Political leaders and educators to discuss new system for evaluating students’ abilities and public schools’ effectiveness at Sept. 14 panel in Long Beach

“A for Accountability: Assessing Success in California’s Schools” panel to include former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, state assembly member Patrick O’Donnell, and prominent educators Carl Cohn and Marquita Grenot-Scheyer

LONG BEACH, CALIF. – Aug. 24, 2016 – Southern California News Group, CALmatters and Long Beach State University are hosting a panel of experts who will assess a new system for measuring success at California’s public schools, with additional discussion of solutions to ultimately improve student performance and college readiness.

"A for Accountability: A Report Card on California's New Public-School Assessments" will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Beach Auditorium at Long Beach State University, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach. Admission is free for people who RSVP through an Eventbrite link at http://bit.ly/2bGKHeS

Seating is limited, and is expected to reach capacity.

Confirmed speakers include:

-Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa;
-Patrick O’Donnell – Assembly member and Chair of the California Assembly Education Committee;
-Marquita Grenot-Scheyer – Assistant Vice Chancellor, Teacher Education & Public School Programs, Cal State University, Office of the Chancellor
-Dr. Carl A. Cohn, Executive Director, California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.

California State University Long Beach President Jane Close Conoley, CALmatters editor and CEO David Lesher, and managing editor of content Tom Bray and education reporter Beau Yarbrough of Southern California News Group will offer opening remarks. CALmatters reporter Judy Lin will moderate the panel discussion.

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, which was released today by the California Department of Education, indicates there is significant room to improve how students grasp key subjects such as math and English.

Statewide, only 49 percent of students met or exceeded standards in English, and 37 percent met that threshold in math.

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Motivated by a new federal law, California is responding by initiating a major overhaul of how it measures success in state schools. The new “report card” will include factors such as graduation rates and how fast English learners gain proficiency to measure public schools’ ability to prepare students for college and life after school.

A reception begins at 6 p.m. Formal welcome and introductions begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with the audience.

Event will be also available via live stream through presstelegram.com, and accessible through a link on Southern California News Group, CALmatters and Long Beach State University Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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