The Long Beach College Promise extends the promise of a college education to every Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) student to create a more vibrant community. The Promise transforms lives and the city's economic future by placing higher education within reach for all.

The Promise aims to fulfill the potential of all youth by providing continuous support along every step of the student experience, from pre-K through college and onto career and life.

Fueling The Promise is a partnership between Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College (LBCC), California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and the City of Long Beach.

The Promise is creating a culture of college expectation and raising the education attainment rates of the entire Southern California region.
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City on the Move

Long Beach is rich in culture and one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the country. Long Beach is a city on the move. Once dependent on oil, aerospace and the Navy, the city now turns to the healthcare, trade, tourism and manufacturing industries for revenues and jobs. Adjacent to the city are the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, the busiest ports in the nation. Coined “the aquatics capital of the world,” Long Beach offers residents coastal attractions. Millennials embrace thriving music and arts scenes. Rich in culture, the city is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in the country. Nearly half the population is Latino, the city is home to the largest Cambodian community outside of Cambodia and it has a sizable African-American population. Nestled within the most populous county in the U.S., Long Beach residents face challenges associated with urban life including poverty, gangs and crime. A key challenge is staying relevant in an ever-changing economy. Gone are the days when a high school diploma guaranteed work and a middle-class lifestyle. Nearly every occupation demands a college credential or degree. Today’s burgeoning knowledge-based economy compels Long Beach to adapt or risk falling behind. Leaders understand that the city’s future is linked to an educated workforce. With nearly 65 percent of 300,000 CSULB alumni living and working within 35 miles of the campus, Long Beach has become a hub of diversity both culturally and intellectually. The Promise is a driving force behind the Southern California economy and is fostering an optimistic future for a city on the move.
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Long Beach is a city on the move. Once dependent on oil, aerospace and the Navy, the city now turns to the healthcare, trade, tourism and manufacturing industries for revenues and jobs.

Adjacent to the city are the twin ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, the busiest ports in the nation. Coined “the aquatics capital of the world,” Long Beach offers residents coastal attractions. Millennials embrace thriving music and arts scenes.

Rich in culture, the city is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in the country. Nearly half the population is Latino, the city is home to the largest Cambodian community outside of Cambodia and it has a sizable African-American population.

Nestled within the most populous county in the U.S., Long Beach residents face challenges associated with urban life including poverty, gangs and crime. A key challenge is staying relevant in an ever-changing economy. Gone are the days when a high school diploma guaranteed work and a middle-class lifestyle.

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Promise partners rely on core values to drive their many decisions and actions.

The Promise is built on a solid foundation of trust that has been forged through years of collaboration and further strengthened by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by all partners. The MOU outlines clear goals and metrics to ensure accountability to each other—and the public.

Each institution fulfills its commitment and helps keep The Promise on track. A progress report is made public at an annual event to ensure transparency to the community. These core values drive innovation and effective collaboration across institutions and help Long Beach stay true to its promise to students.

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Trust. Accountability. Transparency. Values Driven
Principles for Success

Afordability
Universal
Aligned
Systems

Accessibility
Opportunity to Succeed

Every student needs and deserves an opportunity to earn a post-secondary credential or college degree. All LBU D students are beneficiaries of The Promise. The Promise partners function as one entity to provide continuous student support. Partners work to align college readiness standards and interventions, and reduce the need for college remediation through data sharing and innovative assessments and approaches to college preparation. The partners are also collaborating with the business community on creating internships and pathways from college to career.

The Promise partners focus on making college more affordable. LBU D graduating seniors earn more than $90 million in scholarships and grants annually. The district subsidizes the cost of AP tests and offers free AT test prep. LBCC provides a tuition-free year for local high school graduates. All institutions focus on strategies for accelerating time to completion, including enhanced student advising, expanded supplemental instruction, curriculum streamlining, and redesigned gateway courses to utilize digital learning technologies. These strategies significantly reduce college costs, saving students and families thousands of dollars.

CULB guarantees admission to all eligible Promise students. The campus receives more than 96,000 applications each year for roughly 8,200 seats in a class. This guarantee offers hope for Long Beach youth who are working harder than ever to get into a college of their choice. The enhanced college preparation through the Promise also prepares students to attend college away from home, helping them compete among the nation's best and brightest.

The Long Beach College Promise offers every student the opportunity to succeed, regardless of socioeconomic status.

These key principles are at the heart of what makes The Promise successful.
Principles for Success

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**Universal**
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**Opportunity to Succeed**
The Long Beach College Promise offers every student the opportunity to succeed, regardless of socioeconomic status.
The Promise is catching the attention of the nation’s top leaders.

The Promise is ‘The Long Beach Miracle’

Driving Change

The U.S. economy is so dependent upon an educated workforce that President Obama set a goal challenging the nation to reclaim its position as world leader in the proportion of college graduates, or face serious economic and national security consequences. This challenge is propelling leaders to expand opportunities for students, especially low-income and underrepresented youth. In creating America’s College Promise, the president looked to Long Beach to help shape a new model of public education that other communities could emulate.

And, where California leads the nation follows. The Promise earned a $5 million prize as part of Gov. Jerry Brown’s Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. Lauded by Gov. Brown for its innovation and willingness to set ambitious goals, Long Beach gained the top score in the state.

Also, noting its success, former Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg helped direct nearly $1 billion during his tenure to replicate elements of The Promise, including Linked Learning and the Career Pathways Trust Fund.

College Promise initiatives are also sprouting up throughout California including Fresno, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco and others. Collectively these efforts comprise a loosely woven California College Promise. Promise leaders are joining together to share best practices and design initiatives to meet unique community needs.

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The Atlantic
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Driving Change

The Promise is 'The Long Beach Miracle'
Awards & Recognitions

The Long Beach Miracle. How the working-class California city saved its schools.

_The Atlantic_

This guarantee has been a game-changer for a city whose economy was battered by the closing of the naval base, the decimation of the local aerospace industry and, more recently, the Great Recession, said David L. Kirp, contributor.

_The New York Times_

The College Promise is an ambitious plan to upend the effects of poverty, race and limited educational opportunities. The nationally recognized effort does a lot of things right, like bringing together all levels of education for a common goal, opined the editorial board.

The Long Beach Unified School District has been awarded the National Broad Prize for Urban Education for overall student performance and narrowing achievement gaps among low-income students and students of color.

_The James Irvine Foundation_

The James Irvine Foundation honored LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley with its Leadership Award for dramatically increasing student success rates through more accurate course placement and scheduling. These efforts led to significantly less remediation for students and faster time-to-degree or transfer.

_PRESS-TELEGRAM_
Your award reflects your willingness to set ambitious goals, imagine creative ways to solve seemingly intractable challenges, cultivate deep support to try a different approach and then actually implement the innovations, said Gov. Jerry Brown upon the announcement of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education.

I hope that when the modern history of California is written that there is at least one chapter on Long Beach and its approach to public education, said former Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg upon receiving the College Promise Champion Award.

While each institution is impressive on its own, they are even more impressive as partners. A White House Summit highlighted The Promise as a national model. These accomplishments are incredible, said Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia in his 2015 State of the City Address.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities recognized CSULB’s Highly Valued Degree Initiative for combining proven strategies for enhancing student success into a comprehensive approach to institutional transformation, rather than focusing on just one or two strategies for increasing graduation rates. The results of this initiative have been dramatic.
Elements of The Promise Pathway

1. Universal access to early childhood education

2. College tours for all 4th and 5th grade students

3. A middle school pledge by students and parents that commits to college readiness

4. The Long Beach Internship Challenge

5. A tuition-free year at LBCC

6. Guaranteed admission to CSULB

“It does really become one education system instead of three,” said Terri Carbaugh, a spokesperson for Long Beach State.
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“College was my opportunity to achieve the American dream. The Long Beach College Promise opens doors for so many low-income students like me. I had an amazing education and obtained valuable skills to succeed in the real world.”

— Dominique Vera
B.S. in Business Administration, 2014
"The guarantee of a college education reduced my fear that I would fail. I didn’t have to be perfect to succeed. This brought me a sense of great relief. I’m elated to be part of a community that supports students like me."

Keyon Anderson
Innovating Teacher Preparation

Preparing teachers is vital to the success of The Promise. Successful teachers are a driving force behind BUSD's reputation as a national model of excellence. For more than two decades, education partners have extensively collaborated to prepare teachers to meet the needs of Long Beach students. Partners work together to develop and revise coursework, participate in ongoing dialogue to improve teacher training and offer professional development for BUSD staff. BUSD teachers and administrators draw upon real world experiences to teach classes at CSU B's College of Education.

Through the SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union (FCU) Urban Teacher Academy (UTEACH), CSU B offers yearlong on-site teaching residencies that give teachers exposure to diverse Long Beach classrooms. The generous support of SchoolsFirst FCU helps fund the academy and provides scholarships and stipends to participants. The groundbreaking program is shaping teacher preparation at CSU B and improving the educational experiences of low-income children in urban schools.

Each year, CSU B graduates make up 70 percent of the new teachers in BUSD. Many of these graduates are beneficiaries of The Promise's educational pipeline. Familiarity with the Long Beach community and better teacher preparation improve their likelihood of success. Through continuous partner innovation, Long Beach has increased its teacher retention rates and lowered its annual attrition rates to seven percent—a third of the national average. Student performance and graduation rates are better than ever. The Promise is proving that investing in teacher preparation pays off for Long Beach youth and their families.
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The Long Beach College Promise fosters a college-going culture. All students are taught that a college credential or degree is within reach.

Students gain support throughout their educational experience, beginning with universal pre-K, to lay the foundation for school success. Studies show that pre-K has a positive effect on children’s learning and development, particularly among those who are economically disadvantaged.

Partners own the responsibility of preparing students. LBUSD offers college preparatory and career courses, subsidized AP tests, free PSAT and SAT tests and no-cost SAT preparation. Partners engage in early outreach and assistance such as college tours of LBCC and CSULB for all fourth and fifth graders. Enhanced academic advising and dedicated support programs help students to earn their degrees on time.

All partners work as one entity to share data on student performance to modify curriculum, align college readiness standards and implement early interventions. Shared data revealed that the number of years of math completed in high school correlate with college-level math preparation. LBUSD responded by modifying graduation criteria to require four years of high school math.

The institutions collaborate on different approaches to college readiness such as the Urban Math Collaborative, a six-week mentoring and tutoring program targeting African-American students and Summer Bridge programs for students entering LBCC and CSULB. These programs boost student readiness, engage parents and orient families to the college environment.

These efforts are making it possible for more Long Beach youth to enroll and succeed in college than ever before.

Seventy-five percent of LBUSD graduates attend college within one year, eighty percent within two years

Long Beach College Promise Annual Report 2015
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Easing the College Experience

There are many barriers on the way to a college diploma. The Promise partners are continuously building on their success and developing new ways to ease the student’s experience and to reduce the cost of a college education.

Legislation initiated by The Promise in 2011 expands the number of LBUSD high school students who can concurrently take college courses that align with their career pathway. Students earn tuition-free college credit during their high school years. This seamless transition from high school to college is a substantial cost savings for students.

LBUSD removes financial barriers to earning college credit by subsidizing the cost of Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Students pay just $5 to take an AP exam that usually costs $92. This means that a student who takes five AP exams pays $25 instead of $460. AP coursework allows students to save big in the long run by earning college credits that exempt them from taking more college courses at an additional cost. In 2016, students signed up for more than 13,000 Advanced Placement college-level exams, an 82.4 percent increase in four years.

At LBCC, a free year of tuition amounts to a savings of more than $1,000 annually for each student—money they can put towards books, transportation and other college-related costs or living expenses. While at LBCC, the Promise Pathways program reduces the time it takes to transfer and earn a degree—saving students more money.

Promise students are placed in the appropriate college-level math and English courses based on high school performance rather than standardized tests. They receive priority registration and first semester education plans. These measures save many students from taking long remedial sequences. Beach Pathways was recently introduced guaranteeing a three-semester direct transfer program to CSULB.

Students benefit from an affordable and first-rate education at CSULB, one of the most popular universities in the nation. Named one of the “Best College Values” by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, CSULB is committed to serving all students, including those facing financial barriers. Roughly two-thirds of attendees receive financial aid and are considered low-income. In 2016, more than 10,000 students earned a degree, a number that grows every year.

The Highly Valued Degree Initiative at CSULB helps more students complete their degrees in a timely manner. The university sets clear metrics, enhances student advising, develops learning communities, expands supplemental instruction, streamlines curriculum, redesigns gateway courses and much more. The Promise partners are implementing joint eAdvising tools that customize academic plans, connect students with advisors and identify areas where progress is needed.
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Many community college students dream of transferring to a university, but often fail. In 2010, California mandated transfer reform with the implementation of Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT). It offers a simple transfer pathway for community college students who successfully complete 60 units to obtain their associate degree and enter the California State University (CSU) system as juniors.

CSULB rapidly enrolled 985 ADT transfer students from community colleges between fall 2012 and spring 2015. Among the 23 CSU campuses, CSULB ranked second for ADT transfer enrollment. The Promise partners are integrating ADTs into current efforts to accelerate student progression toward a degree. LBCC is adding more ADT options and is working with CSULB to align curriculum and admissions standards.
COLLEGE GRADUATES

$1.34M

LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE
The Promise partners make it a priority to strengthen career pathways to help students succeed in college, career and life. In a visionary move, LBUSD implemented the Linked Learning model, converting each of its high schools to industry-themed smaller learning communities.

The Linked Learning model promotes early career and college major exploration for K-12 students. This model introduces academics, technical skills, work-based learning and support into the student learning experience. It prepares students to select a major when they arrive at college and to focus on the necessary courses to complete their degrees on time.

Partners collaborate to create clearly articulated career pathways across the institutions. They do this by addressing course duplication and developing streamlined course sequences that help students seamlessly transition from each institution and progress more quickly toward a college degree.

The creation of the non-profit Long Beach Career Linked Learning (LBCaLL) serves as an intermediary to engage and connect business and industries to student learning by way of student internships, industry tours and events.

Studies show that students who participate in internship programs in high school enroll into college at higher rates. College students with internships also perform better academically and professionally.

Building on this effort, the Mayor’s Office launched the Long Beach Internship Challenge committing additional resources and support to expand student work experience, doubling the number of paid internships for high school and college students.

By creating opportunities for high school and college students to have hands-on work experience, The Promise strengthens student learning and gives them an edge in the competitive marketplace.
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The Promise Pays Off

Long Beach students have college on their minds.

Middle school students in Long Beach are already thinking about attending college and many have specific career paths in mind, according to research conducted by The Promise public engagement team. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders see college as an essential part of their future plans, and are directing energy into being “college ready” both academically by getting good grades and developing intangible skills like blocking out distractions and working independently.

Students say money is a primary factor when considering college. So is a guaranteed seat in the class. The students also believe the best reason to go to college is to get a good job and make a lot of money, while the biggest obstacle to attending college is determining a way to pay for it.

The tuition-free first year of college and the career earnings value of a college degree consistently rank as the top reasons students want to participate in The Promise. While free first year tuition is vital, The Promise partners are exploring additional ways to support students and families to pay for college in years 2-4.

This is particularly important in Long Beach because 68 percent of LBUSD students come from socioeconomically disadvantaged households. The Promise research also shows that students react positively to messages guaranteeing them admission to CSULB. The campus receives about 96,000 applications each year for only 8,200 spots. When students learn they are guaranteed admission, they are more motivated to stay on track and complete college.

With CSULB alumni earning an average mid-career salary of $84,500, $12,143 above the national average, Promise students are provided an early opportunity to get a jump start on a better life.

Money matters and so does a college guarantee.
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Looking Ahead

Public Engagement

The Long Beach College Promise Public Engagement Campaign aims to reach residents at the neighborhood level to ensure that everyone—no matter where they live—knows about The Promise. The campaign is designed to engage students, parents and community stakeholders in planning and implementing strategies that will raise awareness of The Promise benefits and help reduce the opportunity gap among groups. The campaign will focus on socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, including African Americans.
Latinos and Cambodians to adhere to the principle of keeping The Promise universal.

**Career Pathways**

The Promise partners are working together to enhance the student college experience and make the transition across institutions seamless. Leveraging recent funding, the partners are creating clear and efficient pathways from high-school to career in the following six occupational categories: business, education, engineering, health, liberal arts, and life and physical sciences. Partners have also developed English and math remediation streams to bolster student success.
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