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**DISTRICT TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS ATTEND
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE**

Eleven Laguna Beach Unified School District teachers and two counselors recently attended a three-day workshop at the Professional Learning Communities Institute in Riverside, California.

The Professional Learning Communities is intended to help educators employ the most beneficial practices and strategies by working together to achieve the best learning opportunities for their students.

The conference, which is hosted by three renowned authors and nationally recognized education authorities Richard DuFour, Dr. Robert Eaker and Rebecca DuFour, was comprised of lectures and breakout sessions that each participant could select based on their needs and interests.

Dr. Steven Keller, Assistant Superintendent explains, “The Professional Learning Communities model emphasizes student performance *and* achievement. Teachers, not a teacher or administrator in isolation, are the critical contributors in the PLC process. Because LBUSD has the best and brightest teachers, I am confident that students will benefit tremendously from the PLC model.”

Among the teachers who attended the conference was Mark Alvarez, who was hired recently to teach Social Sciences at the high school. Mr. Alvarez found the workshop very helpful, “As a new teacher this gives me a clear idea of the direction the district is going and their dedicated commitment to improving our schools.” He felt the message of the workshop was powerful and said this about his experience, “The conference highlighted the benefits of working collaboratively with your peers making certain that you are not working in isolation.”

Patti Rabun, an eight-year veteran of Top of the World Elementary School, found the workshop thought-provoking. “The professional learning community creates an environment where we teachers collaborate effectively with our colleagues; stop working in isolation, and start working together interdependently toward the development of higher performing students.”

Also attending was Gretchen Ernsdorf, Laguna Beach High School counselor. She said this about the seminar, “The Richard DuFour conference on Building a Professional Learning Community was a wonderful experience. A learning community is a different way to function as a school; with collaborative teams leading the way. LBUSD already thinks as a community so it is exciting to examine the possibilities within our schools.”