



**PRESS  
RELEASE**

# Bassett Unified School District

on the move

904 North Willow Avenue ■ La Puente, CA 91746 ■ (626) 931-3000 ■ (626) 931-3020 ■ [www.bassettusd.org](http://www.bassettusd.org)

**For Immediate Release**

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## Summer Academy Drives Middle School Students to Pursue Careers in Medicine and Engineering

**LA PUENTE, CA** – Torch Middle School seventh-grader Ana Simon can check a person’s blood pressure, perform basic first aid and create a splint to immobilize broken bones thanks to Bassett Unified’s second annual middle school summer academy.

The program confirmed Simon’s desire to pursue medicine after learning she can have a career dedicated to helping people.

“I’ve always wanted to work in medicine to help people, either as a pediatrician or as a pharmacist,” Simon said. “The summer academy program gave me the opportunity to learn interesting topics and skills, like the skeletal system and how doctors and nurses run tests.”

Fifty-four Bassett Unified seventh- and eighth-grade students spent a month gaining skills and learning about job opportunities in the engineering and medical fields, showcasing their knowledge in a July 7 parent exhibit. Each student earned a certificate, signifying their competence in concepts and skills learned through the program.

Students also completed a variety of engineering projects, including constructing Lego robots, building miniature rollercoasters and making working catapults made out of popsicle sticks. A group of students modified a popsicle stick bridge project by incorporating paperclips into their design as a way to grip onto surfaces for additional support.

“Our ultimate goal, in both the medical and engineering classes, is that we want our students to think systematically and creatively,” engineering instructor Stephen Stalker said. “It’s amazing to see so many of the students jump feet first into both medical and engineering activities and enjoying them.”

The program also highlighted Bassett High School’s medical and engineering pathway programs and Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program as a way for students to continue learning new skills and gain experience in either fields.

“Our middle school summer academy is an amazing opportunity for our students to realize their potential in medical and engineering fields,” Interim Superintendent Debra French said. “This will prepare our students in deciding which pathway they want to pursue to achieve their goals.”

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## PHOTOS:

**072017\_BASSETT\_SUMMERACADEMY1:** Torch Middle School seventh-grader Luis Aranda demonstrates how to take a patient's blood pressure – a technique he learned through Bassett Unified's middle school summer academy program.

**072017\_BASSETT\_SUMMERACADEMY2:** Torch Middle School seventh-grader Heidi Diaz explains to her mother the different types of medical equipment she learned about through Bassett Unified's middle school summer academy program.

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**Bassett Unified School District Mission** – Working collaboratively with all stakeholders, the Bassett Unified School District will provide engaging and rigorous learning opportunities, using integrated technology in state-of-the-art learning environments, to graduate College and Career Ready students.

**Bassett Unified School District Vision** – We are a community committed to educating and empowering our students to think creatively, act responsibly, and communicate effectively in order to be successful members of society and make a positive impact on the lives of others.