

# LAEF



LOS ALAMITOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## PRESS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*  
September 2019

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### **LAEF Donates \$115,000 for Mental Health and STEAM Instruction!**

(Los Alamitos, CA) – The Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) was proud to donate \$115,000 to the Los Alamitos Unified School District for Mental Health support and STEAM instruction at last week’s highly anticipated State of the District event. LAEF Executive Director Carrie Logue and LAEF Board President Kevin Guetig presented the check to all district principals, Superintendent Dr. Andrew Pulver and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Ondrea Reed at the event which attracted nearly 300 community members.

Each school site, including all six elementary schools, both middle schools and Los Alamitos High School, received \$10,000 to help support STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math) instruction and activities on their campuses, LAEF continues to partner with the “Friends of” groups at each elementary school to provide students with an enhanced educational experience from credentialed teachers, and help extend the STEAM Initiative across the district. At the middle and high schools, principals continue to find ways to expand, enhance and inspire the student’s engagement in STEAM and Computer Science classes, while continuing to strengthen the Science Olympiad and Robotics Teams.

LAEF is also proud to provide significant funding for the critical area of Mental Health for all students in the district. For the third year in a row, LAEF has donated \$25,000 to support the salaries of Los Alamitos Unified School District's mental health department. In an effort to proactively address the rising increase in mental health related issues among children and teens, Los Alamitos USD has employed mental health counselors to provide emotional support to our students. LAEF, through donations by Los Al Leadership Circle members (the major donor group), has stepped up to make sure the students of Los Al USD continue to have the support they need through these counselors.

The STEAM donations are due to the community's support of LAEF's King & Queen of Hearts campaign. The campaign ended on February 8th at the coronation gala and raised over \$215,000. These funds also support LAEF's district-wide STEAM Initiative, which funds school-based STEAM Fairs, the district-wide STEAM Showcase, free project preparation classes and project supplies. The current King & Queen are George and Linda Sagen, who are long-time residents of Los Alamitos. They have three children who graduated from Los Alamitos High School, and grandchildren who are students and graduates of the district. LAEF's next Royals will be appointed at the Royal Ball and Coronation on Friday, February 7, 2020.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual State of the District breakfast is hosted by LAEF and provides community members with the opportunity to hear updates and learn about the plans for the coming school year. The event's title sponsor was Alamitos Eyecare; Dr. Avani Patel and John Osborn have generously participated as Title Sponsor for all six years.

LAEF is the non-profit partner of Los Alamitos Unified School District. LAEF enhances educational excellence by providing after-school and summer enrichment programs to children in grades Pre-K to 12. LAEF impacts all students by providing significant funding for STEAM

teachers and instruction, as well as igniting new programs and providing valuable resources. For more information, visit [www.LAEF4kids.org](http://www.LAEF4kids.org) or call (562) 799-4700 Extension 80424 today.



LAEF presents donation to Los Al District staff at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual State of the District breakfast, which is hosted by LAEF.

Pictured from left to right are Los Al USD Superintendent Dr. Andrew Pulver, LAEF Executive Director Carrie Logue, LAEF Board President Kevin Guetig, Los Al USD Assistant Superintendent Ondrea Reed, Oak Principal Erin Kominsky, McAuliffe Principal Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright, Hopkinson Principal Evelyn Garcia, LAHS Principal Chris Vlastic, Rossmoor Principal Amy Belsha, McGaugh Principal Roni Ellis, Lee Principal Amy Laughlin, Weaver Principal Dr. Todd Schmidt, and Los Alamitos Elementary Principal Gary Willems.

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