



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

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UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP RESULTS IN TOP-NOTCH GRADUATES

LBCC Harbor Driver Training Program Yields New Graduates Ready for Work

LONG BEACH, California – The next generation of commercial transportation drivers have just graduated from the Long Beach City College (LBCC)-Harbor Trucking Association (HTA) collaborative training program. This unique program is made possible through a two-year \$440,000 grant issued through the California Community College Chancellor's Office and is being offered as a means to address the shortage of safety trained, licensed short-haul truck drivers servicing local ports.

"This program is vital to the local economy by creating job opportunities through proper training and moving goods from the ports to consumer destinations," said Lou Anne Bynum, Executive Vice President of LBCC's College Advancement and Economic Development department. "The call to hire trained drivers that can meet the demands of the local freight business industry is on the rise and this program is designed to provide the highest level of driver training to meet those needs."

Launched in March 2013, the goal of the Commercial Driver Training Program is to train and certify 100 new drivers during its 24-month pilot, while targeting an 80 percent employment rate for all students who complete the program. This fall semester class includes 13 graduates from diverse backgrounds all of whom found the course to offer more than they had expected.

Wendy Cruz, of Long Beach, said the training program's approach was a pleasant surprise. "I had taken another training program elsewhere and they just gave you answers to the tests without focusing in on actual training. LBCC's program gives you the tools to become a professional driver and I encourage anyone looking for a career in trucking, especially women, to take advantage of the training."

New father Danny Coral was a stay-at-home dad in December 2012 when he decided to search for a truck driving training program. By March 2013 Coral was enrolled in LBCC's program and today is employed by Mayor Logistics, Inc. as a short-haul operator. "This program gives you so much and the support doesn't end at the end of the training; they provide job placement assistance and access to industry trainers who help you throughout the process. It's a great program."

"The Southern California trucking industry has been challenged to keep pace with the sudden increase in cargo moving through the port of LA/Long Beach," said Fred Johring, president of Golden State Express and Chairman of HTA. "Loaded container counts are nearly 10 percent greater than 2012, creating a demand for well-trained, skilled individuals and that's exactly what the Long Beach City College-HTA program is delivering."

For more information on the program please call (562) 938-3064.

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About Long Beach City College

"Where Education Works!"

Long Beach City College consists of two campuses with an enrollment of over 25,000 students each year. The education program's primary purpose is to prepare students for transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions, entry into work or career development, and to support businesses in economic development. Long Beach City College serves the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Signal Hill and Avalon.