S. B. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DR. HERBERT FISCHER ANNOUCES RETIREMENT

SAN BERNARDINO CA - County Schools Superintendent Dr. Herbert Fischer announced his retirement as superintendent of schools effective Aug. 30, serving in that position since November 1998. He ran unopposed in the last two elections. His 39-year career in education has been solely in San Bernardino County.

Fischer made his announcement to county schools’ employees on July 1. “It has been a privilege to work with all of you to serve students, parents, and educators throughout the county. You are a committed, hard-working and loyal staff who truly put the needs of the 428,000 students in the county first and foremost,” he said.

Under Fischer’s leadership, the county schools office has supported district efforts to improve student achievement and meet state and federal academic performance targets by bringing national experts in school reform to the county and providing additional support to low performing schools. Schools consistently have seen gains above state averages on accountability benchmarks. The API average saw seven consecutive years of growth.

During Fischer’s tenure, the county schools’ office joined forces with business, labor leaders, community and faith-based organizations to establish the Alliance for Education. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell has touted the collaborative to produce a higher skilled, higher educated workforce as a model for his statewide P-16 Council.

Permanent school housing for students served in county schools’ operated programs was a priority for Fischer. The office constructed its first permanent school site, Dorothy Gibson County High School in Ontario. Five additional new schools have been constructed to date to improve housing for the 6,000-plus special and alternative education students served in county classrooms.

“I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of county office staff, our district administrators, teachers and support staff, Alliance and association partners,” Fischer said. “Working together, we have made great strides to improve public education for students in San Bernardino County. There are many more milestones to reach, but I am confident the triumphs we have made will be sustained and future successes will be realized.”

Prior to serving as county superintendent, Fischer was...

S. B. COUNTY BOARD SELECTS THOMAS TO FILL SUPERINTENDENT VACANCY

SAN BERNARDINO CA - The San Bernardino County Board of Education selected Gary Thomas to replace retiring County Superintendent Herbert Fischer at its meeting on Monday, July 7.

Thomas will serve the remainder of Fischer’s third term as county superintendent when he retires effective Aug. 30.

“I want to thank the County Board for this appointment and its vote of confidence for me,” said Thomas. “It has been an honor to work with Dr. Fischer, and I will do my best to continue the outstanding leadership and commitment to public education he has shown during his tenure as county superintendent.”

As deputy superintendent, Thomas has overseen the County Schools’ Business Services Division, which includes the development and management of a $350 million budget.

LATINO NETWORK-THIRD ANNUAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Leadership Institute, under the sponsorship of the Latino Network, produced its third annual program at Riverside City College. The three day event covered an array of educational subjects, motivational speakers and panel discussions. Pictured above are this year’s selection of 23 students from high schools and colleges attending the program. Photo courtesy of Leadership Institute Committee

The students, nominated by high school and college counselors, faculty and administrators, competed in a selection process to earn a place in the coveted leadership program. Twenty-three students were selected for this year’s event.

The LNLI 2008 committee developed an agenda with an array of subjects, and the recruitment of professionals, motivational speakers and mentors. The program is...

IN THIS ISSUE

HARSH STEREOTYPES DAMAGE OUR COMMUNITY Pg 2
PROTECTING OUR CITY Pg 2
CONGRESSMAN BACA MEETS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS/DANMS TO DISCUSS 1-10 Pg 2
COMMUNITY COORDINATOR Pg 2
S.B. ESD PROJECTS KICK OFF SANTA FE DEPT DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT Pg 3
TO CITIZENS IN THE INLAND EMPIRE Pg 3
IN CENTRAL SPEECHES AIMED AT LATINOS, OBAMA NEGLECTS WAR WHILE MCCAIN FUMBLES ON IMMIGRATION Pg 4
NEW REPORT REVEALS A LACK OF DIVERSITY IN ENGLISH PROFICIENT COMMUNITIES Pg 5
EDUCATION A FAMILY TRADITION Pg 7
FIRST 5 SAN BERNARDINO INVEST OVER $6 MILLION IN AGENCIES ASSISTING CHILDREN 0-5 YEARS OF AGE Pg 7

Continue on page 5

Continue on page 6
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**CONTENTS**

- Commentary
  - HARSHE STEREOPTYPES DAMAGE OUR COMMUNITY
    - By Eric K. Yamamoto, Susan K. Serrano and Moses Haia
  - PROTECTING OUR CITY
    - By Congressman Joe Baca

**COMMENTARY**

**HARSH STEREOTYPES DAMAGE OUR COMMUNITY**

By Eric K. Yamamoto, Susan K. Serrano and Moses Haia

Two weeks ago, Hawaii’s Latino American community was thrust into the public eye when City Councilmember Rod Tam used the derogatory term “wetbacks” during a council committee meeting to characterize undocumented workers from Mexico.

Hawaii’s Latino community spoke out strongly and appropriately against Tam’s characterization. Tam issued a tepid public apology and the council reprimanded him. There was a backlash: Latino community leaders received hostile calls and mail. Some expressed hatred for people of Mexican ancestry. Others simply said get over it; we make fun of groups in Hawaii.

Hawaii’s special mix of people and cultures is reflected in our aloha spirit. That spirit of inclusiveness is enlivened by values of tolerance and understanding. That spirit and those values are at stake.

History teaches that negative cultural representations of groups are not accidents or jokes. Instead they legitimize harsh, unfair treatment of group members. U.S. political leaders used derogatory slurs to demean Japanese in America as sinister and unassailable and to justify the groundless internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. To defend the need for U.S. annexation of Hawaii, politicians mischaracterized Native Hawaiians as uncivilized and childlike savages, labeling them “mongrels” and lepers in need of U.S. control.

Politicians also described Chinese as “miscreants” to push anti-Chinese sentiment. New California laborers and baring those in the U.S. (after finishing building the railroads) from working for local governments or businesses. Most notably, public officials used the N-word to denigrate and thereby legitimize the subordination (slavery, lynching, segregation and discrimination) of an entire race for 200 years. The word was a code for uncivilized, inferior and unworthy, and it thereby made dehumanizing treatment of African Americans seem acceptable (to some). In similar fashion, for generations, demeaning terms described women’s intellect and character in order to make their unequal treatment in all spheres of social life seem appropriate.

Deployed by decision-makers, negative group stereotypes block fair assessment of people as individuals and can legitimize sweeping unfair group treatment. This is why a government official’s use of a demeaning term in a public setting is wrong. Not because it offends someone’s sensibility. But because it has been (and can be) used to spur and justify harsh, unjust actions.

Government officials used “wetback” as a pejorative term for Mexican workers who crossed the Rio Grande and to justify a sweeping crackdown that injured not only Mexican citizens but also Mexican American political populaces. Politically popular in 1954, in a few short months the U.S.’s “Operation Wetback” expelled en masse more than 1 million Mexican immigrants (some documented, some not, many of whom had been solicited by the U.S. to work in the fields), along with American citizens of Mexican ancestry. The harsh stereotyping of Mexicans as sneaky, slippery and unwanted to legitimize the massive campaign spurred discrimination that persists today. And now, used to refer to Latinos generally, “wetback” is viewed as derogatory by both Latinos and non-

**PROTECTING OUR CITY**

By Congressman Joe Baca

In recent years the San Bernardino Police department has diligently battled crime and a growing gang element which is plagues many of our cities. Crime in our city can disrupt our daily lives, negatively influenced our youth and many times result in violent acts against innocent citizens. This violent behavior falls on local law enforcement to defend our streets and ensure our cities are safe environments. In today’s world, with crime growing and becoming more complex, it became clear to me something more needed to be done to combat these serious issues.

Last year I met with several local and federal agencies to better understand these problems, develop a plan to provide valuable resources that can assist our local police efforts address the issue of gun violence in our city. I placed a call to the Justice Department who referred me to their Special Agent in Charge, John A. Torres. I relayed our need for manpower resources that would work with local law enforcement and be established locally. The result was the introduction of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT). Since its placement 12 months ago for a one year assignment, the San Bernardino VCIT team worked tirelessly to identify, target, apprehend and help prosecute the worst-of-the-worst criminals. Assisting the San Bernardino Police Department, they are responsible for more than 200 violent offender arrests and the seizure of hundreds of firearms. Many of those arrested were leaders of local gang criminal street organizations. This violent behavior and the VCIT are helping to turn the tide.

Their success can be noted by the team’s placement on the “Top Gun List,” a nationwide ranking system for the VCIT. They are ranked in the top three out of 31 team’s nation wide.

This kind of effort and success has warranted the placement of a permanent satellite office in the city of San Bernardino. I am pleased to announce that San Bernardino is now one of only 31 cities across the United States to have a permanent Department of Justice, Violent Crime Impact Team to combat these dangerous criminals in their crime fighting responsibility.

I thank and congratulate this team along with the San Bernardino Police Department, our District Attorney’s Office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Immigration Customs Enforcement Agency for their on-going and much appreciated work. I am encouraged by their efforts that we as a community can work together to provide a safe and prosperous future for our citizens.

**CONGRESSMAN BACA MEETS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS/SANBAG TO DISCUSS 1-10 COMMERCE CORRIDOR**

Congressman Baca expresses importance of 1-10 Commerce Corridor and its significance to the Inland Empire.

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - Congressman Joe Baca met with elected officials, business owners, and members of SANBAG at the Historic Center State Theatre in Fontana to discuss the importance of the 1-10 Commerce Corridor. Highlights included the attendance of Senator Patty Murray, (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman Baca attended discussions with Senator Murray to give her a better understanding of the local, national and international significance of the 1-10 Corridor.

The 1-10 Corridor is the primary trade route carrying 43% of all imports and exports entering and leaving the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The 1-10 Commerce Corridor Coalition consists of the cities of Ontario, Fontana, Rialto, Colton, and San Bernardino. In its current state the 1-10 Corridor is inadequate to provide access to key distribution facilities and provide for the expanded goods through the Inland Empire and throughout the nation. The project will cost 1.7 billion dollars.

Senator Murray has advocated for increases in highway funding to help alleviate transportation problems facing Washington state and communities around the nation. Her discussions with Congressman Baca are significant to the residents and business owners of the 43rd Congressional district in light of its strategic importance to the nation.

"The 1-10 Commerce Corridor Project is vital for the economic stability of entire nation", said Congressman Baca. "My hope that Senator Murray has a larger understanding and awareness of how the projects in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach distribution flow, drive, live near or are the beneficiaries of these goods and services. This route runs through the heart of my district and I am working to do what it takes to improve the lives of those who are and will be affected by this project".

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S.B. EDA PROJECTS KICK OFF
SANTA FE DEPOT DISTRICT
REDEVELOPMENT

SAN BERNARDINO CA - The Economic Development Agency (EDA) announced that two milestones have been completed in the City's historic Santa Fe Depot District. With the recent soft grand opening of Superior Super Warehouse, the first phase milestone of the La Placita Plaza has kicked development into high gear on the City's transportation and multi-model growing west side.

In addition, the second milestone, the long-awaited Santa Fe Patron Brick Project that was initiated with former Mayor Judith Valles in 2004 to commemorate the $14 million restoration of the Santa Fe Depot, was completed and laid to rest at the lobby entrance of the Depot, courtesy of the Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 4 Apprenticeship, and the San Bernardino Adult Education Program. The community is invited to tour the beautiful new Superior Super Warehouse facility on Second Street and attend Mayor Pat Morris' "Great Event" on Thursday, July 12. The event will be held at the Santa Fe Depot on Third and "K" Streets. The multiple celebration will include the commemorative Santa Fe Patron Brick Project unveiling, the Depot's 90th Birthday and the opening of the new Historical and Railroad Museum.

Hundreds of residents previously flocked to La Placita's new 45,000 square feet market opening, setting the successful stage for the next stage retail and food court phase for La Placita Plaza, in partnership with Merona Enterprises in Downey, California and the City's Economic Development Agency.

"The DEA was instrumental in assembling and acquiring several critical adjacent land parcels for rezate to Merona for redevelopment of the area," said Emil Marzullo, Executive Director of the EDA. In October 2004, Merona acquired the site of the old Fedco building and former retail center. In November 2004 Merona approached the EDA about redeveloping their newly acquired property into a new shopping center that would complement the proposed renovations to the Santa Fe Depot.

"It was a long process to assemble the land and get the project moving forward, but with the help and encouragement of Maggie Pacheco, former EDA Executive Director, and Mike Trout, EDA Project Manager, we have been able to start turning our vision into reality," said Armando Delgado, Vice President of Merona Enterprises. Delgado further stated that "once the project is completed approximately 150 - 200 jobs would be created at the shopping center."

The Santa Fe Brick Patron funds that were collected at the Santa Fe Depot grand opening have been protected in a special non-profit account at the EDA until the bricks could be purchased from an approved historical brick resource. The bricks were then laser engraved in Northern California with railroad personnel and family sentiments "written into history" on individual and sponsored bricks then, finally, an approved brick mason secured to sand-lay the bricks in between the existing 1928 original historical bricks at the entrance to the Depot lobby.

For additional information on La Placita Plaza development, call Mike Trout, Project Manager at the Economic Development Agency, 909-663-1044; for information on the Santa Fe Depot's Great Event, call D'Ann Lanning in the Mayor's Office 909-384-5133.

TO CITIZENS IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

I am writing from my heart in hopes of garnering your support to fight against Multiple Myeloma. My friend Veronica Amezcua is afflicted with this disease. She is 32 years old, a wonderful daughter, wife and mother. There is no cure to date. Scientists are searching for a cure and there is hope that with new drugs and treatments that our loved ones lives will be prolonged by placing the Cancer into remission. This is a long emotional and physical road that requires a Stem Cell Transplant from a donor. I ask for your support to either donate blood or platelets at the City of Hope. You can also consider signing up on the Stem Cell Registry in support of my friend’s fight. Veronica is currently going through 3 bags of blood and platelets a week until a stem cell donor can be found. Until then, it is our hope that we can have our friends and families donate blood and platelets once a week to the City of Hope donor center (www.cityofhope.org/BloodDonorCenter).

Thank you again for your support in responding to this heartfelt request. Love and Peace.
Candidates Obama and McCain are gearing up to do what the mainstream media is touting as a “mini-Latino voter tour” that includes speeches at the LULAC Convention and speeches at the National Council of La Raza’s (NCLR) convention in San Diego next week. For discussion’s sake, let’s do as the mainstream media does and forget that the voice of LULAC is but a very well-funded voice in a cacophony made up of more than 40 million Latino voices and thousands of Latino organizations in the U.S.

And, in the name of being part of this often inane (as in anybody seen joining the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and other armed forces) conversation labeled “Latino politics”, let’s also ignore that, lurking beneath that brown blob of a media prisoner population) “Pentagono” (the multi-billion dollar efforts to trick Latino youth into military. Again, WAR, not immigration is the number 1 issue for Latinos by large margins: the number 1 issue for Latino children and adults) “pobreza” (the unprecedented challenge of a country in which the wealthiest 1% has over $2 trillion more than the bottom 90%, according to the Nation magazine.

In other words, the candidates won’t be asked in Espanol or en Ingles, “How come the wealthiest 1% has $19 trillion while the rest of us 300,000,000 only have a combined wealth totaling less than $17 trillion?”

So, let’s “hope” that the larger, better-funded NCLR event brings us fewer “Si se puede”’s and more of things like “substancia”, “realidad” and “transparencia”.

Roberto Lovato, Contributing Associate Editor New America Media 244 Madison Avenue, #149, New York, NY 10016 blog: www.ofamerica.wordpress.com www.newamericamedia.org

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**LATINO NETWORK-THIRD ANNUAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

Continued from page 1

The agenda’s subjects included:
- Status of Underserved Population-speaker Don Ajene Wilcoxson, Associate Professor of Business at RCC; Nuts and Bolts of the political process and Budget Process-speaker Dr. Lyn Greene, RCCD, Associate Dean and professor of Political Science; Social and Cultural Capital-speaker Marilyn Martinez-Flores, Ph.D., Dean of Academic Support; RCC; Community Legacies-a three-generational family speakers-Miguel Figueroa, father/grandfather, civil rights and political activist, Alfredo Figueroa Guevara, granddaughter/daughter, executive director of Concilio for Spanish Speaking, Inland Empire and community activist;
- An added component to this year’s agenda included a Leadership Principals Panel-with speakers: Ninfa E. Delgado, Vice President of Programs, Riverside Community Health Foundation, Mary Figueroa, retired correctional officer, RCCD three-termed Board of Trustee member, Richard D. Sandoval, president/CEO, RDS Media Group, producer of Hispanic Lifestyle, Inland Empire Image Awards, Latina Conference/Business Expo and Dr. Jonathan Yorba, City of Riverside Cultural Affairs Manager-Department of Economic Development.

One of the highlights of the program were local motivational speakers: artist Cosme Cordova, owner of Division 9, co-founder of Downtown Riverside Arts Walk; Juan Felipe Herrera, Tomás Rivera Endowed Chair in Creative Writing at UCR, and author of over 20 volumes of published poetry and children’s books and young novels, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students Juan Carlos Lucio-Vega and Yasmine Salas, accepted at UCR’s “Bridges Across Riverside” Fellowship. Lucio-Vega is majoring in chemical engineering and Salas in environmental engineering; Jorge Hernandez, attorney with over 18 years in criminal law experience and college instructor; and Latino Network’s Leadership Institute Alumnus (2007), individually speaking on past experiences, future plans and responses to inquiries.

“It is anticipated that this investment in our young people will encourage them to become participants in future commitments to the Latino Network Leadership Institute, their colleges and universities and the City of Riverside,” stated Patricia Reynolds, Latino Network president.

Latino Network Leadership Institute was sponsored by the City of Riverside, Riverside City College, Altura Credit Union, Riverside Community Health Foundation, Logo Magic Embroidery and private citizens.

**S. B. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DR. HERBERT FISCHER ANNOUCES RETIREMENT**

Continued from page 1

The fastest growing group of people serving in America’s military is women. More than 155,000 women have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002.

Veterans Administration officials estimate that the amount of female veterans who use VA services will double in the next five years. Our women veterans face unique physical and mental health care needs, especially in regards to Military Sexual Trauma.

Urge your Senator to improve the health care for our women veterans.

About one in every three female veterans who sought health care from the VA said they experienced rape or attempted rape during their service. Of that group, 37 percent reported they were raped multiple times and 14 percent said they were gang-raped.

One study concluded that sexual assault is 3 to 10 times more prevalent for women serving in the armed forces than for women in the general population. The Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2008 (S.2799), a bipartisan legislation introduced in the Senate last month, will dramatically increase the care available to our women veterans, including authorizing programs to improve care for Military Sexual Trauma.

The bill will also increase research on the current barriers to care and expand staff positions for women at the VA.

Give women veterans the access to the care they need!

Thank you for doing your part to change the VA system to meet women veterans’ needs.

Care2.com Inc. 275 Shoreline Driver, Ste 300, Redwood City, CA 94065 Http://www.care2.com at end of article thanks, LLAnna - Care2.com

**IMPROVE CARE FOR SEXUALLY ABUSED WOMEN VETERANS**

**Commentary**

**HARSH STEREOTYPES DAMAGE OUR COMMUNITY**

By Eric K. Yamamoto, Susan K. Serrano and Moses Haia

Continued on page 2

Latinos. A public official’s use of this term taps into this history and these stereotypic images: Latinos as outsiders and therefore unfit for our community.

But Latino Americans are not “outsiders” to Hawaii’i - from the Mexican cowboys brought from California in the 1830s to teach Hawaiians the art of cattle ranching, to the several thousand Puerto Ricans brought at the turn of the 20th century to work on Hawaii’i’s sugar plantations. Kachi-kachi music, pastelés, and gandule rice are just one part of that legacy. Latinos of many backgrounds are now a part of the economy and the cultural mix that make Hawaii’i special.

The U.S. Census says that there are now nearly 100,000 Latinos in Hawaii’i. Hawaii’i’s Latino American community is not arguing in favor of unlawful immigration. Nor is it saying that Councilmember Tam should refrain from discussing immigration policy. But it is saying that those discussions must avoid the kind of derogatory stereotyping that breeds intolerance and misunderstanding.

When any among us ask for understanding - like the Latino American community and friends are doing now - our Hawaii’s community needs to open our hearts and minds, and take the time to learn and interact. This is the time for everyone to dial down the heated rhetoric, to listen and learn from and about each other. It is the time to live our values of understanding and tolerance - in the genuine spirit of aloha.

Eric K. Yamamoto is a professor of law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, Susan K. Serrano is director of educational development at the Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law-William S. Richardson School of Law. Moses Haia is a staff attorney at the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. They wrote this commentary for The Advertiser.

Equal Justice Society, 220 Sansom St, 14* St., San Francisco, CA 94104, Ph (415) 288-8700

**There is Hope**
NEW REPORT REVEALS A LACK OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR IMMIGRANT AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT COMMUNITIES

LOS ANGELES, CA - The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) released a joint study today which finds that immigrant and limited English proficient populations are not fully incorporated in disaster preparedness educational efforts and emergency response plans.

The report - "Disaster Preparedness in Urban Immigrant Communities: Lessons Learned from Recent Catastrophic Events and Their Relevance to Latino and Asian Communities in Southern California" - was prepared with assistance from the Asian American Justice Center. The study examines selected Latino and Asian immigrant communities in Southern California for disaster education and response preparations in order to improve disaster awareness among immigrant community members and to help emergency response personnel better serve limited English speaking populations.

Key findings in the report include:

- A lack of disaster preparedness materials in languages other than English that reflect the demographics of the service populations.

- A shortage of bilingual staff and volunteers among emergency response crews and nonprofits that typically do outreach during emergencies.

- That ethnic media outlets are underutilized as important tools for communication with immigrant and limited English speaking communities.

- Concern that members of the immigrant community will not come forward for assistance for fear that their status will come into question.

The report recommends that federal and state governments establish a baseline of minimal secondary language resources and that local agencies take a lead in creating informational materials and response plans that take into account the language needs of their constituents. Current state legislative efforts to address this issue include AB 1930 (Torrico) which would build upon our existing emergency preparedness system and incorporate the language needs of Californians in disaster preparedness planning, response, and recovery.

Governments must also address a key concern among some immigrants that seeking emergency help could result in deportation or lead to problems with receiving benefits. "When you have a major disaster and people flee their homes, immigration documents may well be lost," said Harry Pachon, President of TRPI. "Our field researchers heard reports that people were turned away for assistance in New Orleans because they couldn't prove their legal residency status. Others avoided reaching out for help because of their fear of being deported."

"This study shows that we are ill-prepared to serve the limited English proficient community in the event of a major catastrophic disaster," said Stewart Kwoh, Executive Director of APALC. "By not taking into account the special needs and concerns of these communities in our disaster preparedness and response plans, we are putting many lives at risk."

The project, conducted over two years, involved two focus groups of Latino residents, one of Mandarin speaking residents and another comprised of Vietnamese speaking residents. Researchers also interviewed 34 members of disaster service providers, non-profit organizations and ethnic organizations in Southern California. Additional interviews focused on emergency service providers in the quake-affected areas of Northridge, Calif. (1994) and the Hurricane Katrina disaster areas in Louisiana (2005). The study addresses the need to prepare for similar large-scale emergencies and man-made disasters. The U.S. Geological Survey forecasts that California has a 46 percent chance of an earthquake with at least a 7.5 magnitude in the next 30 years.

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S.B. COUNTY BOARD SELECTS THOMAS TO FILL SUPERINTENDENT VACANCY

"I am pleased that the County Board has selected Gary Thomas to succeed me when I retire in August," Fischer said. In his past five years with County Schools, his knowledge, expertise and leadership have greatly benefited our districts and staff."

The County Board voted 3-2 to accept Thomas as Fischer’s replacement. The next election for the county superintendent position will be in November 2010.

"I felt Gary can continue on the outstanding foundation Herb Fischer has built in his 10 years as county superintendent," said Al Waner, president of the County Board.

Thomas has more than 29 years of experience working in public education. He began his educational career as a teacher for Charter Oak Unified in 1979 and as a principal for Hesperia Unified in 1986. Prior to coming to County Schools in 2003, Thomas served as the district superintendent for Silver Valley Unified and Lucerne Valley Unified school districts.

"Dr. Fischer has built a tremendous structure over the past 10 years at County Schools," Thomas said. "It is imperative that we continue to focus on the countyside efforts to boost student achievement, as well as provide 21st century preparedness for all students."

"I want to continue to support our local district needs. In addition, I want to continue to provide our own County Schools’ facilities and programs for our special needs, alternative, juvenile hall and preschool students."

Thomas added that he will continue to support the powerful partnerships that have been formed with business, labor, community and faith-based individuals and organizations to bring relevance and rigor to curriculum. He also wants to build upon the partnerships with regional community colleges and universities to help adopt seamless transitions from K-12 schools into higher education.

Another pressing concern is the state budget. "We will closely monitor the developments in Sacramento to help ensure that our public schools are adequately funded," Thomas said.

"The emphasis, to support low-performing schools countywide, as well as focus to close the access and achievement gaps that exist in our schools will remain a priority," Thomas said.

In addition, Thomas said the work of strong programs like Advancement Via Individual Determination, Gangs and Drugs Task Force will continue in their prominence through the County Schools’ office.

"I look forward to working with Dr. Fischer, the staff, the district superintendents and our many education partners as the county superintendent," Thomas said.

A graduate of Cal State University, Los Angeles, Thomas received his master’s degree and educational doctorate from the University of La Verne.
Leyla Enciso Avila has always been a strong advocate for education. For starters, she graduated from Pacific High School in 1975. While raising four boys, she enrolled at Cal-State University, San Bernardino, graduating in 1990 with an education major. “Leyla is a very dedicated math teacher at San Gorgonio High School,” said her sister, Alycia Enciso.

Alycia set the example for her four sons who were inspired to follow in her footsteps. Son Eric graduated from CSUSB with a major in Kinesiology and is a Physical Education teacher at Hesperia Junior High School, Gregory (twin) graduated from CSUSB in Criminal Justice while working at UPS. Nicolas (twin) is currently a student at CSUSB, majoring in Kinesiology while working at UPS, and Felix Jr. graduated from San Diego State University and is in sales at Neiman Marcus.

Leyla Enciso Avila’s parents were Frank “Paco” and Alicia Enciso. The family included Jimmie, Alycia, Frank, Janina, Carmen, Leyla, Sergio, Leonard, Patricia, and Carlos. “My parents were great role models for us, according to Alycia Enciso. Above all, Paco and his wife, Alicia, were very family oriented and close-knit with their children, according to Alycia Enciso.

The Enciso extended family siblings were well known in the Westside community of San Bernardino, established a strong tradition of business enterprises and civic involvement. Guadalupe and Juan Enciso, the first local generation, founded the Esperanza Markets in Colton and Mount Vernon Avenue, San Bernardino in 1930, selling the markets in 1936. The family reopened the market in San Bernardino in 1950. Paco Enciso managed the market for many years with his siblings Teresa, Lupe, Tula, and Alfredo.

Paco Enciso was one of the founders of the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, Mexican Village at the Orange Show and fiestas, actively involved in many civic activities in the Westside. Later on, he started Paco’s DriveTru Restaurant on Highland Avenue. Above all, Paco and his wife, Alicia, were very family oriented and close-knit with their children, according to Alycia Enciso.

The Enciso’s children have become businesspersons, professionals and contributed to the community as have their descendants.

Under Community Investments contracts, in which partner agencies focus on health care access for children, prenatal care and children with special needs, First 5 San Bernardino invested over $1.1 million in additional program funds. The partnering agencies in this category include Latino Health Collaborative, Water of Life Community Outreach, American Lung Association, Mountains Community Hospital, and many more. Services provided by these agencies include treatment and follow up for substance abusing moms- to-be, providing dental care to children 0-5 years of age, and promoting the importance of breastfeeding and baby bonding.

First 5 San Bernardino invested over $2.1 million over the next three years to agencies providing Resource Centers and Parenting Education Services. Agencies that received portions of this money include Para Los Niños Association, Priscilla’s Helping Hands, San Bernardino County Unified School District Adult School and several other non profit organizations dedicated the providing direct services. The services that these partner agencies provide range from case management programs for families in crisis to mentoring and support for parents who seek additional assistance in raising their under five children.

The Enciso Avila family during graduation ceremonies. (I to r) Eric, mother Leyla Enciso Avila, Gregory and Nicolas (twins). The Enciso family and extended siblings have helped develop the Westside Bernardino and involvement in numerous community affairs. Photo courtesy of Alycia Enciso.
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applications for residency.

TELACU Las Palomas (202/PRAC), 3834 Monterey Ave.
Baldwin Park, 91706—(626) 480-1665
TELACU Senior Court (202/8), 14442 Pacific Ave.
Baldwin Park, 91706—(626) 813-9937
TELACU Villa (202/8), 25105 Fir Ave.
Moreno Valley, 92553—(951) 486-9842

To be eligible, the primary applicant must be 62 years of age for the Section 202
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You may obtain a copy of the TSP by calling the number listed below. Complete
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