

**New Cities Conference
January 26-27, 2007**

**Building a Healthy and Sustainable Community
For Berkeley Youth and Families**

**Mayor Tom Bates'
Youth and Education Initiatives**

**Youth and Education Summit
Project BUILD – Building Healthy Minds and Bodies
Berkeley Integrated Resources Initiative
Berkeley Champions for Kids
Vocational Education and Workforce Development for Low-Income Young Adults
Mayor's Annual Student Recognition Awards
The 2x2 - Joint City Council and School Board Quarterly Meetings
And...
Projects In The Pipeline**

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Introduction and Summary

In December of 2002, Tom Bates was elected Mayor of Berkeley and was re-elected for a second term in 2006. Mayor Bates has brought a lifetime of public service to the Mayor's office – including four years as an Alameda County Supervisor and two decades as a California legislator representing Berkeley. His record in the state legislature includes authoring over 220 bills and playing a central role in framing California's progressive social service policy.

After retiring from the Assembly in 1996, Bates continued to serve the public. In addition to teaching at UC Berkeley, he volunteered his efforts to work with school officials and parents to provide healthier food choices for Berkeley students, including organic fruits and vegetables. He was instrumental in the development and adoption of a healthier food policy for the Berkeley and Oakland School Districts and the City of Berkeley. This cutting-edge effort to improve school meals set off a wave of change in school districts across the country.

Building on his experience in state office and in the community, Mayor Bates ran on a platform of improving the lives of children and youth and creating a more “kid friendly” city. A common question posed to Bates while he was a candidate for mayor was why he didn't just run for school board, since youth and education were so high on his agenda. He response: the kids are in school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the rest of the time they are all of our responsibility – parents, community, and the City at large. In Berkeley, an independently elected school board governs the school district. As mayor, Bates works to complement the work of the schools by leveraging the resources of the city.

Since entering office, Mayor Bates followed through on his promise by making youth and education his top priority. His first step in setting up his office was to dedicate a top staff position to education and youth.

Over the past four years Mayor Bates, with the support of his staff, garnered the support of other elected and community leaders to:

1. Convene a citywide **Youth and Education Summit** where 165 Berkeley community leaders met to identify priorities and strategies for serving our City's youth. Numerous initiatives evolved from this initial meeting including, but not limited to Berkeley Integrated Resources Initiative, Berkeley Champions for Kids, Berkeley High Youth Court and Lights-On After School.
2. Launch **Project BUILD** – a summer reading, nutrition education and physical activity partnership that provides over 1000 pre-k through 8th grade children a year with nutrition education, new books and places literacy tutors with school-age summer programs.

3. Initiate the **Berkeley Integrated Resources Initiative (BIRI)** bringing the City and the School District together to better coordinate and integrate health and social services for children and families. The City of Berkeley has a tremendous opportunity to directly contribute to the health and well being of our youth. We are one of only three California cities that operate its own division of public health and we are unique in having our own mental health jurisdiction. This gives us the flexibility to align priorities and funding in new and innovative ways. BIRI builds bridges with the City's Health and Human Services Department (including the divisions of Public Health and Mental Health), along with community agencies.
4. Establish **Berkeley Champions for Kids** – a campaign dedicated to raising funds and promoting volunteerism with Berkeley's at risk youth.
5. Convene a **Vocational Education and Workforce Development Workgroup** for low-income young adults consisting of the Berkeley Adult School, Berkeley City College, the City's employment development programs, and community-based workforce development programs to develop outreach and recruitment strategies to reach young adults between the ages 18-24 – focusing on South and West Berkeley.
6. Host an **Annual Student Recognition Awards** ceremony for 150 high school-age youth to recognize their contributions and accomplishments.
7. Reinvigorate the **Joint City Council and School Board Quarterly Meetings**.

Projects in the pipeline...

8. **Constructing six New Sports Fields** for youth and adult recreation –secured the sites, funding, and created a multi-city Joint Powers Authority for oversight and maintenance of one of the largest sports complex. Fields will come on-line between 2007-2009.
9. **Expanding Berkeley's four recreation centers and three senior centers into seven full-service, fully utilized Community Centers** that respond to community needs for dynamic and diverse programs, recreation for all ages, after school support – including academic support, enrichment, and youth development – and intergenerational programming. This effort is focused on finding safe and engaging activities and opportunities for teens, while retaining our valuable programs for young children, adults and seniors.

Using his decades of experience in public policy, in his keen ability to convene and influence other elected and community leaders, and his passion social justice and equity, Mayor Bates has used the office of the Mayor to push forward an agenda to improve the lives of Berkeley's children, youth and their families.

2003 Youth and Education Summit



Background: Mayor Bates ran on a platform of improving the lives of Berkeley's youth by working together, not at odds, with the school district. His goal was to better leverage and direct community resources toward the needs of our children and their families. To begin the process he invited the president of the school board to co-sponsor the Youth and Education Summit.

Much of the work of the 2003 Summit laid the groundwork for the Mayor's initiatives supporting youth and their families. While some of the specific strategies evolved in ways not necessarily defined or expected from the event, the Mayor's efforts were rooted in this initial gathering of community leaders.

On March 29, 2003 Mayor Bates and School Board President Joaquin Rivera convened the Youth and Education Summit kick-off. 165 people crowded into the Berkeley Alternative High School Auditorium – including leaders from Berkeley's youth and education programs, elected officials, city and school district administrators, teachers, and parents. The audience divided into six Action Teams: Coordinated Family Support Services, Youth Safety, After School Programming, Mentoring and Tutoring, Linking Public Library with School Libraries and Future Topics.

The Action Teams represented areas where we believe we can have the greatest impact by forging partnerships between the city, the district and the community. Proposed goals and strategies for the Action Teams were as follows:

1. COORDINATED FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Goal: Reflecting the needs of the community, create a citywide system of coordinated family support services. The strategies to pursue included piloting a model of coordinated mental health and case management services with the City of Berkeley, the schools and community-based organizations and to bridge the work of the Integrated Family and Student Support Systems (which includes the COB, BUSD, UC and Community-based organizations) with the South and West Berkeley Health Disparities initiatives for a more coordinated support system, rooted in the community.

2. YOUTH SAFETY ACTION TEAM

Goal: Create safe environments at school and in the community for our youth. Strategies included improving communication between the School District and City police department and to explore establishing a Youth (Peer) Court for Berkeley High to address school disciplinary actions. Strategies for truancy prevention and incident reporting also need to be addressed.

3. MENTORING AND TUTORING ACTION TEAM

Goal: Mobilize our community to volunteer as tutors and mentors for our youth. Strategies included creating a single point of contact for community members interested in volunteering as mentors and tutors outside of the school environment. Berkeley School Volunteers is the clearinghouse for tutors and other short-term volunteers in the schools. Also, existing mentoring organizations agreed to help train tutors and mentors recruited for community agencies.

4. AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

Goal: Strengthen our system of after school and summer programming, better leveraging resources between public and private programs and engaging youth in the design of our programs (especially teen programs). Strategies included convening an After School Action Team that bridged school, city and community-based programs to increase resource and training coordination.

5. LINKING PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM WITH SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Goal: Improve literacy among our children, youth and adults by forging stronger institutional partnerships between the public libraries and the school libraries.

During Mayor Bates' first term in office he worked to bring together partnerships and collaborations to move the community's goals forward. Some areas of work required a significant commitment of time and energy from the Mayor and other areas were lead by the schools and/or community leaders. For example, Mayor Bates launched specific initiatives to address summer literacy and nutrition education, coordination of family support services, volunteerism, and workforce development. In other areas, such as the development of the Berkeley High School Youth Court and the annual campaign of Lights-On After School, the Mayor provided strategic support to the individuals and groups that were organizing the projects.

Project BUILD – Building Healthy Minds and Bodies



Background: Mayor Bates created Project BUILD in response to research showing that students who struggle academically and have little to no engagement in literacy development over the summer often lose what educational gains they made in the previous year. According to Open Society Institute-Baltimore, a Soros Foundation Network, the average American student loses 2.6 months of math skills (which are dependent on strong literacy skills) over the summer. Similar losses occur in reading proficiency and comprehension. In fact higher-income students often gain reading proficiency over the summer, while lower income students suffer losses. These educational losses widen the achievement gap between higher and lower income students, impacting students of color most significantly.

In spring of 2004, after hearing a presentation at the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), Mayor Bates approached UC Berkeley, Scholastic Inc., and other community leaders to develop an initiative to address literacy support for academically struggling school-age youth during the summer months –later to be known as Project BUILD. In the second year of Project BUILD, Mayor Bates expanded his vision of reducing Berkeley’s academic gap to also impact the health disparity that is mirrored in our low-income communities. In 2005, we expanded Project BUILD’s literacy support and free book distribution to include nutrition education and a physical activity campaign.

In a major effort to strengthen literacy and reading skills among Berkeley’s kids, Mayor Tom Bates, the University of California’s Cal Corp Public Service Center, and the City of Berkeley launched **Project BUILD – Building Healthy Minds and Bodies**. Project BUILD provides free

books to approximately 1000 youth in 12 programs for low-income preschoolers through 8th grade.

Project BUILD, having just completed its third summer is now expanding into the school year. UC Berkeley's Cal Corp Public Service Center provides approximately 55 trained Cal students through America Reads Federal Work Study program to work with the students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Literacy specialists, as well as City of Berkeley Public Health physical activity specialists, provide training for the tutors.

Last year, the students involved in Project BUILD read over 4,400 books and traveled 65,000 miles through physical activity. The City's Public Health division provided each school-age student and tutor with pedometers and summer program staff was trained to deliver programs to support healthy lifestyles.

For the past three years, we have helped more than 2,500 "at risk" students from South and West Berkeley make literacy, nutrition and physical activity key elements of their summer lives. Instead of staying home and watching TV or playing video games, kids are running, reading and eating healthy. We know that kids who are exposed to literacy and math in the summer remain or even exceed their grade level expectations – and those who don't have this exposure fall further behind. The key to success is having a healthy mind and body – helping kids read and make healthy choices will help them succeed in their lives.

Project BUILD works with eight school-age programs: three city recreation centers (James Kenny, Francis Albrier and Live Oak), the Young Adult Project and three school-age non-profit summer programs (Bahia School-age Program, Berkeley Youth Alternatives and RISE), a BUSD summer program at Rosa Parks, and four preschools serving low-income children (Centro Vida and BUSD Preschools). Participating programs coordinate with the Berkeley Public Library, providing library cards to all students and enrolling them into the library's popular Summer Reading Program.

Funding for **Project BUILD – *Building Healthy Minds and Bodies*** comes solely from private business. Sponsors include: ATT, Bayer, PG&E, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Wells Fargo Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Berkeley Public Education Foundation, Scholastic Books, Children's Book Press, and TransAction Companies. In addition, Project BUILD makes use of approximately \$255,000 in federal work-study funding to pay the UC tutors.

Berkeley Integrated Resources Initiative

Background: During his 20 years as a California Assemblyman, Tom Bates sponsored hundreds of bills designed to improve and reorganize the health, mental health and social service systems in the state. In the mid 1990's Assemblyman Bates recognized public funding restrictions as a significant obstacle to serving children, youth and their families in a manner would promote stability and healthy development - so he sponsored legislation allowing county governments to "blend" funding across programs and departments to better meet the needs of struggling families. As mayor, Bates has continued his commitment to improving the coordination and delivery of health and social services for our neediest families.

A. Community-wide Initiative to Improve Education and Wellness

At the Mayor's 2003 Youth and Education Summit one of the top priorities identified was to improve the coordination of city, school-based and community services. While it appeared that Berkeley was rich in resources, those resources were not always effectively distributed, coordinated, or monitored. With the support and facilitation of The Berkeley Alliance, a non-profit partnership among the City of Berkeley, School District and the University of California, Berkeley, an interagency work-group met for 18 months to develop an inter-institutional framework for collaboration that evolved into what is now known as the Berkeley Integrated Resources Initiative (BIRI).

The BIRI is a school-community initiative with the goal of improving education and wellness outcomes for Berkeley children and youth by promoting healthy development and addressing barriers to learning. The BIRI addresses the long-standing need for the institutions, agencies, and youth programs of Berkeley to change the way they work together to promote healthy development for children, youth and their families. At present, the city, school district, university and community organizations support children and youth through models that emphasize their own unique mandates. BIRI calls for a systemic change process in which the key stakeholders collaborate along a common vision, an agreed upon set of outcomes, actions, language and process, and implement necessary policy changes to achieve tangible results.

The Berkeley Alliance is the convener of the BIRI and in this role is responsible to bring together key stakeholders around a common agenda that leads to effective implementation of specific priorities and actions. A Steering Committee, co-chaired by Mayor Bates and Superintendent Michele Lawrence, is made up of leaders from the three institutions along with three "at-large" community leaders. The Steering Committee is charged with providing strategic leadership to the initiative and working on change at the policy level. The Steering Committee will discuss and adopt a set of priorities and strategy recommendations from the Design Team for addressing barriers to learning and promoting healthy development for all Berkeley students. The institutional leaders will ensure follow-up through their respective organizations on decisions that have been adopted.

The Design Team is charged with creating a strategic change agenda and plan with a clear vision, set of measurable outcomes and solid recommendations for action. Team members include institutional representation, and representation from community agencies, faith based organizations, youth and parents. Work group will be convened to analyze specific issues, develop strategies and make recommendation to the Design Team. At various times and a key points, broad stakeholder meetings will be convened to gather feedback and input on the Design Teams proposals and recommendations. The Design Team will develop holistic systems and policy change proposals for Steering Committee consideration.

This initiative is moving parallel to many collaborative efforts in the community, with the intention of linking the various efforts into a common vision with agreed upon community outcomes. Some of the parallel and complementary collaborative efforts include the BUSD Universal Learning Support System, School Linked Health Services Program and the School Mental Health Partnership initiative.

B. BUSD Universal Learning Support System

In 2005, as a result of the coordinated services planning effort between the city and school district, BUSD established the Office of Integrated Resources (OIR) to enhance the availability and delivery of learning support in the schools through community partnerships. The OIR works specifically to: 1) build interagency and community partnership to expand learning support resources, 2) manage specific district-owned programs that provide or enhance learning supports in the schools (parent outreach, Student Study Team process, case management, etc.) and 3) build a responsive, learning support delivery infrastructure within the schools and district.

Universal Learning Support Systems (ULSS) is a practice that was instituted in the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) beginning 2006-2007 school year to more effectively and universally address barriers to learning experienced by all students. With ULSS, all students shall receive appropriate learning supports, regardless of educational designation, when challenges first become apparent, in the least restrictive environments.

Under the Mayor's leadership, the City strongly supported the District in the establishment of the OIR and the Mayor has worked closely with the City's Health and Human Services Department to adapt and improve the way they work with the school district in an effort to break down institutional barriers and meet the needs of students and their families.

As part of the ULSS, the Mayor will work with the school district to convene community-based early childhood education programs together with the school district's pre-school programs to implement the ULSS for young children and their families.

C. School-Linked Health Services Program

Over 15 years ago, the City of Berkeley and Berkeley Unified School District formed one of the first partnerships in the country to establish the Berkeley High School Health Center. Since then, the city has been working side by side with the high school to provide emergency medical care and first aid, general and sports physicals, health education, counseling, pregnancy and STD

prevention services, HIV outreach, counseling and testing, smoking cessation, peer health education and more. The vision for school-based health programs in Berkeley has now expanded into the middle and elementary school levels. With the leadership of Mayor Bates, the City's Health and Human Services Department, school district, and Lifelong Medical Care, Inc., the local Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) came together to conduct a feasibility study for a satellite FQHC clinic at Longfellow Middle School – the only middle school in the low-income area of South and West Berkeley. As a result of the feasibility study the collaborative secured a 12-month planning grant from the County of Alameda to develop a coordinated health program at Longfellow. At the elementary level, the City of Berkeley has been the most stable funding source for the Rosa Parks Collaborative, a school-community collaborative that operates a family resource center and extended learning program for students enrolled in Rosa Parks, as well as the neighboring West Berkeley neighborhood.

The success of the Berkeley High Health Center, the development of the BIRI, and the work at Longfellow directly lead to another successful grant application to the County to establish comprehensive School-Linked Health Program. The City of Berkeley, as part of the coordinated health initiative was awarded \$225,000 annually for 3-years (renewable) for a school linked public health program.

The School-Linked Health Services Program's goal is to strengthen, build and maintain formal linkages between the City of Berkeley (COB) Public Health Division and the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD). This is an effort to enhance the capacity of COB Health and Human Services and BUSD to provide a continuum of health services to elementary aged youth and to facilitate collaboration amongst programs in order to promote school connectedness and more effectively respond to the strengths and needs of Berkeley's elementary aged youth and their families. Strategies of the School-Linked Health Services Program include:

- Build a continuum of services by addressing health at the systems, practitioner and individual levels to reduce fragmentation and duplication, and to increase integration of current health related services;
- Serve on the District's Interagency Leadership Team and serve as a liaison between BUSD and the Public Health Division;
- Provide public health consultation to BUSD administrators, staff and families;
- Conduct a health needs assessment related to needs and strengths of BUSD's elementary school population;
- Conduct an assessment of BUSD's capacity to address health and safety of facilities, staff and families and assess other agencies (COB Public Health) ability to fill in the gaps.
- Streamline Health insurance outreach efforts and work with the District's parent outreach staff to strengthen outreach to families on health related issues; and,

- Promote health policies and practices to ensure safe and healthy school environments for academic achievement for all children.

D. Schools Mental Health Partnership

One of the key strategies of the BIRI and one of four priorities of the Mayor's Health Services Task Force is the development of a comprehensive mental health system that is proactive and preventative versus crisis oriented and reactive – specifically through the development of the Universal Learning Support System. With the support of the Mayor, City of Berkeley, and the school district, The Berkeley Alliance convened the School-Mental Health Work Group, which was charged with planning the citywide effort to integrate Universal Learning Supports into the schools. This effort has been undertaken by BUSD through its interagency Office of Integrated Resources and partially funded by a federal Department of Education School-based Mental Health Systems grant.

Creating a successful ULSS and mental health systems change in Berkeley requires systemic buy-in, especially by the Berkeley Unified School District and the City of Berkeley Department of Health and Human Services. A formal Memorandum of Understanding that will be presented to Mayor and Council, and the School Board in Spring 2007, must spell out the parameters of this relationship, including such challenging issues as:

- Operational deployment of City mental health staff to school sites to provide services;
- Protocols for assessment, intake, service, follow up, and accountability;
- Data sharing arrangements related to billing and “need-to-know” aspects of client outcomes;
- Funding arrangements that maximize insurance and federal/state financial participation; and,
- Cross training and collaboration that result in effective services and communication on-the-ground.

Berkeley Champions for Kids



Background: Mayor Bates has long been a champion of kids. He believes strongly that every child needs a mentor, a friend, someone they can trust and look up to in time of need. Research shows that one of the most important factors for a child's success is whether he/she has a caring adult in his or her life. To help make sure every child in Berkeley has that necessary bond, Mayor Bates worked with the City Council to approve Berkeley Champions for Kids.

Berkeley Champions for Kids, an outgrowth of the 2003 Mayor's Youth and Education Summit, responds to our shared concern for vulnerable youth and families. Through Berkeley Champions for Kids (BCK) people who care about the well being of Berkeley's youth can become part of the solution. Mayor Bates, working with other council members, community leaders and city staff developed three elements of BCK – workplace giving, employee volunteer release time and volunteer coordination – providing a variety of avenues to support Berkeley's youth. The City of Berkeley was the first to adopt these programs and the next step is to expand the efforts with other public and private employers in the community.

A. Workplace Giving

The City of Berkeley now offers a new opportunity for city employees to donate directly to youth-serving organizations through a payroll deduction program. This provides a convenient and accountable mechanism to contribute to schools and community agencies serving Berkeley's at-risk youth. A Governing Board representative of Berkeley's diverse community selects the projects. The Berkeley Public Education Foundation administers funds for school-based programs and the Berkeley Community Fund administers funds for community-based youth serving organizations.

B. Employee Volunteer Release Time

In June 2005 the Berkeley City Council adopted Mayor Bates' proposal to establish an employee release policy that allows city employees up to 40 hours per year of release time to be match with 40 hours of personal volunteer time. A number of city employees have used this as an opportunity to volunteer with at-risk youth.

C. Volunteer Coordination

Berkeley has a wonderful volunteer center for people interested in volunteering in the schools. However, there is no centralized organization that matches interested volunteers with community-based organizations. With seed funding approved by Mayor Bates and the City Council, The Berkeley Alliance formed the Berkeley Champions for Kids Volunteer Center. Over the past year BCK has deployed hundreds of volunteers in activities including a new annual School of Public Health community service day; Berkeley Homeless Youth Connect; and other daylong mobilizations.

Vocational Education and Workforce Development for Low-Income Young Adults



Background: After a rash of violence in South Berkeley, Mayor Bates along with former Council Members Maudelle Shirek and Margaret Breland convened a roundtable discussion with neighborhood and faith-based leaders. During this meeting, the residents and leaders specifically asked the Mayor help reach the young people – mostly young men – who are hanging out in the streets by increasing opportunities to education and jobs. As a result, Mayor Bates used his office to bring together the education and workforce development organizations in Berkeley to develop outreach and support programs designed reach a traditionally challenging population of young people.

To increase education and employment opportunities for young adults who are surviving on the outer edges of society – generally young men on the street corners, involved with drugs, and at risk of becoming homeless - Mayor Bates convened a Vocational Education and Employment Work Group. The Work Group includes the Berkeley Adult School, Berkeley City College, the City’s employment programs and the community-based workforce development programs. After reviewing the education and employment programs that exist in the Berkeley, the group quickly learned that there are ample opportunities for young people, but the information is not reaching South and West Berkeley. The Work Group dedicated its efforts to developing targeted outreach, recruitment and retention strategies for South and West Berkeley teens and young adults.

The Vocational Education and Employment Work Group developed a coordinated outreach strategy and a centralized intake process that included:

- 1) **A comprehensive** matrix of all the education and workforce development programs geared for 18-25 year olds. The matrix includes eligibility guidelines, locations and

contact information and is used by service providers, probation officers, teachers and counselors.

- 2) The creation of a half-time **Youth Employment Coordinator** position with Rubicon, a non-profits workforce development program that hold the North County WIA contract, who will conduct a centralized intake and make referrals to appropriate education or employment opportunities.
- 3) A piloted **Peer Cohort program** that recruited a group of 8 young adults from South Berkeley to enter into an educational program with Berkeley City College supported by the City of Berkeley Employment Programs Administrator and Berkeley City College Student Ambassadors (young adults currently enrolled in BCC and helping to recruit other at-risk young adults into education). At the end of the year 7 of the 8 youth were successfully enrolled in BCC or a workforce development program. The pilot was a very labor-intensive project, providing necessary case management and support for the youth. Funding to continue this effort has not been secured, however, Rubicon, BCC, Berkeley Youth Alternatives and the City of Berkeley continue recruit and engage youth through the various organizations, and
- 4) Meeting with young adults from South and West Berkeley to **identify the barriers to education and employment**. Prior conviction history is a significant barrier to employment for numerous street youth and young adults. The Mayor's office has been in exploratory discussions with the non-profit organization of formerly incarcerated people and other jurisdictions (San Francisco, Boston, Alameda County) on the "**Ban the Box**" campaign to remove, until the final hiring stage, the application question pertaining to conviction history. This effort is dedicated to removing the psychological and legal barrier for potential qualified candidates on occupations that may not have a nexus with the conviction.

Mayor's Annual Student Recognition Awards



Background: Each year the Mayor of Berkeley recognizes close to 150 high school age youth for their contributions and accomplishments based on recommendations from teachers and school staff. Many of these young people are not typical recipients of academic achievement awards, however, their accomplishments, sometimes against all odds, contribute to the community, their family and to their own personal development. It is Mayor Bates' goal to support these youth in their efforts and to encourage them to stay on a clear path for success – the Annual Student Recognition Awards provides the opportunity to recognize students for their remarkable efforts.

The Mayor hosts students from Berkeley High School, Berkeley Alternative High School and BUSD's Independent Study Program and their families to a heartwarming celebration and light meal. Over 500 people— students and their families – attend every year. The ceremony takes place in the Grand Ballroom of Berkeley Marina DoubleTree Hotel.

Students are recognized for their efforts in six categories: community service, communications, leadership, academic excellence, performing arts, and sports. The breadth of award categories means that many of the youth who are nominated by their teachers and school staff are not necessarily the youth who rise to the top for traditional academic awards.

Each year the Mayor invites the City Council Members, School Board Trustees, Superintendent and High School Principals to participate in presenting the awards. The student's name is read by the elected or school leader along with the category for which he/she is recognized. When he/she comes forward to receive their award they shake the hand of the Mayor and the School Board President. This is one of the most rewarding events in the mayor's office.

The 2x2 Meeting
Joint City Council and School Board Quarterly Meetings

Background: Prior to Bates assuming the Mayor's office, the Superintendent of Berkeley Schools was known to describe the officially sanctioned 2x2 meeting as an opportunity for the City to hammer the District on their shortcomings. When Mayor Bates assumed office he vowed to improve relations with the school district and to use the 2x2 meeting improve coordination and constructively solve problems of mutual interest.

Originally established in the early 1970's to improve communication and coordination, the City of Berkeley and Berkeley School Board participate in the "2x2" (2x2 reflects two elected officials from each body meet together with the City Manager and School Superintendent). The City Council is represented by the Mayor and a City Council Member and the School Board is represented by the Board President and Vice President (which rotate annually). Mayor Bates, moving on his promise to restore civility and to improve coordination with the District, was committed to making the 2x2 a more useful tool for both agencies to share information. Mayor Bates recommended that the 2x2 meet quarterly instead of bi-monthly and that he and the School Board President set the agenda together. The main issues for this open and public meeting include: school and community safety, land use, joint municipal projects, contract coordination and MOU oversight, policy issues, revenue generation and tax issues, emerging collaborative initiatives, and staff reports.

Projects In the Pipeline...

While the Mayor continues to work the initiatives described above, some new projects in the pipeline are...

1. **Constructing six new sports fields** for youth and adult recreation –Berkeley has a growing number of youth and adult sports leagues including baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse. Berkeley, a city with little to no available land, is seriously lacking open field space. Mayor Bates has been working for five years to secure a parking lot at the foot of Gilman Street for five playing fields – including one regulation size baseball field, 2 regulation size softball fields and 2 multi-use playing fields. Bates worked with mayors in neighboring cities to establish a Joint Powers Authority and then secured funding from state bonds and private funds for development, maintenance, management and oversight. The first of the Gilman fields will open in 2007.

Mayor Bates has worked with other council members and school board members to move the community dialogue forward for the development of a regulation size baseball field for Berkeley High School to be built on BUSD property on Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Derby Street. This careful negotiation has balanced the needs of the local neighbors with the needs of the high school.

2. **Expanding Berkeley's four recreation centers and three senior centers into seven full-service, fully utilized Community Centers** that respond to community needs for dynamic and diverse programs, recreation for all ages, academic and enriching after school support, and intergenerational programming. The Mayor's Office has been working with the City's Senior Programs and the Recreation Programs to improve the access, quality and diversity of program offerings in both areas.

As an initial pilot, Mayor Bates has been working with the Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA) youth group – known as Berkeley United Youth in Action (BUYA) – to establish a teen night on Thursday evenings at the West Berkeley Senior Center. BUYA, in coordination with the Mayor's staff, has designed the evening programming and is coordinating directly with the City's Senior Program Administrator. From 5:00-9:00 p.m., teens will have access to senior center resources - the pool tables, computer lab, large room for dance classes and stage for performances - during what is normally unoccupied hours of the center.

The Mayor's Office is currently working with a team of six high school juniors and MPR, an education research firm, to survey 500 Berkeley teens about their out-of-school time activities – both current and desired - and report the results to the Mayor, Council and School Board. The team will be using surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews. Using this information, Mayor Bates and others will assess how to better provide out-of-school experiences for our city's teens.