



THE LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | SEPTEMBER 2015

www.LongBeachCollegePromise.org



www.lbschools.net



www.lbcc.edu



www.csulb.edu



www.longbeach.gov

INTRODUCTION

The Long Beach College Promise is an innovative, award-winning partnership among Long Beach's nationally recognized public school district, community college, state university and city government. This highly focused partnership is transforming the lives of students and families throughout Long Beach by helping students set and achieve their educational goals for a lifetime of success.

Established in 2008, the Long Beach College Promise offers a clear pathway for Long Beach students starting with high quality early childhood education, transitioning seamlessly from grade school to higher education by providing incentives, services and support while removing barriers. These measures include college visits and college planning for elementary and middle school students in the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD), tuition-free semesters at Long Beach City College (LBCC), preferred admission to Long Beach State University (LBSU), and professional work experience through internships. Internship opportunities for students are on the rise under an initiative – the Long Beach Internship Challenge – launched by the City of Long Beach in 2015 as a component of the College Promise. Commitment to program goals, regular dialogue, sharing data and shared accountability are hallmarks of this partnership.

The student-focused commitment of the Long Beach College Promise begins at an early age. Starting in early childhood with access to high quality programs and preschool, the Long Beach Unified School District helps students and families embrace the idea that higher

education is within reach for all. As students progress through the K-12 years, college preparation and guidance increases.

Raising the student success bar and addressing educational achievement gaps is a difficult challenge in California's 7th largest city, a highly diverse, complex urban environment of nearly 500,000 people – but it is one that the Long Beach College Promise embraces. The initiative is building a stronger community and economy as graduates become better prepared to join the workforce.

Having earned a place in the national spotlight, the Long Beach College Promise has inspired other cities and school districts throughout California and the nation to build similar partnerships rooted in the concept and practice of shared responsibility for student success.

A major focus of the Long Beach College Promise is closing achievement gaps among demographic groups. Due to these efforts, the graduation rate at Long Beach State University for Latinos has increased 20 percent, the rate for African Americans has increased 22 percent, and graduation rates for Asians has increased 23 percent in recent years.

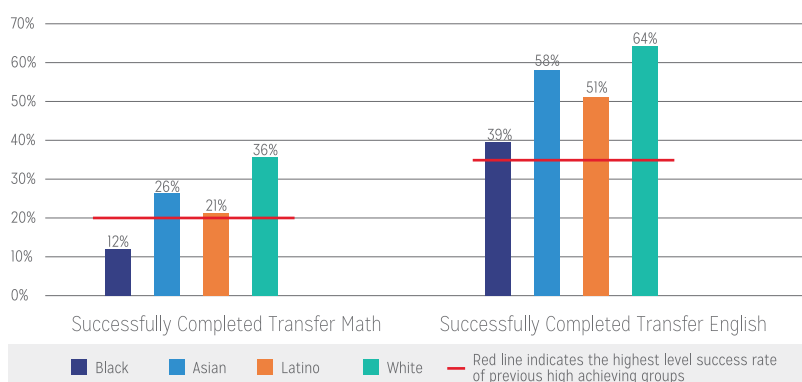
To build upon this success, Long Beach City College launched Promise Pathways in 2012. The initiative ensures new students who belong in college-level classes are appropriately placed by looking beyond standardized test scores to evaluate them based on their overall high school achievement. The impact has been significant: Promise Pathways has increased the number and percentage of students who have successfully completed coursework needed to transfer to a four-year undergraduate degree program across all ethnic groups.



75% of LBUSD graduates
attend college within **1** year,
80% within **2**

Involvement in Promise Pathways increased from **56%** to **78%** from 2012 to 2014

Achievement of Milestones in Two Years by Ethnicity: Promise Pathways



Thanks to the Long Beach College Promise, more high school graduates are completing foundational coursework at LBCC and advancing to Long Beach State University or other four-year colleges and universities.

Nearly **12,000** students have received **1** free semester of college at LBCC

One goal of the Long Beach College Promise is ensuring students finish their education in a reasonable time frame. Reducing extended stays increases capacity at Long Beach State University and makes room for nearly 300 new admissions a year at no additional cost to the state.

Record numbers of students have applied to LBSU for fall 2015. Even with this high demand, the university has honored its commitment under the College Promise to offer admission to all Long Beach Unified high school graduates who meet eligibility standards for their intended major. LBUSD graduates who are CSU eligible but do not meet admission requirements have an expedited and guaranteed path to a bachelor's degree at the university through community college (the Beach Pathways program).

Of LBUSD seniors who enroll in a 2-year college, **77%** enroll at LBCC

The College Promise serves as a national model of collaboration for cities, school districts, colleges and universities. By sharing data and expertise, working together to develop pathways, and tracking student outcomes, Long Beach Unified, LBCC, Long Beach State University and the City of Long Beach are ensuring more students than ever are reaching their full potential. Today, the Long Beach College Promise is woven into the very fabric of the community.

4 out of **10** LBUSD graduates choose LBSU

Pathway to Success

PRESCHOOL

The Long Beach Unified School District is expanding high quality early childhood education programs and will be providing universal access to preschool for underserved populations by 2018. The school district has provided access for nearly 800 additional preschool students since 2014 and will increase access and professional development opportunities with a new facility set to open in 2017.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Field Trips: Long Beach City College and Long Beach State University have each hosted more than **36,000** visits by Long Beach Unified students since 2009, with LBCC opening its doors to all fourth-grade students and Long Beach State University welcoming all fifth-grade students. These half-day visits include workshops that celebrate the college experience and plant the seed that a college degree is attainable for all students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

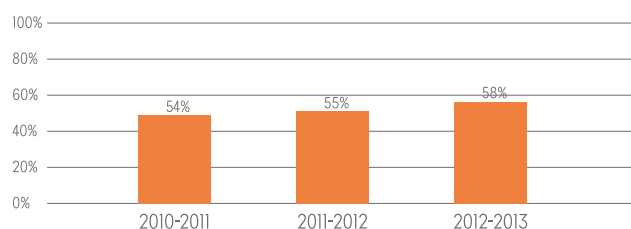
College Pledge: All Long Beach Unified middle school students and their parents are actively encouraged to make the College Promise Middle School Pledge, a commitment to prepare students for college and career. Since 2009, Long Beach Unified students and their parents have signed **63,275** pledges.

HIGH SCHOOL

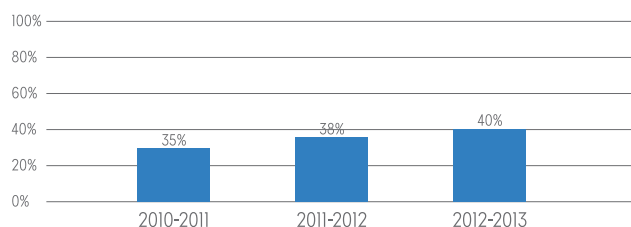
College readiness: The number of Long Beach Unified graduates prepared for college-level math and English classes continues to grow.

49% of LBUUSD students meet UC and/or CSU requirements, **7%** in **4** years an increase of

LBUSD 12th graders ready for LBCC - English Language Arts



LBUSD 12th graders ready for LBCC - Math



High School Internships: Through the Long Beach Internship Challenge, Long Beach Unified high school students have greater opportunities to gain real-world work experience in their field of interest.

AP Exams: Long Beach Unified's efforts to increase access to Advanced Placement courses and tests are paying off. Students signed up for more than 10,000 AP college-level exams in 2015, a two-year increase of more than 41 percent. The school district is also subsidizing, through rebates, the high cost of AP exams. Each test usually costs \$92, a sum many families struggle to afford and one that can block students of low-income families from taking the exam. With the rebate, all Long Beach Unified students pay just \$5 per test for an unlimited number of exams.

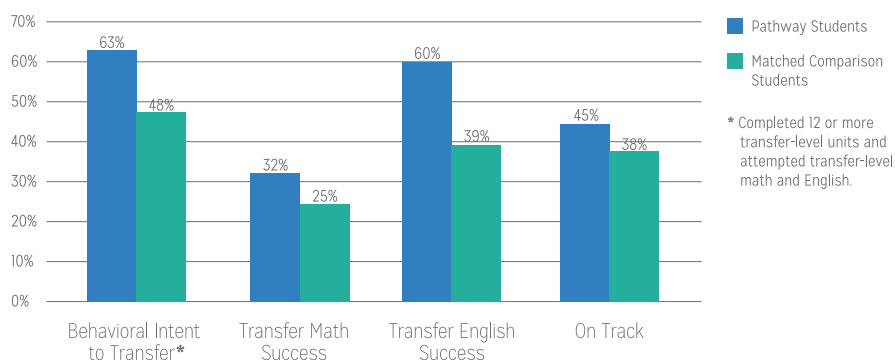
Scholarships: Long Beach Unified graduating seniors earned a record **\$96 million** in scholarships and grants in 2015.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Free semester: The first semester at LBCC is free to all Long Beach Unified graduates enrolled as full-time students for the fall semester following graduation. This incentive, funded by donations to the Long Beach City College Foundation, saves each participating student more than \$600. For the 2015 fall semester, LBCC is expanding the tuition-free offer to cover the first full year for students in good academic standing.

Promise Pathways: This signature LBCC initiative ensures incoming full-time students who belong in college-level math and English classes are appropriately placed. Participating students are evaluated based on their overall high school achievement, not just standardized tests, and they start college with first-semester success plans and priority registration. Since its inception in 2012, Promise Pathways has significantly increased the overall success rate of students across the board, as measured by the growing numbers of those completing foundational coursework.

Promise Pathways students are more successful in achieving key educational milestones than similar students.



UNIVERSITY

Admissions: Long Beach State University has become one of the most competitive universities in the nation, with about 90,000 applicants for 8,200 openings in fall 2015, while continuing to provide access for local high school graduates. LBSU guarantees admission for Long Beach Unified graduates who meet eligibility requirements for their major and offers an expedited pathway for students who meet California State University requirements (Beach Pathways at LBCC).

Improved Preparation: Long Beach Unified students who attend LBCC and then transfer to Long Beach State University graduate at higher rates than other transfer students entering the university.

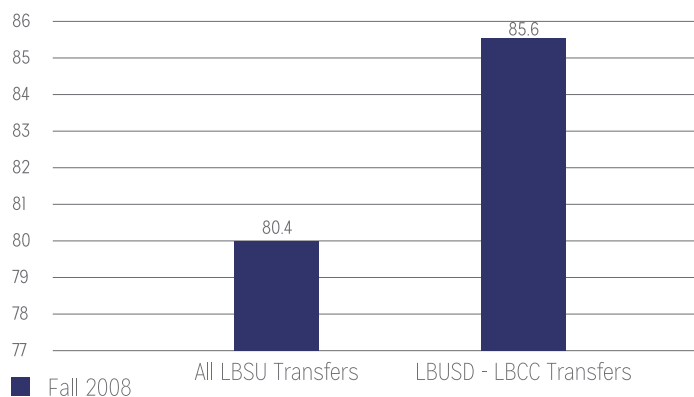
Access: Long Beach State University continues to serve increasing numbers of students from low-income families: 66 percent of LBSU students receive financial aid and more than 50 percent are low-income by federal standards.

Improved Graduation Rates: Through its Highly Valued Degree Initiative, Long Beach State has improved its six-year graduation rates from below 45 percent to 60 percent. The goal is to speed graduation rates by an entire semester for about 50 percent of LBUSD graduates and about 25 percent of LBCC transfer students.

35% increased admission & enrollment of LBUSD Students at LBSU

College Internships: In 2015 Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia launched the Long Beach Internship Challenge to double the number of internships in the city. Creating opportunities for more high school and college students to gain hands-on experience in the workplace better positions them for success in a competitive job market.

LBUSD students who went to LBCC first graduate LBSU at higher rates



Honors for the Long Beach College Promise

State of California Award for Innovation in Higher Education (2015): The Long Beach College Promise earned the highest score among the state's 58 applicants, and LBCC was awarded a \$5 million prize – one of only five granted statewide – to expand the initiative. The award recognizes California Community College, California State University, and University of California campuses that change policies, practices, or systems to significantly increase the number of bachelor's degrees awarded, allow students to complete bachelor's degrees within four years after beginning higher education, and ease transfer through the state's education system.

Clinton Global Initiative (2015): The Clinton Global Initiative Commitments to Action has recognized the Long Beach College Promise as a strategic partnership for its success in closing achievement gaps and removing barriers to educational access. The Clinton Global Initiative, an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, convenes global leaders to create, implement and support innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

U.S. Conference of Mayors/USA Fund National Pathways with a Purpose Initiative, 1st Place Honors (2015): The award recognizes best practices developed and supported by mayors to modernize the educational system and training programs and improve the connection between education and employment. Judge and former Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory praised Mayor Garcia's focus on preschool-through-college access to education. "Mayor Garcia clearly understands the cradle-to-career system and guarantees the success of youth in Long Beach."

James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award (2014): The Long Beach College Promise and Promise Pathways were recognized for making dramatic gains in the number of first-year LBCC students achieving education milestones. The mission of the James Irvine Foundation is to expand opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society.

President Obama's White House Opportunity Summit (2014): The Long Beach College Promise was featured in the President's event with college presidents from across the nation. The summit focused on expanding opportunities for students.

HONORS AWARDED BY THE LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE

2015 College Promise Champion Award: The Hon. Darrell Steinberg, former California Senate President pro Tem and Assemblyman, for his unwavering support of the Long Beach College Promise throughout his tenure in the state Legislature and advocacy at the state and national levels.

2014 College Promise Champion Award: Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), for his steadfast legislative efforts during his tenure as a California State Senator to ensure more students finish college.



Leaders of the partnership renew the Long Beach College Promise in 2014: From left, Christopher J. Steinhauser (LBUSD), Eloy Ortiz Oakley (LBCC), Jane Close Conoley (LBSU), and Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.

Impact of the Long Beach College Promise

National: U.S. Under Secretary of Education Ted Mitchell and other White House educational leaders have cited the Long Beach College Promise as one of the models that helped shape America's College Promise, President Obama's initiative to make community colleges more affordable and accessible.

State: Numerous cities and school districts throughout California are using the Long Beach College Promise as a blueprint for partnerships in their own communities, including Fresno, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, El Monte, Humboldt County, and the Inland Empire.

Southern California: Sixty-five percent of approximately 300,000 Long Beach State University alumni live and work within 35 miles of the university. This group provides a wealth of knowledge to every segment of the greater Los Angeles and Orange County economies by contributing to innovation, artistic accomplishment, health care services, civic engagement and other activities that enhance the region's quality of life. Much of the local workforce comes from the local schools, making partnerships like the Long Beach College Promise critical to upward mobility, community stability and economic growth in Southern California.

Greater Long Beach: LBCC's Promise Pathways initiative has expanded beyond Long Beach Unified and now includes four neighboring public school districts and one private high school: Bellflower Unified, Paramount Unified, ABC Unified and Los Alamitos Unified and St. Joseph High School.

Long Beach State University is preparing more students than ever for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that are vital to the future of the region, state and nation. In 2014, Long Beach State University received its largest award ever – about \$24 million over five years from the National Institutes of Health – to establish a research program that prepares

underrepresented students for doctoral programs in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. The federal initiative is called Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD). Long Beach State University is one of only 10 BUILD Award recipients nationwide.

52%ⁱⁿ STEM
education
at
increase LBSU

The Long Beach College Promise educational partners have created a pipeline that produces 70 percent of all new Long Beach Unified teachers. The university, college and school district work together to design preparatory coursework for teachers. Long Beach Unified teachers and administrators also teach classes at Long Beach State University's College of Education. The teacher attrition rate at Long Beach Unified, the state's third-largest school district, is nearly two-thirds lower than the national average. Long Beach has increased teacher retention and reduced annual attrition rates to 7 percent, a full 13 percentage points below the national average for urban school districts.



70% of all new
LBUSD
teachers are LBSU alums

The Future of the Promise

In 2015 the Long Beach College Promise earned a \$5 million State of California Award for Innovation in Higher Education – one of only five awards of this kind in the state by Governor Brown to recognize and expand proven regional partnerships. The funds will be used in Long Beach to advance the College Promise in the coming years through:

- **System Alignment:** Using new technology to improve counseling and guidance for students across all institutions and remove barriers to their progress.
- **Reducing Remediation:** Increasing intervention efforts in high school, including on an individual basis, to reduce the need for remedial coursework in college.
- **Career Pathways:** Strengthening efforts to build defined career pathways among the partner institutions, align pathways with industry needs, and increase work-based learning opportunities.
- **Ensuring students finish college in a timely manner:** Expanding opportunities for students to meet their higher education goals without delays.
- **Public Engagement:** Increasing outreach, particularly in underserved communities, to students, parents and community leaders about the Long Beach College Promise and its benefits.
- **Closing Achievement Gaps:** While the College Promise has helped close achievement gaps among all ethnic groups, more must be done. The Innovation Award will help expand opportunities for students in Long Beach's underserved communities, particularly Latino and Cambodian, and further reduce achievement gaps.

Policy Recommendations

To expand access to high quality public education, the Long Beach College Promise partners support:

- The America's College Promise initiative to provide free, or low cost, tuition for responsible community college students.
- Full funding of the Pell Grant, including expanding eligibility to allow students to receive financial aid for the summer session.
- A renewed commitment to California's Master Plan for Higher Education through the establishment of a California College Promise.
- Funding for future rounds of California's Award for Innovation in Higher Education.
- Philanthropic efforts that match public funding in support of College Promise partnerships throughout the state.
- Continued support of the Career Pathways Trust Fund that bolsters programs designed to help students stay in school and become college and career ready.
- Building upon the success of the Local Control Funding Formula, California's formula for determining the level of state funding provided to school districts.



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