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News Release

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School Board Recognizes Latino Heritage Month Sept. 15 to Oct. 14

LOS ANGELES (Sept. 15, 2020) – The Board of Education today unanimously approved recognizing Latino Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. The month includes a special celebration and recognition of the historic and cultural contributions of the Latino community, while also acknowledging their influence on politics, the economy, and their social and cultural life throughout the United States. The resolution, sponsored by Board Member Mónica García, was co-sponsored by the six other Board Members.

“This is a time to recognize the contributions Latinos have made to Los Angeles, California and the United States,” Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “And in our schools we are working hard to help educate and inspire the next generation of leaders.”

“I love being a child of Mexican immigrants and a first-generation college graduate,” Board Member García said. “I love celebrating my Abuelitos, Durango and Chihuahua and my strong roots of love, hard work and struggle. I hope every one of our students celebrates who they are and their cultures and traditions. For more than 73% of LA students, this month is an opportunity to learn more about who they are and explore where their dreams will take them.”

“I am proud to celebrate National Latino Heritage Month and encourage the commemoration of the historical contributions by Latinos every day,” Board President Dr. Richard Vladovic said. “Los Angeles Unified is proud to serve and be part of the success of all of our students across the District.”

“Diversity is one of our greatest strengths in Los Angeles Unified and throughout our nation,” Board Member George J. McKenna III said. “It is my honor to celebrate National Latino Heritage Month, including Afro-Latinos such as 26 of the original 44 founders of Los Angeles, and Pio Pico, the last governor under Mexican rule, who also served on the Los Angeles Common Council.”

“In a school district where 73% of our student population identifies as Latino, I am honored to celebrate the rich diversity, histories, cultures and contributions of Hispanics and Latinos and that of their ancestors,” Board Member Scott M. Schmerelson said. “We must continue to reflect on our history and encourage students, teachers and staff to take this time to learn more about past and present leaders that have made a difference in our nation.”

“Commemorating Latino Heritage month is an opportunity to reflect upon the rich history and experiences of many of our students and families,” Board Member Nick Melvoin said. “Coronavirus has exacerbated existing issues and disproportionately impacts the Latinx community. We must do more to support our students and families during these unprecedented times. I am proud to honor the vibrant Latinx culture and achievements this month and year-round.”

“We celebrate Latino Heritage, the roots that run deep in our region and the newcomers who add to the beautiful tapestry of diversity in Los Angeles Unified,” Board Member Jackie Goldberg said. “All of our students, regardless of racial or ethnic background, benefit by learning and appreciating the varied histories, cultures and accomplishments of our students and staff who identify as Latinos.”

“I stand in solidarity with the Board as a cosponsor in celebrating National Latino Heritage Month,” Board Member Kelly Gonez said. “As a Latina, I know firsthand the value in learning about and celebrating our historical contributions from a young age. Latino students, families, and staff all benefit from an educational environment that validates and celebrates our identities, histories, and culture in the United States.”

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