

International Trade News In Brief

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Port Of Long Beach Raises The Bar On Its Commitment To Small Business – In late August, the Port of Long Beach announced it was setting a higher goal for purchasing goods and services from small businesses and very small businesses as part of its Small Business Enterprise Program. In the past, the port has committed to and met a 25 percent small business participation goal. The port increased its goal to 27 percent, with approval of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners. According to a statement, 30 percent of the port's funds for contracting, amounting to nearly \$300 million, has been awarded to small and very small businesses in the past 10 years. "The port's efforts to do business with small and very small businesses are beneficial for the local economy," Harbor Commission Vice President Rich Dines said in a statement. "These smaller companies can increase competition for port contracts and also offer opportunities to nurture a more diverse business community in Long Beach and the Southern California region."

Longshore Union And Pacific Maritime Association Agree On Health Benefits, Other Negotiations Continue – The International Longshore and Warehouse Union reached an agreement with the Pacific Maritime Association, the group representing port employers, for health benefits for longshore workers at West Coast ports, the groups jointly announced on August 26. Negotiations on other labor contract issues, which began in May, remain underway. The previous labor agreement for about 20,000 longshore workers expired July 1.

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Long Beach Young Professionals Organization Formed By The Chamber

The Long Beach Young Professionals is a new program launched by the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce for professionals between the ages of 21 and 40 who have come together to learn what it takes to be successful and thrive in their respective industries, according to Jeremy Harris, chamber senior vice president who oversees the program. "The group is fun, innovative and committed, interacting in monthly networking breakfasts and social events," he continued. "We honored our first 100 Charter members at our latest networking breakfast at the Long Beach Yacht Club on August 27 with special limited 'Charter' labeled lapel pins," he said. "The Chamber is pleased to host such elite young professionals and hopes to encourage their positive energy and momentum as they develop into tomorrow's leaders and business professionals. We are currently at 107 members and the annual membership fee is \$150." For more information, visit the chamber at www.lbchamber.com, or call Harris at 562/983-2141. (Photograph by the Business Journal's Thomas McConville)



Can Sculptures Benefit Food Finders

On August 21, five locally based engineering firms competed in a canned food sculpture contest at the Mercedes-Benz Long Beach dealership, 2300 E. Spring St., benefitting Food Finders, a food bank providing food to nonprofit organizations and impoverished children, families and elderly individuals. Staff from Moffatt & Nichol, P2S Engineering, MHP Structural Engineers, Sennikoff Architects and Jeffrey Rome & Associates competed in the event, building elaborate structures with canned food, cereal boxes and water bottles. The completed structures are on display through today, September 2, when a winner is to be announced. Residents voted on the structures by bringing in canned food for donation to Food Finders and placing the cans by their favorite creation. "Food Finders is excited to be the beneficiary of the very first CANstruction [event] in Long Beach," Diana Lara, vice president of operations for Food Finders, said in a statement. "This unique event will heighten awareness of food insecurity in our community and will play an important role in helping to feed the hungry in our own backyard." The canned goods structure at left is a replica of the Queen Mary. Pictured, from left to right, are: Wale Malah, sales manager for Mercedes-Benz Long Beach; Moffatt & Nichol employees Tonia McMahon, Theresa Richards, Monica Martinez, Veronica Chocholek and Ari Konyalian; Diana Lara, vice president of operations for Food Finders; and P2S Engineering employees Daniel Sebastian and Steven Peterson. Above right, a sculpture made of canned food, water bottles and cereal boxes by Sennikoff Architects prominently depicts Long Beach City Hall. (Photographs by the Business Journal's Thomas McConville)

