted, freshmen from LBUSD and transfers from LBCC have remained enrolled, or persisted, at a higher rate than non-local California students, who are admitted to the university with more rigorous criteria.

43% increase in CSULB enrollment

'Promise Pathways' Brings 5-Fold Increase in English Completion *The initiative also results in a 200 percent increase in college math completion.*

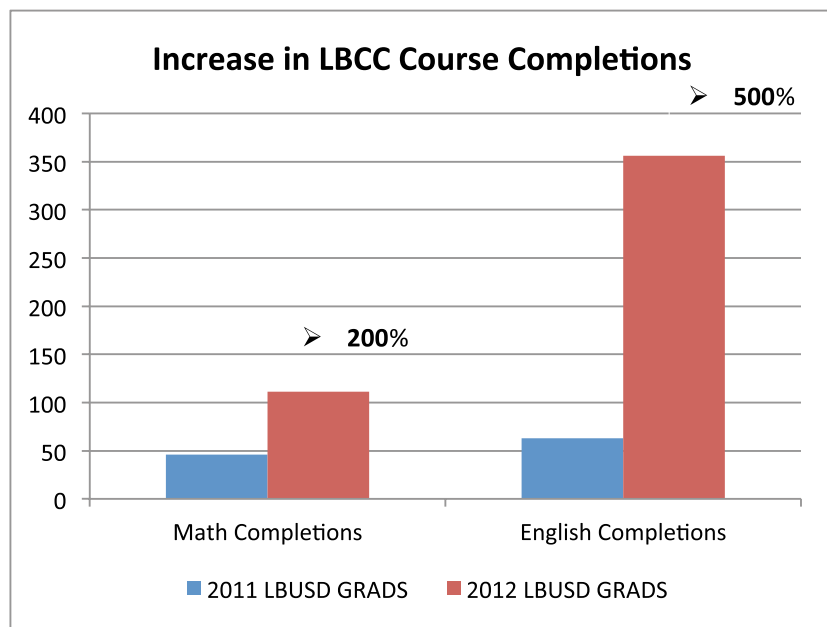
The Promise Pathways is LBCC's signature initiative as part of the College Promise. It has significantly increased the number and percentage of students who have completed key college milestones, including transfer-level English and math. These are true college-level courses, as opposed to remediation classes.

The Promise Pathways launched in the fall of 2012 and implemented two key innovations: predictive placement and prescriptive scheduling. Participating LBUSD graduates were placed into English and math courses based on their high school grades, rather than the traditional method which relies heavily upon standardized assessment tests. These students are also required to enroll in these foundational courses beginning in their first semester.



The initial group of 1,000 Promise Pathways students showed impressive gains:

- The number of transfer-level English courses completed by LBUSD graduates increased by 500 percent year-to-year
- The number of transfer-level math courses completed by LBUSD graduates increased by 200 percent year-to-year



Success rates for every demographic group enrolled in Promise Pathways increased. Some of the largest relative gains were made by Latino and African American students. Despite these gains in placement and success, achievement gaps among student demographic groups remain, but the College Promise institutions are committed to closing these gaps.

Access to and entry into transfer-level courses increased for all demographic groups without significantly affecting course success rates. LBCC will continue to evaluate and improve the effort and has already begun recruiting for the fall 2013 group. The program will be expanded to include more students in coming years.

The graph shows the significant year-to-year gains in the number and rate of successful completions in transfer-level English and math.

More than 4,000 Students Received Free Semesters at LBCC

LBCC and the LBCC Foundation developed the College Promise Scholarship to provide financial support and an incentive to local high school graduates to enroll immediately in college. The LBCC Foundation has raised more than \$6.5 million to cover the cost of first semester enrollment fees for all local high school graduates who enroll into LBCC immediately after graduation. For the last two years, no local high school graduate has paid first semester enrollment fees at the college, and more than 4,000 students have benefitted since the program's inception.

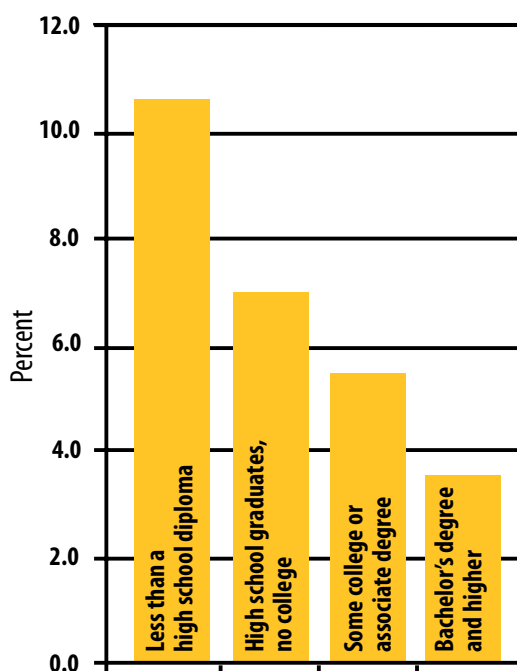


LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE

Why It Matters

Education Pays:

Unemployment rates by
educational attainment



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Californians who
complete
college will earn

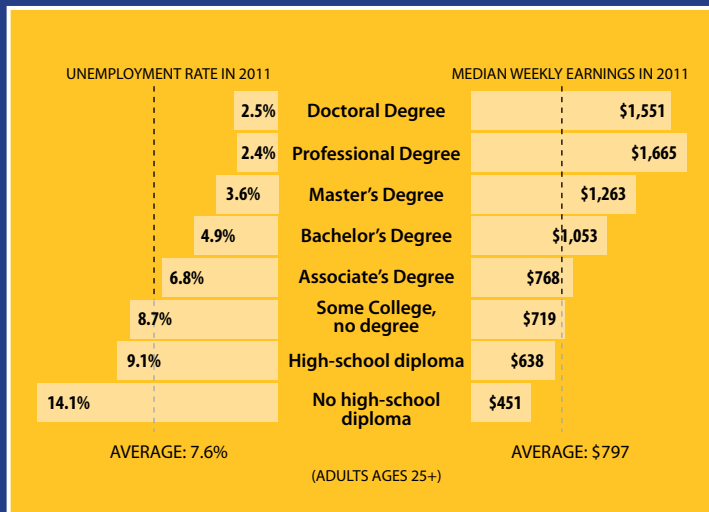
\$1,340,000

more over their lifetimes
than their peers with only a
high school diploma

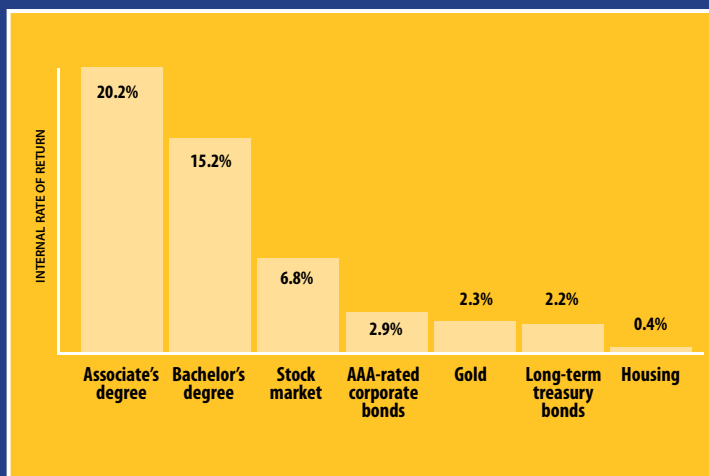


LBCC Counselor Alicia Andujo meets with an incoming Promise Pathways student to help her enroll in her first semester courses and to explain the new predictive placement model.

The economic value of college is indisputable.



As investments go, college is the best bet around.



Past graduates of UC and CSU return
\$12 billion
 annually to the state



For every **\$1**
 California invests
 in higher education,
 it will receive a
net return on investment of
\$4.50



Graphs drawn from: *California's Economic Payoff* by the Campaign for College Opportunity and *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 2013, p. 32.

A Model for the State and Nation

The College Promise has garnered state and national attention and recognition:

- 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 at a national educational summit in Washington, D.C.
- The Little Hoover Commission, an independent agency that recommends ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state programs, released a detailed report in 2012 citing the Long Beach College Promise as a successful model, saying “more LBUSD graduates are enrolling in postsecondary courses at the city college or state university; they are better prepared than their peers from other school districts, and fewer are dropping out after their first semester.”
- California Gov. Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 650, the 2011 Long Beach College Promise Act, authored by then State Sen. Alan Lowenthal. SB 650 established an innovative model that provides participating LBUSD students with an aligned sequence of rigorous high school coursework leading to capstone, or culminating, college courses while students are still in high school.
- The College Promise has been described as a national model in a case study by the Washington D.C.-based Business Higher Education Forum.



Long Beach's education leaders were present at the White House as President Barack Obama signed an executive order renewing the Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

State Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg chats with Cabrillo High School ninth-grader Joshua McMillan during a two-day conference at the West Long Beach school and LBCC.



Other Communities Take Notice

Many communities in California have used the Long Beach College Promise as a model for partnerships in their own communities, including

- Fresno
- Inland Empire – Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
- Los Angeles
- Sacramento
- San Francisco



Engaging Students, Parents and Teachers

College Success Begins in Elementary School

All of LBUSD's fourth- and fifth-grade students visit LBCC and CSULB each year to plant an early seed that college is an attainable goal. Since 2009, 26,000 fourth-graders have visited LBCC, and 26,000 fifth-graders have visited CSULB. Despite significant budget reductions, LBUSD, LBCC and CSULB remain committed to providing this important opportunity.



Middle School Students Pledge to Prepare for College

LBUSD's middle school students have been completing a Long Beach College Promise educational plan since the spring of 2009 that outlines what they pledge to do to ensure they attend college and are successful. The pledge sets clear expectations for what students must do to prepare for college and outlines what students and parents can expect from the three institutions in Long Beach. To date, middle school students and their parents have completed and signed 57,501 pledges.



College Promise Faculty Work to Align Curricula and Expectations

Faculty members from LBUSD, LBCC and CSULB have met regularly over the last several years to align expectations and curricula among the three institutions, to smooth transitions and to increase success of students in key subjects such as English and math. These efforts have expanded recently into additional areas, including science and social science, as LBUSD works to develop and implement the internationally benchmarked Common Core State Standards in the next two years.

LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE 8 th Grade – Personal Educational Plan		Name: _____
		School: _____
Know & Understand	What I Pledge to Do	
Manage your time by using a schedule planner or notebook to track homework, projects and reports. Establish an academic peer group for studying and to contact if assignments or clarification is needed on homework.	I pledge to: My academic peer group members are:	
Know current grades in each class to set goals and seek assistance when needed. Calculate your grade point average (GPA).	My current GPA = _____ I pledge to set goals to improve my grades in the following classes:	
Understand the importance of pursuing a career that is based on my interests and skills.	I pledge to explore different interests, hobbies and topics to determine a possible link to a career. My current interests and hobbies are:	
Prepare for challenging high school courses by utilizing resources at school and in your community: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ seek help from teachers◦ form study groups to prepare for tests◦ seek resources and opportunities in your community (Boys and Girls Club, WRAP, public library, tutoring, extra-curricular activities, museums, community service projects, etc.)	I pledge to utilize the following resources to be successful in my classes:	
Continue to explore colleges and career industry sectors through different activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ researching colleges and careers on-line◦ emailing or writing letters to request information◦ visiting college campuses◦ reading biographies and/or conducting interviews	I am interested in _____ career. My top 3 college/university list: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ To begin my pathway, I plan on applying to _____ Small Learning Community (SLC) at _____ high school. I pledge to explore my career interests by using my EXPLORE test results.	
The College Promise 1. The Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) promises that, starting in the sixth grade, all students and families will be provided information, services, and resources to prepare for college and careers. 2. Long Beach City College (LBCC) promises to offer all LBUSD students a tuition-free first semester of higher education by 2011. 3. California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) promises that all LBUSD students who successfully complete minimum college preparatory requirements will be offered admission. 4. The State of California may provide financial assistance to eligible students through the California Community College Board of Governor's Fee Waiver Program, the CalGrant Program, and others. 5. The United States of America may provide federal financial aid, such as the Pell Grant and other resources, to eligible students who complete the FAFSA.		
Student Signature Chris Steinhauser Superintendent, LBUSD	Parent/Guardian/Mentor Signature Eloy Oakley President, LBCC	Parent/Guardian/Mentor Signature F. King Alexander President, CSULB
For more information about the Long Beach College Promise, please visit www/lbschools.net and click on "L" in the A-Z Index.		

LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE

A Breakthrough in Student Achievement



Established in 1885, Long Beach Unified School District now educates 81,000 students in 84 public schools in the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Signal Hill, and Avalon on Catalina Island. The school district is the third largest in California and serves one of the most diverse large cities in the United States. The student population is 53.1 percent Hispanic, 15.6 percent African American, 15.2 percent white, 11.2 percent Asian, 3 percent multi-race, 1.7 percent Pacific Islander and 0.2 percent Native American. More than two-thirds of the student population come from lower-income households and qualify for free and reduced price meals. The school district employs more than 8,000 people, making it the largest employer in Long Beach.

HONORS FOR LBUSD

The Long Beach Unified School District has earned numerous state, national and international honors. Most recently, an international study included the LBUSD among five of the world's highest performing school systems. The Global Education Study by the non-profit Battelle for Kids organization selected Finland; Hong Kong; Long Beach, California; Ontario, Canada; and Singapore from a larger list of high-performing systems. Among that larger list were 20 school systems, including Long Beach, whose student achievement results were examined in an exhaustive 2010 study by McKinsey & Company, a trusted advisor and provider of data to many of the most influential businesses and institutions in the world. These studies and others have detailed LBUSD's ability to improve academic achievement for all students, including students of color and all socioeconomic backgrounds.



Founded in 1927, Long Beach City College serves the cities of Long Beach, Avalon, Signal Hill, and Lakewood and provides a wide range of education and economic development programs throughout Southern California. LBCC currently educates more than 30,000 students each year at its Liberal Arts and Pacific Coast Campuses — offering over 200 certificate and degree programs in a wide range of academic and career-related fields. LBCC's student body is 44 percent Latino, 20 percent white, 15 percent African American, 15 percent Asian & Pacific Islander with 3 percent multi-race, and the remainder undetermined. More than two-thirds of its students qualify for Pell Grants and many more students qualify for the Board of Governors Fee Waiver. LBCC is a major employer in the region with more than 1,400 full- and part-time staff.



HONORS FOR LBCC

Long Beach City College is recognized throughout California and the U.S. as a leader in efforts to improve college preparation, access, and success through the Long Beach College Promise Partnership, with the Long Beach Unified School District and California State University, Long Beach, and its Promise Pathways initiative. The College has received several important recognitions recently including: Finalist for the 2013 Exemplary CEO/Board Award of Excellence from the American Association of Community Colleges, winner of the 2012 RP Group's Excellence in College Research Award for development of a predictive placement model, recognition by the White House Initiative for Excellence in Hispanic Education in 2010 and recipient of the California Community College Chancellor's Office Student Success Award in 2009.



California State University, Long Beach is a large, comprehensive urban university in the California State University (CSU) system. Its more than 36,000 students make it one of the largest campuses in the CSU system and in the nation. CSULB's students are served by more than 975 full-time and 1,425 part-time faculty members. The university's eight academic colleges (College of Health and Human Services, College of Liberal Arts, College of Business Administration, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of the Arts, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics, and College of Continuing and Professional Education) currently offer 85 baccalaureate degrees, 64 master's degrees and four doctoral degrees. Since 1950, CSULB has awarded more than 275,000 undergraduate and graduate degrees. In addition to its academic reputation, CSULB is known for its lush, garden-like campus spreading over 323 acres just three miles from the Pacific Ocean that includes 84 permanent buildings, 149 acres of landscaping and more than 100 acres of parking and parking facilities.

HONORS FOR CSULB

U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges Guide" has consistently ranked CSULB among the top five best public regional universities in the western United States and also recognized the campus earlier this year as one of the top five colleges in the nation in receiving the most freshman applications (a number that reached more than 56,000 this academic year). The same publication also named CSULB one of the most efficient universities in the country in providing a high quality education while spending relatively less than its peers to achieve that quality. Other honors included being named to the 2012-13 list of the "100 Best Values in Public Colleges" by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine, being listed in the *Princeton Review/USA Today's* "Best Value Colleges for 2013," earning a top 10 national ranking from *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* in conferring bachelor's degrees to minority students, and being designated as a "Military Friendly School" by *G.I. Jobs*, the premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life.



LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, CSULB President F. King Alexander, LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley with students: Arthur Hoskins, fifth-grade student from Barton Elementary School, Jennifer Rios, second-year LBCC student who graduated from Lakewood High School, Beverly Rodriguez, second-year CSULB student who graduated from Cabrillo High School.





www.longbeachcollegepromise.org

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