

For Immediate Release

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LAUSD CUTS RIBBON AT CHARLES H. KIM NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
First school named after an Asian-Pacific American wins recognition for environmentally- friendly design

(Los Angeles) - Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board Member Monica Garcia, and Councilmember Tom La Bonge joined students, parents and community members to celebrate the opening of Charles H. Kim Elementary School. The school is the first in LAUSD history to be named after an Asian-Pacific American, and many dignitaries and community leaders attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion.

Charles H. Kim was a Korean immigrant who established farms throughout the central valley of California and became the first Korean-American millionaire. Mr. Kim was committed to improving the quality of life for minorities by providing higher wages, improving working conditions, and awarding college scholarships to minority students. Mr. Kim was an integral contributor to the establishment of the community now known as Koreatown.

"It gives me great honor to present Charles H. Kim Elementary School as the first school in the country to be named after a Korean American," said Board Member Monica Garcia. "Like its name sake, this school will serve as a beacon for thousands of children and families."

Charles H. Kim Elementary opened September 5, and offers two-semester seats to 800 elementary school students from the surrounding community. The school relieves overcrowding at Cahuenga, Pio Pico and Wilton Place Elementary Schools, allowing many students who were previously bussed to attend a neighborhood school for the first time.

"This school provides a new opportunity for students in this neighborhood to achieve academic success," said Superintendent Roy Romer. "These new schools offer safe, healthy environments where students and staff can thrive."

The school has also been heralded for its energy-efficient and environmentally-sustainable design, earning recognition as a demonstration site for the Collaborative for High Performance Schools. The compact design maximized outdoor playground space on the 2.81-acre campus. Facilities include a 3-story classroom building with 32 classrooms and an administration and multipurpose building. The school is adjacent to the Hollywood-Wilshire YMCA.

"This school provides a new neighborhood school choice for students in this community," said Guy Mehula, Chief Facilities Executive. "The environmentally-friendly aspects of the school will offer an additional benefit to the surrounding community for years to come."

The LAUSD opened 13 new schools this year, eliminating involuntary bussing for elementary school students and returning 31 schools to a

180-day, full-year calendar. Charles H. Kim Elementary is part of the LAUSD's \$19.3 billion school construction program to build 150 schools by 2012. The program is designed to provide a neighborhood school on a traditional calendar for every student, eliminate involuntary bussing and create small learning communities in every high school. By the end of 2006, the LAUSD will have opened 65 new schools, completed 44 additions, and opened 22 Early Education Centers.

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