



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Long Beach City College Graduates First Class of Truck Drivers today at 3pm

Long Beach, CA – Long Beach City College (LBCC) in partnership with the Harbor Trucking Association (HTA) graduates the first cohort of students from the HTA Commercial Driver Training Program today, June 25, from 3pm-5pm, at Long Beach City College, 4900 Conant Street, Long Beach, 90808, Building 02-0208. This is a great opportunity to meet the first driver training graduates, truck driver employers, LBCC Workforce Development Department staff, and HTA representatives.

Funded by a \$440,000, two-year grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office and supported by more than \$450,000 in industry pledges, this specialized workforce training program helps to address the shortage of licensed, short-haul truck drivers that are qualified to transport goods in and out of the local ports.

“Long Beach City College’s dedication to serving the economic development needs in the community is exemplified with the first graduating class of the first Commercial Driver Training at LBCC,” said Lou Anne Bynum, Executive Vice President of College Advancement and Economic Development. “Thanks to our innovative partnership with the Harbor Trucking Association, we are committed to continue training our community to meet the increasing demands of our region, including the Port of Long Beach, the second busiest container port in the nation, which saw a dramatic increase in cargo earlier this year. Through our partnership with HTA, our students will now be an integral part of the freight business.”

The successful completion of this first one-of-a-kind training program, with truck driver employers participating in the classrooms, supports the industry to attract and retain trained and licensed workers during a shortage of qualified drivers, ensuring the sustenance of the industry and the continued flow of goods to the ports. To address this workforce gap, Long Beach City College and HTA joined forces to design and implement a new model of training, recruiting and professionalizing the industry to encourage a steady stream of new workforce entrants.

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“The Harbor Trucking Association is proud to partner with Long Beach Community College in this important endeavor. There has been a significant driver shortage in the trucking industry throughout the nation for several months and this program is targeted at giving those individuals interested in logistics and driving a path forward,” said Fred Johring, Chairman of HTA. “We are proud to introduce the first class of new drivers to the drayage business, and look forward to partnering with them as they become the small businesses we rely on to haul freight.”

The goal of the Commercial Driver Training Program is to train and certify a minimum of 100 new drivers during its 24-month pilot, and targets an 80% employment rate for all students who complete the program.

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 2012, LBCC supported small businesses in creating 2,736 new jobs, increasing client sales by more than \$133 million and helping clients access more than \$83 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.

About Harbor Trucking Association

The Harbor Trucking Association is a coalition of Los Angeles and Long Beach intermodal carriers whose purpose is to advocate, educate and promote strategies with other goods movement stakeholders and policy makers that will sustain emission reductions, provide a dialog for intermodal truck efficiency, and to return cargo and jobs to Southern California ports.

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