

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GLOBAL SAFETY AND SECURITY ACADEMY PREPARES FOR FUTURE IN MARITIME FIELDS

SAN PEDRO, Calif. – A collaborative of local, state and federal agencies provided a day-long program to encourage Banning High School Global Safety and Security Academy students to stay in school, seek higher education, and pursue careers in safety or security fields.

Sixty academy students convened at Port of Los Angeles headquarters where representatives from the Port, Port Police, FBI, Marine Exchange of Southern California, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Pasha Stevedoring and Terminals, APM Terminals, Los Angeles Fire Department and the U.S. Coast Guard offered insight into setting and accomplishing goals and career advice.

“Stay in school and graduate. You need an education so dropping out is not an option,” advised Bruce E. Seaton, Port of Los Angeles Interim Executive Director and a Banning High School alumnus. “I grew up in Wilmington. I understand the challenges of staying in school... It will pay off.”

Newly appointed Chief Ron Boyd of the Los Angeles Port Police added, “Your presence today demonstrates that you are thinking about the future. Remember this day and your experiences later when you talk of your success. This is where you get the groundwork. As long as you are willing to study hard and stay attentive, the door of opportunity will open.”

After the briefing, land and water tours offered students a full spectrum of port operations. The APM Terminal tour provided valuable insight

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After 5:00 p.m.:

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Academy Security

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into the daily operations of a container terminal and its importance to the local economy as the second largest employer in the San Pedro Basin. Students met with various Maersk staff members to discuss job responsibilities and the necessary skills and education required to obtain their positions and levels of responsibility.

A later boat tour offered a view of the nation's busiest working harbor and a discussion of how the agencies are partnering to ensure the safety of the cargo and the neighboring communities.

At the Coast Guard base, the event was highlighted by a helicopter search and rescue demonstration, Port Police K-9 exercise, fireboat display and an anti-terrorist drill by the U.S Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team.

Startling statistics indicate that 2/3 of recent incoming high school freshmen did not complete their senior year of high school. Banning High School's objective is to change those statistics. Future plans call for transitioning the entire campus into smaller, more concentrated schools, all with a connection to international trade. Each of the Banning schools will have a focused theme supported by the community and local businesses through internships and student work programs.

A first of its kind, the Banning High School Global Safety and Security Academy is modeled after the successful Banning High School International Trade Academy.

The Port of Los Angeles is America's premier port. As the leading containerport in the nation and a critical hub in the international supply chain, the Port generates thousands of stable, well paying jobs. It has also placed a high priority on smart growth initiatives combined with high security, environmental stewardship and community outreach. The Port of Los Angeles is a proprietary, self-supporting department of the City of Los Angeles. The Port of Los Angeles. . . Anchoring a bright future.

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