

South Bay Cities

Featuring the Weekly Newspapers of Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lawndale

Hawthorne Press Tribune
The Weekly Newspaper of Hawthorne

Inglewood Daily News
The Weekly Newspaper of Inglewood

Lawndale Tribune
AND LAWDALE NEWS
The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

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Bio-Flex Graduates Recognized



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognized the first graduates of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program at a special breakfast reception and formal board presentation at the Hall of Administration. Photo: SBWIB

New Staff and Superintendent for Inglewood Unified School District

By Haleemon Anderson

With the formal contracts and compensation affirmed at last week’s meeting, the transformation of the Inglewood Unified School District Board is complete. All three executive positions on the administrative cabinet are now filled, as is the position of State Administrator.

Chief Human Resources Officer Hedieh Khajavi replaces Nora Roque. Dr. Bernadette C. Lewis is Chief Academic Officer, replacing Dr. Carmen Beck;, and Christine Dacanay replaces Eugenio Villa as Chief Business Officer.

The top position, vacated with the retirement of Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, is being covered by Deputy Superintendent of Los Angeles County Schools, Dr. Erika Torres. Torres becomes the sixth state appointee to helm the District in as many years.

Melendez’ exit, after two years, fell shy of her stated goal of returning the District to local control. While making some gains in stabilizing budget deficits and a small uptick in test scores, the District still faces challenges -- including a shortage of credentialed teachers and an influx of charter schools.

Torres announced a restructuring of the organizational chart for District leadership, and the creation of an executive position—Director of Operations. “The position will focus on safety in our schools and in the community,” said Torres. “School safety will be moved under Operations.”

Additionally, Torres talked about refocusing efforts on enrollment. “We have to be strategic in monitoring our charter schools,” she said. “We want to find ways to reengage students who have left our schools.”

The advisory wing of the Board is also undergoing change, with Area 5 Trustee Dr. D’Artagnan Scorza moving into the role of Board President. The other continuing members include Immediate Past President Dr. Carliss McGhee, Trustee Area 2; Board Vice President Dionne Faulk, Trustee Area 1; and Board Member Margaret Evans, Trustee Area 4. Mrs. Alice Grisby holds a provisional appointment to the seat vacated by Board Member Melody Ngaue-Tu’uholoaki, Trustee Area 3. Scorza thanked Melendez for her service, saying, “We are on the rise and have made significant progress.”

Board Member Evans announced a 5K Walk and Run to be scheduled for the spring. “Our goal is to get 100 participants from each school,” said Evans. She said the event will be part of an initiative to promote strong attendance as a component of health and wellness throughout the district.

Student representatives from City Honors and Inglewood High gave updates on campus activities. Montana Lemonious-Craig is helping to organize a Blood Drive at City Honors on Dec. 4. The senior wide receiver and captain of City Honors basketball and football teams, carries a 3.9 GPA. In his spare time, he is involved with the Dodgers RBI program and the Robotics Club.

Virginia Williams is ASB President at Inglewood High. She reported on a successful college and career fair last month, with over 45 colleges and companies participating. Williams congratulated the Inglewood Sentinels on their undefeated season (10-0) and their drive to the playoffs.

The Inglewood Unified School District Board meets once monthly. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 5:30 p.m. at 401 S. Inglewood Avenue, in the Dr. Ernest Shaw Board Room. •



Dr. Erika Torres is the new State Administrator for Inglewood Unified School District.

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Partly
Cloudy
66°/55°



Saturday
Sunny
72°/59°



Sunday
Sunny
81°/59°

