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Long Beach Mayor and Education Partners Reaffirm Commitment to Internships

The Long Beach Internship Challenge has increased internship opportunities by 2,600 since 2015.

Long Beach, CA - At an event held at The Packard in central Long Beach last night, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the expansion of internship opportunities for students and reiterated his call-to-action in the form of the Long Beach Internship Challenge. Mayor Garcia was joined by California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), President Jane Conoley; Mayor's Fund for Education Executive Director, Karissa Selvester; Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network (PGWIN) Executive Director, Nick Schultz; Long Beach Career-Linked Learning (LBCALL) Executive Director, Jean Egan; business leaders, City of Long Beach officials, other education partners. The event celebrated the completion of the 2017 Long Beach Internship Challenge's summer placements.

The Long Beach Internship Challenge is a collaboration among the City's leading employers, education institutions and workforce organizations. Working together, this effort supports the Long Beach College Promise and enriches student learning through internships and other career-building opportunities.

"I want to acknowledge PGWIN and Long Beach CALL for their placement of over 100 students this summer," said Mayor Garcia. "Meaningful work experience is crucial to every student's education as it helps young adults build the skills needed in our future workforce."



Mayor Garcia with Internship Challenge students.



Mayor Garcia with students, Roman Rhoads, Celeste Sanchez, and Esmeralda Agredano-Salazar.

Photo credits: Lindsey Ingram

Research demonstrates that early exposure to labor market experiences lead to increased educational and earnings attainment. Recognizing the impact of real-world work experience, both as an opportunity to broaden a young person's career interests as well as gain critical workplace and leadership skills, the Internship Challenge partners are committed to ensuring internships and work experience become an



CSULB President, Jane Conoley



HMBD Insurance Principal, Glenn Agoncillo



Mayor Garcia and Celeste Sanchez

Photo credits: Lindsey Ingram

important part of every student's education. Since Mayor Garcia's initial 2015 Internship Challenge call-to-action, internship opportunities have increased by 2,600. However, this call-to-action continues as Mayor Garcia reiterated his desire for even more internship opportunities to be offered and further engagement by Long Beach businesses.

CSULB President, Jane Conoley added, "Internships are a vital part of students' experiential learning. They offer an excellent opportunity to apply classroom learning to professional settings. For many employers, good grades and the right college major are not enough. By participating in an internship, CSULB students are more work-force ready upon graduation."

HMBD Insurance Principal, Glenn Agoncillo provided the business perspective, "As a Long Beach business and resident, I think it is important to select interns who represent our unique culture. The interns who worked with us this summer helped not only to streamline internal processes, but elevate morale and boost productivity. I look forward to continuing to participate in the Mayor's Internship Challenge and to supporting Long Beach students."

Celeste Sanchez, intern with Council District 2, gave an impassioned speech of her experience and how it shaped her approach to helping people. Esmeralda Agredano-Salazar, intern in the office of Mayor Garcia, encouraged her fellow interns to remember their experience in their own careers. "Everyone here got where they are because someone gave them a chance along the way, and we must do the same in our own careers," said Agredano-Salazar. "We must remember to return the favor."

The Long Beach Internship Challenge is a collaboration between CSULB, Long Beach City College, LBUSD, Pacific Gateway, Long Beach CALL, the Office of Mayor Garcia, and the Mayor's Fund for Education.

For more information on the Long Beach Internship Challenge, visit: www.lbinternshipchallenge.com.

For more information and the latest developments on the Mayor's Fund for Education, visit: www.mayorsfundfored.org and follow the LB Mayor's Fund for Education on Facebook and Twitter.

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