



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commencement Date: June 6, 2013

CONTACT:

Ruthie Retana
(562) 938-4004

More than 1,800 Graduates Earn Degrees or Certificates at Long Beach City College Commencement this Thursday, 6:00pm

U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell Jr. to Give Commencement Address

Long Beach, CA – The Viking Class of 2013 will graduate on **Thursday, June 6 at 6:00pm** at the **Veterans Memorial Stadium**, 5000 E. Lew Davis St., Long Beach, CA 90808. Long Beach City College will award 1,105 Associate Degrees and 720 Certificates of Achievement this year. Ernest Mitchell Jr., United States Fire Administrator, an Alumnus of LBCC will offer the Commencement Address, and valedictorian Ricky Brown will also address his graduating class.

“We are proud of LBCC Alumnus, Chief Mitchell, for the leader and role model he has become for our nation and to our students,” said LBCC Superintendent-President Eloy Ortiz Oakley. “It is moments like these, during Commencement, that I hope every one of our graduates is inspired by the life journey of a fellow Viking, to reach for their dreams and achieve their career aspirations, regardless of their background or life circumstances.”

U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell Jr. is responsible for managing the U.S. Fire Administration and the programs and training activities at the National Emergency Training Center. Chief Mitchell received his Associate of Science Degree in Fire Science from Long Beach City College (LBCC); a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco; a Master of Public Administration Degree from California State University at Northridge; and, was inducted into the Hall of Fame at LBCC.

Valedictorian Ricky Brown, 49, will graduate with a GPA of 4.0. A father of four children, Brown served in the United States Marine Corps for eight years. After working low-paying jobs, he researched the opportunities for electricians in California. Brown discovered that California had higher paying jobs for electricians, and that LBCC had a high rate of graduating industrial electricians with a certificate program. After earning both an Associate Degree and Certificate from LBCC, Brown will be transferring to Cal State University of Long Beach (CSULB) for a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, with the goal of landing a high-paying job in factory automation and electro mechanics.

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Another transfer success is student marshal Joe Smith, 24, who will also attend CSULB this fall. Smith, a broadcast and history major, is involved with the Student Life program on campus, and is an active member of the honors society. “Being a student leader helped me grow as a person and helped me become a better student,” said Smith. “Being a student marshal gave me the extra push to graduate with honors.”

Brown and Smith are two of the more than 1,200 estimated LBCC students transferring to four-year colleges and universities this academic year. LBCC is looking forward to celebrating the achievements of more than 1,800 graduates during the Commencement Ceremony this Thursday at 6 p.m.

Although tickets will not be required for attending the ceremony, seating is on a first come, first serve basis. An “After Grad Reception” will be hosted immediately following the ceremony with photo opportunities, music and a chance to connect with faculty and friends. For a complete schedule of events, parking and other details, visit:

<http://www.lbcc.edu/commencement/>

LBCC Commencement will also be shown LIVE on streaming video at www.LBCC.edu

About Long Beach City College

Long Beach City College is one of the largest single college districts in the California Community College System. LBCC is a comprehensive college which provides quality educational programs and related students services to nearly 30,000 students pursuing a wide range of degrees, certificates, transfer and other courses of study. LBCC is recognized throughout California and the nation as a leader in efforts to improve college preparation, access and success through the Long Beach College Promise Partnership, with the Long Beach Unified School District and California State University, Long Beach, and its Promise Pathways initiative. The College has received several important recognitions including: finalist for the 2013 Exemplary CEO/Board Award of Excellence from the American Association of Community Colleges, winner of the 2012 RP Group’s Excellence in College Research Award for development of a predictive placement model, recognition by the White House Initiative for Excellence in Hispanic Education in 2010 and recipient of the California Community College Chancellor’s Office Student Success Award in 2009.

About Commencement Speaker Ernest Mitchell Jr.

Ernest Mitchell, Jr. is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administrator for the U.S. Fire Administration. He began his tenure on December 5, 2011 and is responsible for managing the U.S. Fire Administration and the programs and training activities at the National Emergency Training Center. Chief Mitchell retired as the Fire Chief and Assistant Director of Disaster Emergency Services for the City of Pasadena, California Fire Department after 33 years in the fire service. Chief Mitchell was an active member and former officer of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). During his last year in Pasadena he was also President of the IAFC, where he continued until the completion of his term. He served in Pasadena from 1998 until 2004.

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Prior to becoming Fire Chief in Pasadena, Chief Mitchell served as Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager in the City of Monrovia, California for seven years. In previous years, he has served as a member of the International Fire Service Training Association Executive Board, the International Association of Firefighters Hazardous Materials Advisory Board, the IAFC President's Council, the IAFC Foundation Board, the IAFC/IAFF Labor/Management Initiative Facilitator Team, the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Advisory Committee, and presided over several fire service organizations, including: the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association, the League of California Cities Fire Chiefs, and the Foothill Fire Chiefs. He has also been an advocate for the National Fallen Firefighters' Everyone Goes Home Program, an adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy, and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Fire Chief Magazine. During his career, Chief Mitchell has either chaired or been a member of many working committees that contributed to the progress and development of communities, as well as local, state, and national fire and emergency services. He is a past recipient of the IAFC President's Award for Service and has received several other community service awards. In 2012, Chief Mitchell received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the IAFC Black Chief Officers.

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