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Visionary Plan Becomes a Reality for Laguna Students

Recognizing that academic achievement scores and standardized test results represent very important although limited viewpoints of student capabilities, Theresa Daem, Laguna Beach Unified District School Superintendent, envisioned a plan that would look at each student as a whole child in a multi-dimensional way. In conjunction with the Quest for Excellence (Q4E) Committee, Q4E subcommittees began researching and planning ways to promote student excellence across many dimensions, including high levels of wellness, life-long fitness, social, emotional development, and academic depth. Clearly, strong development in all of these areas contribute to overall achievement, including test scores.

Resulting from the findings of the committees, Laguna Beach Unified School District announced a visionary plan to develop an Individualized Student Profile (ISP) for every student in the district. Dr. Gary Greene, Professor of Special Education at California State University, Long Beach, has been appointed to lead the effort to develop an ISP process and reporting format. A local resident as well as a parent and Q4E Committee member, Dr. Greene also serves the district as chair of the Q4E Subcommittee SEED (Social and Emotional Education Development). Steven Keller, Assistant Superintendent comments on Dr. Greene's outstanding qualifications for this role, "Dr. Greene is the ideal selection for this position. His education, experience, and understanding of the Laguna Beach community are stellar. He is a student advocate and impresses us all with his ethic of care. He has been a strong leader on the SEED subcommittee. Heck, he has bossed me around plenty!"

Dr. Keller continues with his praise, "This position is critical to the development and implementation of a comprehensive support system. With the right person driving this bus, enhancing the LBUSD *"total student experience"* will move from a dream to a reality."

Dr. Greene plans to begin work immediately on the ISP development by engaging in discussions with a variety of the constituents of our school district, and researching existing curriculum that measures student capabilities in multi-dimensional ways. His goal is to produce an ISP process, assessment instruments, and a catalogue of supplemental resources that will be piloted during the 2005-2006 academic year.