



## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## Lynwood Unified Gives Thanks to School Volunteers

### Third Annual Luncheon Celebrates Nearly 50 Dedicated Parents

Lynwood Unified on April 17 gave thanks to nearly 50 school volunteers who contribute countless hours to improving the overall educational experience in the district.

The third annual volunteer appreciation luncheon, which this year was a western-themed barbeque celebrated the dedicated parents who keep campuses safer by keeping the traffic flowing during busy drop-off or pick-up times, serve as crossing guards to get families to school safely, raise needed funds for school programs, or lend a helping hand to teachers in the classroom.

“It is so important that we take a moment to thank all the volunteers who tirelessly work at our schools,” said Paul Gothold, Lynwood Unified Superintendent. “Our community is very engaged in the overall atmosphere at our schools and they are our most important partners in our mission to prepare students for success in college and careers.”

The district board room was transformed into a scene out of the old west with hay bales, wagon wheels and cowboy hats. The volunteers, also dressed in western attire, were served by district staff and board members at large meal featuring barbeque chicken and ribs, corn, beans as well as other side items. They were also presented certificates and were read a poem of appreciation by Dr. Kavin Dotson, the district’s Director of Student Services.

Assistant Superintendent Gudiel Crosthwaite commended the group for their concern and generosity in serving the schools.

“We do not raise our children alone. We are all part of a community and it is the community that helps us raise them,” he said.

According to on-going studies from the Harvard Family Research Project, results indicate that parental and community involvement is associated with higher student achievement outcomes. These findings emerged consistently whether the outcome measures were grades, standardized test scores, or a variety of other measures, including teacher ratings. Moreover, the pattern holds not only for the overall student population but for minority students as well.

Lynwood Unified Board of Education President Maria Lopez, who also served as a school volunteer before being elected to the board, also thanked those gathered for their efforts.

“I have seen the passion and hard work you bring each day and how you advocate so that the schools are better places,” Said Lopez. “I have seen many changes come forward in the schools because of the advice you have given.”

**PHOTO CAPTIONS:**

**PHOTO1:** Lynwood Unified Assistant Superintendent Gudiel Crosthwaite (far right), Board member Alma-Delia Renteria (second from right) and Board President Maria Lopez (second from left) serve meals during a luncheon to honor school volunteers from throughout the district Friday, April 17, 2015 at Lynwood Unified District Headquarters.

**PHOTO2:** Guests dressed in western fashion during a barbeque luncheon to honor school volunteers from throughout the district Friday, April 17, 2015 at Lynwood Unified School District Headquarters.