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**Rancho Los Cerritos
To Receive California State Superintendent's Award
For *Long Ago Long Beach***

LONG BEACH, CALIF. (February 12, 2020) — The California Department of Education, in partnership with the California Association of Museums, will present Rancho Los Cerritos with the Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Museum Education for its *Long Ago Long Beach* program. The award recognizes the outstanding achievements of California museum programs that serve K-12 students. Meighan Maguire, Director of Education at Rancho Los Cerritos, will attend CAM's annual conference in Los Angeles on March 4, 2020 to accept the award.

Long Ago Long Beach is an after-school enrichment program that brings the Rancho Los Cerritos experience to underserved schools across Long Beach.

“By taking the historic house museum ‘on the road’ to where many young learners spend their weekday afternoons – participating in after-school childcare programs at their school site – Rancho Los Cerritos is expanding its boundaries, diversifying its audiences, and sharing local history with younger audiences more than ever before. This innovative outreach initiative is an incredible opportunity for the museum and the participants, and by extension for their families and the larger community,” says Maguire.

The five-week-long after-school program, started in 2018, teaches second and third-grade students about local and California state history. In the classroom, children interact with artifacts, photographs and documents from the Rancho Los Cerritos collection. Students also take part in a field trip to the Rancho that includes a tour of a 175-year-old adobe home. While on-site, students are immersed in 1800s-era life by participating in such activities as candle making and doing laundry by hand.



Photo: Students washing laundry by hand during a Rancho Los Cerritos field trip



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“I think it’s great that we bring the museum experience to students who might not normally be able to visit one, let alone touch the artifacts there. The hands-on activities they participate in during the program really bring the history to life for them,” says *Long Ago Long Beach* Coordinator Erin Perkins.

“The activities are definitely the highlight of the program. They give the students an opportunity to engage, share their creativity and learn new skills,” says Rosa Palacios, a teacher at Long Beach’s Patrick Henry Elementary.

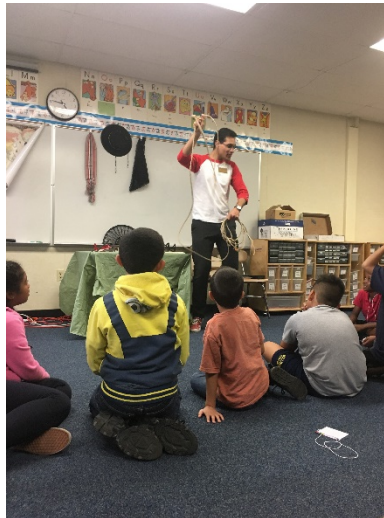


Photo: Students in the classroom learning about 1800s ranch life

Long Ago Long Beach served more than 1,300 students in its first year alone and plans to reach even more as the program grows, thanks to funding from The Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation and The Rudolph J. and Daphne A. Munzer Foundation.

Rancho Los Cerritos would like to thank the California Department of Education and the California Association of Museums for this prestigious recognition.

For further information about *Long Ago Long Beach* visit, <https://www.rancholoscerritos.org/long-ago-long-beach/>

To learn more about Rancho Los Cerritos visit, www.rancholoscerritos.org



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About Rancho Los Cerritos

Rancho Los Cerritos is the only local, state, and national historic landmark in Long Beach, California. It is operated by the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation in a public/private partnership with the City of Long Beach. The site echoes with the rich history of indigenous, Spanish, Mexican and American California. While visiting, you can see the latest exhibits at the Visitor Center, tour the 175-year-old adobe home and explore the gardens. The site also includes a research library and archives. Along with our public programs, we host special events and are available for private rentals.

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