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## The L.A. Trust will honor Austin Beutner Sept. 30 at 'Salute to Student Health'



*L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner will be honored by The L.A. Trust at a gala in downtown Los Angeles. LAUSD photo.*

LOS ANGELES (JUNE 11, 2021) -- The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health will present its first-ever Visionary Award to L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner, September 30 at its Salute to Student Health event at Vibiana in downtown Los Angeles.

The gala event will be attended by members of The L.A. Trust community, including educators, healthcare providers and donors. Registration for the event will open soon.

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We are proud to present this award to Superintendent Beutner,” said Maryjane Puffer, executive director of The L.A. Trust. “We honor his innovation, his hard work and his leadership in seeing the school community through the COVID-19 crisis.”

“I am a product of public schools, and I wouldn’t be here today but for my great public education,” said Superintendent Beutner. “I have committed myself to making sure children in our community have the same opportunities I was provided with, including access to quality healthcare.”

### **Record of achievement**

Austin Beutner is a civic leader and public servant who has worked for the last decade to make Los Angeles a stronger community. He was appointed superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation’s second largest, in May 2018.

Under Beutner’s leadership, Los Angeles Unified has led the nation in responding to the crisis in public schools created by COVID-19. The school district has provided more than 135 million meals along with 40 million items of needed supplies to the communities it serves, made sure all students have a computer and free internet access to remain connected with their school and to continue learning, and has provided COVID-19 tests and vaccinations to students, staff and the community at schools.

During his tenure, Los Angeles Unified was transformed from a top-down, one-size-fits-all bureaucracy into an organization led by 44 nimble, local teams dedicated to each of the communities it serves. Students, in particular students of color, have made significant progress in early literary and math. High school graduates are provided with jobs while they attend local colleges, and students can participate in an extraordinary set of new classes and programs. One example is a program created with Fender Guitar where 5,000 middle-school students received a free guitar to participate in teacher-led music classes.

### **Civic leader**

Beutner has served as First Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, publisher and CEO of the Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union Tribune and co-chair of the LA 2020 Commission and the L.A. Unified Advisory Task Force.

At age 29, Beutner became the youngest partner at The Blackstone Group. He left Blackstone to serve in the U.S. government, where he led a portion of U.S. efforts to help Russia transition to a market economy after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He went on to found Evercore Partners and as president and co-CEO helped build it into one of the leading independent investment firms in the world.

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Beutner holds a degree in economics from Dartmouth College and has taught courses in ethics, leadership and effective government at Harvard Business School, the University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy, the UCLA Anderson School of Management, and California State University Northridge.

Beutner currently serves on the board of the National Park Foundation, is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He founded Vision To Learn, a non-profit organization that has provided free eye exams and glasses to more than 250,000 children at schools in low-income communities across the country.

*The Los Angeles Trust for Children’s Health is an independent nonprofit agency bridging the worlds of health and education to achieve student wellness. We focus on pressing student health issues, including expanding healthcare access, oral health, mental health, substance use prevention, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, research and student engagement.*