



**April/May 2011**

**Spring brings an array of good news in the Tustin Unified School District**

The Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan research and educational institute, recently published a report culminating a yearlong effort to study the educational productivity of more than 9,000 school districts in the United States.

The Center selected districts that teach kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, with enrollment of at least 250 students. In California, 308 districts met the conditions to be included in the research group.

The Tustin Unified School District was one of only 17 districts in California and two in Orange County to fall into the highest productivity category. Just over 5% of the school districts in the study earned this distinction.

Researchers found that highly productive school districts share a number of attributes: focus on student performance; working effectively with the community, employee associations and the school board; willingness to make hard fiscal decisions while preserving essential services; placing a priority on quality instruction; and using sophisticated data systems to analyze student results.

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Tustin Unified recently held groundbreaking ceremonies for Tustin High School's new Sports Pavilion and Foothill High School's new Event Center.

The Tustin High Sports Pavilion is approximately 29,000 square feet and will include a lobby, basketball/volleyball courts, dance room, team rooms, storage, concessions, bleachers, ticket booths and restrooms. The project is being funded through the Measure G and L campus modernization programs.

The Foothill Event Center is approximately 33,000 square feet and will include a lobby, basketball/volleyball courts, storage, stage/platform and theatrical lighting. In addition, there will be a two-story building that houses four classroom spaces to be used as dance room, weight room, wrestling room and general physical education. The project is being funded through the Measure L campus modernization program.

Both gyms are scheduled to be completed by spring 2012. Art renderings of both facilities are posted on the District's web sites at [www.TUSDMeasureG.org](http://www.TUSDMeasureG.org) and [www.TUSDMeasureL.org](http://www.TUSDMeasureL.org).

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The following Tustin Unified administrators have been named 2011 Orange County Administrators of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17: Dr. Julie Mitchell, Chief Personnel Officer – Personnel & Human Resources Administrator of the Year. Tracey Vander Hayden, Principal, Pioneer Middle School – Professor of Education Award. Angela Yeh, Assistant Principal, Pioneer Middle School – Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year.

They will be honored at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual ACSA "Administrator of the Year and Friends of Education Awards" Dinner on May 9 at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. Region 17 represents 21 school districts in Orange County.

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Arroyo Elementary School has been selected as a 2011 SMART Showcase Elite School. Beginning this year, 25 Showcase Schools will be recognized as Elite for the duration of each calendar year. Arroyo is the only school in California and one of the 25 showcase schools in the nation to be chosen for this honor.

Showcase Elite Schools are those that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to utilizing the SMART Board in all classrooms to create appealing, interactive learning environments that increase student engagement and learning.

As a 2011 Elite School, Arroyo received a \$5,000 interactive whiteboard system and commemorative plaque to display at the school. Throughout the year, Arroyo will also act as the host site to share their success story with other educators in the area who may be interested in learning how this technology can improve teaching and learning.

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Tustin Unified is hosting its first Career Technical Education Fair on Friday, June 3 at the Tustin High School Plaza, 1171 El Camino Real. The purpose of this fair is to invite local colleges and career technical education programs to share their certificate programs with students. TUSD is working together with different community colleges, the Coastline ROP Career Specialist and Vital Link to put together this program for students. Vital Link is a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting public school districts and businesses throughout Orange County. For more information, call (714) 730-7301, ext. 323.

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