



# Long Beach City College

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 15, 2013**

**CONTACTS:**  
**Mark Taylor**  
(562) 254-8816  
**Ruthie Retana**  
(562) 552-6339

### *Long Beach City College Launches First Time Ever Truck Driver Training Program*

**Long Beach, CA** – The Long Beach City College Division of College Advancement and Economic Development, in partnership with the Harbor Trucking Association, kicks off its Commercial Driver Training Program on Monday, March 18 at Long Beach City College. This is a great opportunity to meet the pilot participants, future transporters of goods, and current employers seeking to hire new drivers.

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 will help 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 arrival 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 training today’s students to meet the increasing demands of our region, including the Port of Long Beach -- the second busiest container port in the nation -- that saw a dramatic increase in cargo last month. Through our partnership with HTA, our students will soon be an integral part of the freight business.”

This one-of-a-kind training program, with truck driver employers participating in the classrooms, will help the industry 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 a new model of training, recruiting and professionalizing the industry to encourage a steady stream of new workforce entrants.

“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



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Johring, President of HTA. “We look forward to introducing the new drivers to the drayage business and will hopefully partner 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.

**Photo Opportunity:**

1:00 p.m. Monday, March 18, 2013  
Long Beach City College (LBCC)  
4900 Conant St., Long Beach, CA 90808  
Building 02, Room 232  
Parking Permits in the lobby