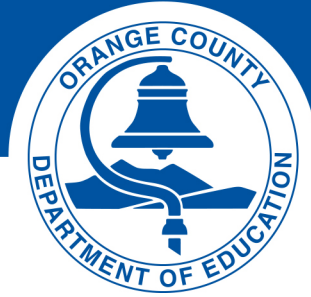


NEWS RELEASE

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Trio of state and county leaders to convene for special forum on school safety Panel will open the 2017 Safe Schools Conference, featuring 46 breakout sessions

COSTA MESA, Calif. – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Sandra Hutchens and Orange County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Al Mijares will discuss the state of school safety on Wednesday, July 19 during a special forum set to kick off the eighth annual Safe Schools Conference.

Members of the news media will have an opportunity to take part in a question-and-answer session with the panel, which will convene from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel in Garden Grove.

WHAT: Forum on the state of school safety

WHO: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens and Orange County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Al Mijares

WHEN: 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19

WHERE: The Wyndham Hotel, 12021 Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove

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About the Safe Schools Conference

More than 500 educators, school workers and law enforcement representatives will have the opportunity to choose from 46 workshops addressing critical school safety issues during the eighth annual Safe Schools Conference, which will take place Wednesday, July 19 through Friday, July 21 at the Wyndham Hotel in Garden Grove.

Presented by former California Secretary of Education Dave Long through his firm, Dave Long & Associates, in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education and the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the three-day conference represents a unique partnership between the

education community and law enforcement. The event annually draws school counselors, police officers, youth service workers, elected officials and other school and community leaders interested in learning more about student safety, as well as its impact on school attendance and academic performance.

As in years past, each day of the conference will feature a different keynote presenter.

On July 19, Dr. James Maciel will share his journey from a troubled Santa Ana youth who was once incarcerated to a resident in general surgery at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where he provides medical services to underserved and low-income communities.

A day later, on July 20, participants will hear from Oz Sanchez, a handcyclist and triathlete who medaled at the 2008 and 2012 Paralympic Games. Sanchez, a former U.S. Marine, will talk about overcoming adversity and his drive to become an elite athlete following a devastating motorcycle accident.

Finally, on July 21, Father Greg Boyle, the founder of Homeboy Industries and former pastor of Dolores Mission Church, which serves an impoverished community east of downtown Los Angeles, will discuss his work to help young people escape gangs and embrace productive futures through job training, education and employment.

Breakout sessions at the conference will cover topics including bullying, social media and technology trends, dropout prevention, human trafficking, gang intervention and prevention, alcohol and drug use, restorative justice, suspensions and expulsions, crisis management for schools, and best practices for building positive school cultures.

In addition, Orange County Sheriff's Department Deputy Jason Arellano and Garden Grove Unified School District Director of Student Services Dr. Arthur Cummins are set to be honored as the 2017 recipients of the Distinguished Safe Schools Award.

The Wyndham Hotel is located at 12021 Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove. For more information, visit safeschoolsconference.com, or contact OCDE Chief Communications Officer Ian Hanigan at ihanigan@ocde.us.

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