



Long Beach Mayor and Mayor's Fund for Education Announce ReadyRosie, a New District-Wide Program

Program to support early childhood education and kindergarten-readiness.

February 2, 2018

Long Beach, CA - At an event held at the Queen Mary Thursday evening, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia announced the launch of a new program supporting family engagement and universal access to quality early childhood education by the Mayor's Fund for Education. The ReadyRosie program, sponsored by Boeing, is not only the first of its kind in Long Beach, but will also be launched district-wide, across each Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) preschools, within each City of Long Beach Public Library branches, and with a handful of private preschool providers.

Mayor Garcia was joined by Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, LBUSD Board of Education President, Megan Kerr, Boeing Global Engagement Manager, Vanessa Smith, numerous Long Beach elected officials, and other education partners in touting the program's benefits.



Pictured: Mayor Robert Garcia

"Investing in quality early education is one of the most effective ways to increase high school graduation and college success," said Mayor Garcia. "Helping equip parents and care-givers with the resources to teach their children early reading and STEM skills will make sure that all children have an opportunity to succeed in school, regardless their family's of socio-economic status."



Pictured: Event guests

ReadyRosie provides an online platform, accessible by email or text message, that allows parents and families to engage consistently and effectively in their children's learning. The ReadyRosie program is available in English and Spanish (with exploration underway into producing content in Khmer) and provides a self-directed, digital platform for parents/families to access activities, best practices, and curated content to help engage their children in developmentally-appropriate learning.



Pictured: Karissa Selvester, Mayor's Fund for Education; Mayor Robert Garcia; Vanessa Smith, Boeing; Tamika Lang, Boeing

"It is new partnerships like this one that really get me excited, both as a parent and as a Boeing employee," said Vanessa Smith, Boeing Community Investor. "Through this program, we are able to provide parents and caregivers easy-to-access tools that harness our little one's natural curiosity from day one!"

The event highlighted the Fund's Year One accomplishments and its continued success in the area of early childhood education. During its pilot year, ReadyRosie will be offered to Pre-K students. However, discussions are already underway to expand the program to grades K thru 5. LBUSD School Board President Megan Kerr spoke of the



Pictured: Mayor Robert Garcia congratulates student musician Visud Chang (7th Grade, Hughes)



Pictured: LBUSD Board of Education President, Megan Kerr



Pictured: Karissa Selvester, Mayor's Fund for Education; Mayor Robert Garcia; Emily Roden, ReadyRosie Founder

continued collaboration between LBUSD and the Mayor's Fund on critical issues facing early childhood education.

"LBUSD is thankful to have collaborative partners like the Mayor's Fund for Education," said Kerr. "Helping all children become kindergarten-ready and supporting family-engagement not only sets students on a trajectory for success, but also helps our teachers build upon a strong foundation of skills. We couldn't be more excited about the ReadyRosie program coming to Long Beach and for the benefit it will offer to all our families."

Attendees of the event were also treated to a two-week free trial of the ReadyRosie platform (courtesy of ReadyRosie Founder, Emily Roden) so they could see for themselves the opportunities the program offers in the way of engaging children's learning from birth through third grade (expanding to fifth grade soon).

"We at ReadyRosie are thrilled to bring the program to Long Beach," said Roden. "We have been impressed with the unique approach of having a community partner like the Mayor's Fund for Education, focused on partnering with a variety of education providers, administer the program. I'm confident the program will yield great benefits in a City as collaborative as this one."

For more information on ReadyRosie, including a list of participating sites, please visit <http://mayorsfundforded.org/readyrosie>

About the Mayor's Fund

The Mayor's Fund for Education works closely with community and education partners to support their programs in three primary focus areas: Early Childhood Education, Internships, and College Completion. 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. The Mayor's Fund is a non-profit organization, separate from the City of Long Beach or Mayor's Office, operating under the umbrella of its fiscal agent 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.mayorsfundforded.org and follow the LB Mayor's Fund for Education on Facebook and Twitter.

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