



**Office of the Mayor  
City of Los Angeles**

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

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### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA PICKS SEASONED EDUCATION TEAM TO LEAD PARTNERSHIP FOR LA SCHOOLS**

***Two months after parents and teachers vote to join the Partnership, Mayor Villaraigosa's team is on-the-ground working with teachers and parents reforming our schools***

LOS ANGELES – Two months after teachers and parents at six LAUSD schools voted to join the Partnership for LA Schools, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today announced his education leadership team, appointing veteran school reformer Angela Bass as the Superintendent of Instruction.

Mayor Villaraigosa also outlined the work already being done at each of the six schools that are giving teachers, parents and students a real voice in setting priorities and driving change while they transition to join The Partnership this July.

“Today we announce an outstanding leader who joins an all-star team to lead our drive to reform,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “As Superintendent of Instruction, Angela Bass brings an almost 30-year track record as an educator and change agent within San Diego Unified where for the past nine years she has lead one of the most successful school reform efforts in America.”

Bass comes to the Partnership from the San Diego Unified School District – the second largest in California – having spent the past nine years helping to lead one of the most dynamic and successful school reform efforts in the nation.

“I believe teaching our children to become competent and coherent thinkers, readers, writers, and speakers, is the only viable way to achieve social justice,” Bass said. “Our students come to us with the very best they have to offer. They come with brilliant minds eager to learn and hearts ready to receive. It is our responsibility to give them the education they deserve.”

Under Bass' leadership, student achievement in San Diego Unified accelerated at a faster rate according to state (API) and federal (AYP) accountability measures.

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She also implemented a district-wide mathematics program in 2003 that improved math scores and increased the number of students to proficient and advance levels by approximately 8% each year.

Ms. Bass' resume is attached, which includes a complete listing of her accomplishments.

"Coming from the second-largest school district in California, Angela could have chosen to have hundreds of schools in her charge," Villaraigosa said.

"Angela picked this challenge because like me, she believes that success at the Partnership means reaching well beyond its six schools, success means changing the DNA of this District. And that change has already begun."

Mayor Villaraigosa today also outlined the work already being done at each of the six schools to prepare them for joining The Partnership this July 2008.

Villaraigosa described four major initiatives underway:

- ***Transition Teams***

Transition Teams are forming at each school to build the infrastructure and management systems needed to transition from schools run by a central bureaucracy to autonomous schools run by the individual school community.

The Transition Teams are comprised of teachers, administrators, classified staff, students, parents and community members and represent Villaraigosa's central education philosophy that the best schools are fueled by local control and empowered teachers and parents.

- ***School Data Profiles***

A data profile of each school with comprehensive and detailed statistics including, but on limited to, math and English scores, API scores, achievement gap data and attendance rates will allow The Partnership to develop goals and strategies for school improvement.

Currently, schools collect data on test scores and API scores but the data only strikes the surface. The Partnership's School Data Profiles will offer the type of detail needed for a sophisticated analysis on why students and schools are not excelling, and where resources should be focused to push scores up.

- ***Student Achievement Plans***

The Student Achievement Plan is based on the LAUSD's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).

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Just like the School Data Profile, The Partnership will take the Student Achievement Plan to a new level. Currently, these plans are vague setting broad goals without comprehensive data or strategies to drive change.

Our Student Achievement Plans will provide a detailed description of how each school will achieve its goals and how each school's strategies will be changed working with the Partnership.

- **School Surveys**

And at each school, surveys are being conducted to capture the school's immediate needs and define short-term priorities.

These surveys will not only allow The Partnership to make immediate changes and bring needed resources to schools in the short-term, it will help establish a pattern of decision-making based on collaboration and a focused management style.

#### PARTNERSHIP TEAM

Leading the Partnership for LA Schools will be Chief Executive Officer Marshall Tuck, who previously served as Mayor Villaraigosa's senior education advisor and as President and Chief Operating Officer of Green Dot Public Schools – one of the leading charter school operators in the country.

Mark Kleger-Heine – currently serving as the Mayor's education advisor – will take on the position of Chief Operating Officer for the Partnership.

Rounding out the Partnership's leadership team are Family of Schools Leader Staci Monreal; Instructional Support Manager Raquel Nunez; and School Support Services Manager Erica Balakian.

Biographies of the education team are summarized below.

#### **ANGELA BASS**

*Superintendent of Instruction*

Prior to joining the Partnership, Bass served as Executive Director of Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence in the Office of the Superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District. In this position, Bass oversaw training efforts for teachers district-wide and designed a strategic plan to reform schools throughout San Diego.

Previously, as an Assistant Superintendent in the San Diego Unified School District, Bass worked with school site leaders, teachers, staff, parents and students to close the achievement gap by gaining significant increases in both English Language Arts and Mathematics for children of various ethnicities as well as English language learners.

Bass' experience in teaching dates back to 1976, when she first worked as a pre-school teacher for the United Way. Since coming to the San Diego schools in 1979, she has served as an elementary school teacher; Race/Human Relations coordinator for more than 75 district schools; vice principal at a large, urban and diverse elementary school; principal at two different campuses; and Mentor Principal to aspiring educational leaders.

## **MARSHALL TUCK**

*CEO*

Tuck joined the Mayor's staff in 2007 to help lead the effort to improve public education for students throughout Los Angeles. Prior to joining the Mayor's office, Tuck served as President and COO of Green Dot Public Schools, one of the leading charter school operators in the nation. During Tuck's time there, Green Dot students outperformed their peers at similar schools in terms of academic achievement and graduation rates.

Before his work at Green Dot, Tuck was the General Manager of the Strategic Accounts group at Model N, a successful enterprise software company. He also worked as an investment banker at Salomon Brothers and as a volunteer Math and English teacher in Zimbabwe and Thailand.

Tuck graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Political Science from UCLA and received an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

## **MARK KLEGER-HEINE**

*COO*

Kleger-Heine joined the Mayor's staff after four years at McKinsey and Company, the global management consulting firm. At McKinsey, he worked on a variety of strategic planning projects for public, non-profit and Fortune 500 clients.

Prior to joining McKinsey, Kleger-Heine served as Deputy Director for Project GRAD Los Angeles and taught Math to 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in Brooklyn, New York.

Kleger-Heine has an MBA from Columbia Business School, an MPA from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, and a BA in Psychology from Yale University.

## **STACI MONREAL**

*Family of Schools Leader*

Monreal has spent her career focused on improving the conditions for children in public schools. Most recently she served as a principal in an inner-city school where she and her team created a school focused on instructional improvement, high quality learning experiences and improving student achievement.

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Prior to serving as principal, Staci served as Director of Literacy, Bi-literacy and Social Studies for the San Diego Unified School District. She provided academic and operational direction for curriculum and instructional practices in 176 schools within a large urban district, with 147,000 students. She directed a professional development budget of over \$16 million for the implementation of adult learning for 7,000 teachers and over 250 administrators.

Monreal has taught instructional leadership courses at University of San Diego and has consulted as a principal coach in Flint Community Schools. She received a BA in Liberal Studies from San Diego State University and an MS in Educational Leadership from National University.

### **RAQUEL NUNEZ**

*Instructional Support Manager*

Nunez brings nearly a decade of teaching experience to the Partnership for LA Schools. Most recently, she worked as an English Learner Resource Teacher in the San Diego Unified School District, developing an English language curriculum for elementary school students and ensuring that local school programs aligned to state language proficiency standards.

Nunez previously served as a Peer Coach and Staff Developer at Logan Elementary in San Diego, helping to strengthen approaches to literacy and language skills training for fellow instructors. She also taught English Language Learners in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Logan, as well as literacy courses for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at Nelson Elementary in the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District.

Nunez holds an MA and PhD in Education from Claremont Graduate University, and a BA in Sociology and Studio Art from Pitzer College.

### **ERICA BALAKIAN**

*School Support Services Manager*

Prior to joining the Partnership, Balakian worked for the San Diego Unified School District for nine years and held both central office and school site positions, including stints in the offices of Standards and Assessment, Planning and Accountability, and School Site and Instructional Operations.

Balakian also has private sector experience, including two years in marketing services and three years in project management for an aerospace manufacturer.

Balakian holds a BA in Economics from California State University-San Marcos and an MBA from San Diego State University.