



Long Beach City College

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LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

*LBCC's Commencement Ceremony Includes Over 1,700 Graduates
and Welcomes Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud As Speaker*

LONG BEACH, CA - (June 3, 2014) – Thousands of members of the Viking family, will unite with family members and friends on the Liberal Arts Campus for Long Beach City College's (LBCC) commencement ceremony on June 5 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Stadium located at 5000 East Lew Davis Street, Long Beach, CA 90808.

Laura Doud, Long Beach City Auditor and LBCC graduate and Hall of Fame inductee, will serve as the commencement speaker.

"Ms. Doud epitomizes the career achievements every LBCC graduate can aim for and serves as a perfect example of how higher education enables individuals to become leaders in their communities," said LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley. "Having a fellow Viking share their life experience serves as a reminder that anyone from any background can achieve tremendous success in life and in their career aspirations."

"I am honored to have been invited to take part in this year's Commencement Ceremony. As an alumna of LBCC, I know firsthand that the Trustees, faculty and staff of this college are deeply committed to preparing students for future success in higher education and in the marketplace," said Doud. "I look forward to celebrating this milestone achievement with the 2014 graduating class, knowing they are the future of Long Beach and the communities of the greater Los Angeles region."

Two students have been selected to serve as the 2014 Class Valedictorians.

Long Beach resident, **Jalyn Alexander**, age 19, majored in Biological Science and plans to enter the nursing program at California State University Long Beach. Jalyn, who also teaches youth gymnastics at her local community park, was originally accepted at several out-of-state colleges but decided to attend LBCC because of its affordability. Jalyn's goal of becoming a nurse stems from bouts with illness throughout her childhood and the impression nurses had on her while in their care.

Norrell Thompson, of South Gate, age 31, used her musical talents to help pay for classes after dealing with academic start/stops on her way to becoming Valedictorian. Born in Pasadena and raised in Puerto Rico, Norrell suffered the loss of her mother not long after graduating from high school. Norrell dealt with the loss and after several years returned to the Long Beach area to reside with her father. Once enrolled at LBCC, Norrell became enthralled with medical anthropology and was led into the honors program by faculty. Her



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immediate goals are to transfer to UCLA where she intends to study anthropology and public health with future plans of working in the medical field.

Both Valedictorians were selected from a candidate pool of 17 eligible students and both have maintained an average GPA of 4.0.

The two Valedictorians reflected on their time at LBCC and their selection in a joint statement: "We have thoroughly enjoyed our learning experience while at Long Beach City College. We wish to thank the LBCC faculty for preparing the class of 2014 for the next stage of their personal and academic success as they transfer to four-year universities, or transition into the workforce following graduation. We are honored to have this opportunity to address our fellow graduates and to congratulate them on their perseverance and achievements that have led them to this monumental moment in their lives."

Additionally, [Dr. Thomas Clark](#), longtime Long Beach Community College District Board of Trustees member, will be recognized as the 2014 Alumni Representative during the commencement ceremony. Dr. Clark is a former city councilmember and Mayor of Long Beach who earned his Associates of Arts Degree from Long Beach City College.

Seating at the ceremony is on a first-come, first-served basis and does not require tickets. Graduates and family members are welcomed to attend an AFTER GRAD RECEPTION enjoying photo opportunities, music and a chance to meet with staff, faculty and friends immediately following the ceremony.

A complete schedule of events can be viewed at <http://events.lbcc.edu/detail.cfm?eventid=2436&pagerefer=home>, photos of the ceremony will be available at www.LBCC.edu after the ceremony.

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About Long Beach City College

Long Beach City College is one of the largest single college districts in the California Community College System. LBCC is a comprehensive college which provides quality educational programs and related student services to nearly 30,000 students pursuing a wide range of degrees, certificates, transfer and other courses of study. LBCC is a driving force in the regional economy as lead host of the Los Angeles Regional Small Business Development Center Network, serving Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties; and, as the Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses Initiative* site serving Southern California. In 2013, LBCC supported small businesses in creating 2,355 new jobs, increasing client sales by more than \$198 million and helping clients access more than \$100 million in new capital. LBCC's economic activity generates over \$2.12 million daily in the region's economy. The College is also in the middle of a \$700 million construction bond program that was approved by local voters.