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College-to-Career Partnership Initiated to Benefit Local College Graduates
*Unique Partnership Between Long Beach Stakeholders Matches
Local Talent to Local Employers*

LONG BEACH, CA-- Drawing on the success of the Long Beach College Promise, the Long Beach Community Foundation (LBCF) initiated a college-to-career program called the Long Beach College Promise Career Fellows Program. Partners including the City of Long Beach, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), Long Beach City College (LBCC), and Pacific Gateway Workforce Innovation Network are piloting the program to provide “Promise Students” with employment opportunities upon graduating from CSULB or LBCC. Promise Students are defined as students who attended a Long Beach Unified School District school and have earned a trade certificate or degree at either CSULB or LBCC. As part of the pilot, approximately 110 local students will be connected with five local employers this summer and apply for employment with participating local employers through curated connections, interviews, and on-going training. Employers participating so far include SCAN, Dignity Health, Renaissance Hotel Long Beach, Sweatpants Media, and Amber Resources.

“We are excited about this new College to Career partnership. It is important we keep our talent here in Long Beach and this program will help us reach that goal by connecting our local employers to our recent grads. We are looking forward to seeing the great outcome that will result from this initiative,” said Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach.

“Too often local talent is not retained in Long Beach, so it was our goal to develop a program that would celebrate local talent by connecting graduates to jobs in their own community- benefitting both the students and the local economy,” said LBCF President & CEO Marcelle Epley. “Through support from the Knight Foundation Donor Advised fund held at the Community Foundation, and in partnership with the nonprofit Pacific Gateway, we are thrilled to see this program launched.”

Originating as a pilot this Spring, the program is expected to open to all LBCC and CSULB Promise graduates in the Fall and add more local employers. “Only 22% of Long Beach residents who live in Long Beach also work in Long Beach. We believe that if we can increase that ratio, it would mean a better connection people feel to their city, more opportunities for local residents, and show further support the investment that the city, area foundations and philanthropists have made in students such as mentorships,

internships and scholarships,” said Nick Schultz, Executive Director of Pacific Gateway.

“The Long Beach College Promise Career Fellows Program is the next step in providing students with the education, skills and opportunities that they need to succeed – in school and in their careers. This rich, multifaceted partnership between the city, the Community Foundation, Pacific Gateway, Long Beach City College and Long Beach State University creates a pipeline of Long Beach Promise students for the local workforce. In this way, the program not only benefits students, but also the long-term future of the entire community.” CSULB President Jane Close Conoley.

At Long Beach City College where many students are graduating with trade and technical program certificates, the opportunity to expand existing efforts to place students with local jobs was very appealing. According to Long Beach Community College District Superintendent-President Reagan Ferragamo Romali, Ph.D., “Long Beach College Promise students are so fortunate to have this new opportunity made available for them,” said Romali. “For our students who are committed to starting a successful career but might not be sure of where to go next, the Long Beach College Promise Fellowship is where alumni should look to next in order to connect with employers who are looking to hire within their specific field of study.”

For more information regarding the College Promise Fellowship Program, contact Erick Serrato, Pacific Gateway’s Assistance Director at (562) 570-3762 or Erick.Serrato@pacific-gateway.org.

About the Long Beach Community Foundation

The Long Beach Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public organization with more than \$52 million in assets and 165 charitable funds. It was established in 1996 to make strategic grants to nonprofits and assist individual donors with their philanthropic goals today and through planned giving. Fees charged to manage charitable funds at the Foundation are invested directly back into the community. LBCF’s mission is to initiate positive change for Long Beach through charitable giving, stewardship, and strategic grant making with a vision of being the preeminent steward of endowments serving the needs of Long Beach in perpetuity.

LBCF operations are led by President & CEO Marcelle Epley and oversight is provided by Board Chair Gary DeLong, Vice Chair Robert Stemler, and Board members Blake Christian, Michele Dobson, Bob Foster, Tony Gales, Mark Guillen, Donita Joseph, Annette Kashiwabara, Steve Keesal, Frank Newell, Suzanne Nosworthy, and Judy Ross.

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