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News Release

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LAUSD RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS MILLENNIUM AWARD FOR ITS PIONEERING GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Los Angeles, CA – Green schools pioneer, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) was honored with a prestigious California Environmental Leadership Award by Global Green USA for its ongoing leadership in providing students with healthy and sustainable learning environments. LAUSD received the honor at the 12th annual Millennium Awards ceremony held June 14 in Santa Monica.

“As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to make a difference in the lives of our students and their families,” LAUSD Board of Education member Julie Korenstein said after accepting the award. “We at LAUSD made a commitment to build healthy and sustainable schools long before ‘green’ became a mainstream concept. It is my dream that our global commitment to green today will simply be a way of life tomorrow.”

“I am proud of the green schools we are building and the educational opportunity they provide our children,” Superintendent David L. Brewer III said. “These schools are bringing LAUSD into the 21st century and beyond, and show our commitment to a happier and healthier future.”

In 2001, Board Member Korenstein brought two resolutions before the Board that ensured new schools being constructed as part of the District’s \$20.3 billion new construction and modernization program were designed with sustainable standards. Since that time, LAUSD has become a leader in developing the criteria for green schools, as well as constructing them. Maywood Academy, a District high school in Maywood, is the highest-rated green school in the state. Green building standards include water conservation, energy efficiency, acoustics, the use of natural daylighting, and incorporating recycled materials.

“Between now and 2012, we will be completing the final 60 schools of the 132 our program set out to build. That equals more than one green school a month,” LAUSD Chief Facilities Executive Guy Mehula said. “It’s a monumental task, but when I see how students and teachers excel in green schools, I know it’s worth that extra effort.”

Political pundit Ariana Huffington presented LAUSD with the award, saying the District’s program contributes to society as a whole by reducing traffic and adding trees and green space to the community. In addition to LAUSD, Millennium Awards went to “green collar jobs” guru Van Jones; development firm The South Group; and Hollywood environmental activist Lyn Lear.

Past recipients of the Global Green USA Millennium Awards include Ted Turner, actors Leonardo DiCaprio, Pierce Brosnan, Kevin Bacon & Kyra Sedgwick, Woody Harrelson, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

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LAUSD's \$20.3 billion new school construction and modernization program will build 132 schools by 2012. The program is designed to provide a neighborhood school on a traditional calendar for every student, eliminate involuntary busing and create small learning communities in secondary schools. To date, LAUSD has completed 72 new schools, 59 additions, 16,500 repair and modernization projects, and has provided approximately 74,000 new classroom seats for students throughout the District. For more information, please visit www.laschools.org.

Global Green USA was founded by Diane Meyer Simon in 1993 to serve as the American arm of President Gorbachev's Green Cross International. Global Green is a national leader in smart climate change solutions including green building for communities and schools. Global Green USA is the only national environmental group headquartered in Southern California. It also has offices in New Orleans, New York City and Washington, DC. For more information, please visit www.globalgreen.org.

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