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Long Beach Mayor Announces the Mayor's Fund for Education *Fund to support Long Beach Education Partners*

Long Beach, CA - At an event held at Little Owl Preschool today, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia announced the launch of the Mayor's Fund for Education. Mayor Garcia was joined by Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) President Jane Conoley, Long Beach City College (LBCC) Interim-President Ann Marie Gabel, and other education partners.

The Mayor's Fund for Education is a nonprofit organization, separate from the City of Long Beach, stemming from the Mayor's vision and passion for education. It serves as a mechanism by which to support Mayoral education priorities within the Long Beach College Promise. The Fund will work closely with community and education partners to support their programs, particularly in three primary focus areas: Early Childhood Education, Internships, and College Completion.

"I want to thank the Board for creating and supporting the Mayor's Fund for Education to support the Long Beach College Promise and our local education institutions," said Mayor Garcia. "In particular, I applaud The Fund's initial focus on expanding access to high quality early childhood education in Long Beach since that is a proven strategy to improve lifelong outcomes for students and families."



Photo credit: Lindsey Ingram

The Mayor highlighted the Fund's initial projects which, in addition to on-going support of the Long Beach College Promise include:

- Educare of LA at Long Beach (a new preschool being planned for LBUSD)
- exploration into an Early Childhood Education Community Plan
- support of the 2017 Early Childhood Education Symposium
- early literacy campaigns
- continued call to action via the Mayor's Internship Challenge

Superintendent Chris Steinhauser spoke of the continued collaboration between LBUSD, CSULB, LBCC, and the City of Long Beach in the College Promise.

"From his first days in office, Mayor Garcia pledged his commitment to supporting the Long Beach educational system," recalled Steinhauser. "The Mayor's Fund for Education offers the unique opportunity for this support to continue with future mayors, creating a lasting partnership that will ensure every student has the tools they need to be successful."

The Mayor's Fund collaborates with local partners in identifying student needs at all levels of education and assists in fundraising, awareness campaigns, capacity building and program development to ensure that education in Long Beach thrives and grows.

CSULB President, Jane Conoley added, "The secret to Long Beach schools' success is relationships. The focus of the Mayor's Fund on early childhood education is great as it pays dividends all the way to the university level."

"Once again, the Long Beach community and education partners are stepping up and showing strong support for education and the success of our local students," said LBCC Acting Superintendent-President Ann-Marie Gabel. "As a partner in the Long Beach College Promise, we're excited to see how the Mayor's Fund for Education will expand and strengthen the Promise in the years to come. We share and fully support the goals outlined in this initiative – improving early child development, internships, and college completion. LBCC looks forward to continuing this important work with our partner institutions as we expand the Long Beach College Promise."

The Mayor also took time to field tough questions from preschoolers learning interviewing skills about the pets he owns, what he likes to watch on television, and his favorite food.

The Mayor's Fund is a non-profit organization, operating under the umbrella of Community Partners pending receipt of its separate 501(c)(3) designation. Funding is provided by donations from private individuals, corporations and philanthropic foundations and is overseen by an independent Board of Directors.



For more information and the latest developments on the Mayor's Fund for Education, visit: www.mayorsfundfored.org and follow the LB Mayor's Fund for Education on Facebook and Twitter.

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