

LMU NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH
L.A. UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ANNOUNCE
LMU FAMILY OF SCHOOLS**

LOS ANGELES, September 21, 2006 – Loyola Marymount University announced a partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District today to improve academic performance at seven Westchester schools.

The partnership, in connection with the Westchester/Playa Education Foundation and the Neighborhood Council, began through the grassroots efforts of local community organizations with the goal of improving academic achievement in their public schools.

“The genesis of this partnership was born out of the efforts of a few parents who want to help the District keep moving forward,” added Superintendent Romer. “New schools are opening, test scores are up and we are making progress every day with the help of our neighborhoods and organizations such as LMU.”

The seven schools include Westchester High School, Orville Wright Middle School, Cowan Avenue Elementary, Kentwood Elementary, Loyola Village Elementary, Paseo del Rey Elementary and Westport Heights Elementary.

“We see this partnership as a way to strengthen the educational pipeline in a community LMU has long supported,” said Shane Martin, dean of the School of Education at LMU. “This collaboration will not just make a difference in thousands of students, but it’s also something that can be modeled in the future, across the state and country.”

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LMU/LAUSD Partnership

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A community-based organization, founded by parents and families in Westchester, the WPEF approached LMU and the School of the Education earlier this summer to develop a partnership to improve academic achievement and graduation rates in the Westchester area.

The five-year partnership allows LMU to provide professional development services and support to the Westchester schools by offering assistance in gathering and analyzing data to improve instruction, implementing a mentoring program for staff and faculty, helping to develop Small Learning Communities and locating partners within the business community. Additionally, LMU will offer assistance in Math and Science instruction, special education, English Language Learners, school counseling and psychology and other programs.

Loyola Marymount University

Founded in 1911, Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles is the eighth largest of the nation's 28 Jesuit universities with more than 5,400 undergraduate and 3,000 graduate and law students. LMU generates more than \$250 million annually in direct economic activity and supports more than 8,300 full-time, permanent jobs. More than 70 percent of LMU alumni live, work and volunteer in the Los Angeles region. For more LMU news, visit: www.lmu.edu.

The Los Angeles Unified School District

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) serves more than 712,000 students across nearly 900 schools. LAUSD students have demonstrated unprecedented academic improvement since the district underwent an overall reform of its instructional program five years ago. and repair program is the largest in the nation's history. An estimated \$19.3 billion is also being directed to construct approximately 150 new schools, more than 70 classroom addition projects, and a modernization, upgrade and repair program that rehabilitates aging buildings throughout District. For more information: www.lausd.net

Westchester/Playa Education Foundation

WPEF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancement and advocacy of the public schools in Westchester and Playa del Rey. Through the leadership efforts of the foundation in fund-raising, researching, developing and marketing our public schools, long-term partnerships will be built with educators, families, local government and the business community to strengthen our schools from kindergarten through high school.

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