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News Release

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LAUSD STUDENTS, PARENTS, OFFICIALS CELEBRATE OPENING OF MIGUEL CONTRERAS LEARNING COMPLEX

School will offer rigorous college preparatory curriculum and career development opportunities through Small Learning Communities

(Los Angeles) – Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education President Marlene Canter, Board Member Monica Garcia, Superintendent Roy Romer joined students, parents, California Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Maria Elena Durazo of the L.A. County Federation of Labor and L.A. Chamber of Commerce officials to celebrate the dedication of a new 1,800-student high school in downtown Los Angeles. The high school is named after Miguel Contreras, the longtime leader of the L.A. County AFL-CIO.

"The breadth of coursework available on this campus is aimed at preparing each and every one of our students to thrive in the 21st Century workforce," said Board President Marlene Canter. "Whether entering New Tech High, a trade apprenticeship program, or another small learning community, students will find and cultivate their talents here -- on a site known as the birthplace of the living wage movement."

"Miguel Contreras Learning Complex is a beacon of hope for the Belmont Community," said Board Member Mónica García. "Like our great labor leader, this school will serve to educate, uplift and empower the students and families of one of the most densely populated and underserved areas of the city."

"The opening of this new high school ends long bus rides for children who have never attended schools in their own neighborhood," said LAUSD Superintendent Roy Romer. "By building new schools, we are creating learning conditions so that children can learn and succeed."

"This school means more than just a place where students will come and learn," said Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. "It represents a movement that Miguel started in this community to empower the parents of the children that will be coming to this school to fight for what is fair."

The school, which opened for students earlier this month, serves 1,800 ninth-12th grade students and relieves severe overcrowding at the nearby Belmont High School. Construction of the Miguel Contreras Educational Complex is part of the LAUSD’s \$19.3 billion school construction program to build 155 schools by 2012. Thirteen new schools are scheduled to open this year in LAUSD.

The new Miguel Contreras Education Complex includes 72 new classrooms allocated to general studies, the sciences, photography, art, drama, dance, choral, instrumental, speech/video production, applied technology and careers. This school also has extensive competition athletic fields, a gymnasium and a public stadium that nearby high schools will share.

(more)

The complex will relieve overcrowded schools in the Belmont attendance area, providing a neighborhood school for many students who have been bussed to other schools throughout their entire academic careers.

The Miguel Contreras Learning Complex enables students to individualize their educational experience by selecting one of three Small Learning Communities (SLCs): Business and Tourism, Social Justice or Academic Success. The campus will also house the new Los Angeles School of Global Studies, a New Tech High School, and will offer career development opportunities through a public-private partnership between LAUSD, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Unite LA and AFL-CIO.

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