Chamber addresses jobs and the economy at L.A. City Hall

The Chamber advocated for issues important to the City of Los Angeles at annual Access L.A. City Hall event.

N umber 4 business leaders gathered for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual Access L.A. City Hall event.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa asked the business community to work together with the city on issues facing the region at the Chamber’s annual Access L.A. City Hall event.

Villaraigosa said, “The key is to have community and the city to work together with the city on issues facing the region.”

Throughout the morning, Chamber members heard from more than 30 civic leaders and lawmakers on key issues in Los Angeles. Sessions addressed affordable housing; growing and greening the ports; improving L.A.’s business climate; renovating LAX; gang violence, education and youth development; gridlock and public transportation; providing water and power to L.A.; and planning and building.

Renovating LAX

The Los Angeles International Airport is a huge economic engine for the region—but flights, passengers and jobs are going to cities outside our region. Now is the time to take action on the renovation of LAX if we want the airport to go back to its glory days, and the business community must be a part of the conversation, said panelists at the Renovating LAX session.

“The business community has to stay engaged on big projects, like the green line and north airfield,” said L.A. Board of Airport Commissioners President Alan Rothenberg, 1st Century Bank. “We need to make sure the business community continues to keep the heat on decision makers.”

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who said that safety at the airport is everyone’s main concern, encouraged the business community to urge the congressional delegation to fund transportation projects, including LAX.

Community leaders fight gang violence

Government and education leaders spoke strongly about the negative impacts of gang activity at a session on gang violence, education and youth development. Currently there are seven times as many gangs and twice as many gang members in L.A. than in 1985, said Councilmember Janice Hahn.

“Businesses can play a role,” said City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, explaining that businesses can get involved with programs designed to influence preventive change among parents and children.

The Chamber supports comprehensive health care reform that expands access to affordable, quality health insurance and includes shared financing responsibility among all stakeholders in the health care system including: government, health plans, health care organizations, pharmaceutical companies, providers, employees, employers and individuals. The Chamber continues to oppose AB 8, which places the entire financial burden of expanding access on business.

For more information, contact Director of Public Policy Samuel Garrison, 213.580.7568 or sgarrison@lachamber.org.

IN THIS ISSUE:

10 ways the Chamber helped L.A. business this quarter
Southern California Leadership Network grooms leaders
Chamber forms new Non Profit Council

STONG COLLABORATION. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa asked the business community to work together with the city on issues facing the region at the Chamber’s annual Access L.A. City Hall event.

Thursday, Sept. 20 to discuss important issues impacting the future of L.A.’s economy, including the renovation of the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), the growing and greening of the ports and curbing gang violence.

Maintaining a strong business climate and encouraging the business community to speak were the common themes throughout the day.

“A strong economy begins with a job,” said Chamber Board Chair David Fleming, Latham & Watkins, LLP. “A strong business voice is essential to a strong economy.”

L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City Council President Eric Garcetti and City Controller Laura Chick kicked off the day. All three stressed the need for the business community and the city to work together on issues facing our region.

“Los Angeles is a city with a diverse economy. We have to work in partnership,” Villaraigosa said. “The key is to have strong collaboration.”

Villaraigosa thanked the Chamber for its continued leadership and partnership on issues including education reform, workforce training and helping youths find summer jobs. He also applauded the Chamber for its recent stance on health care reform.

“The fact that the Chamber has raised its hand on health care speaks volumes of how the Chamber is forward looking and always thinking ahead,” Villaraigosa said.

Garcetti echoed the need for more collaboration, mentioning his efforts to make the council more aware of business issues through the creation of the Jobs, Business Growth and Tax Reform committee. Chick suggested the need for a citywide economic development policy that would help businesses grow and plan for their future.

The proposal includes a 4 percent payroll levy for employers with 10 or more employees who do not already contribute at least that much to providing health insurance for their employees.

“All Californians deserve health coverage and all Californians should play a role in making that happen,” said Gary Tooben, president and CEO of the L.A. Area Chamber. “Placing the entire financial burden on the back of business is not a viable solution.”

The Chamber urged Gov. Schwarzenegger and other state Legislators to use the proposal as a template to pass health care reform during the upcoming special legislative session.

Standing with the Governor on health care reform

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce endorsed Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s health care reform proposal in September, making it one of the first business organizations to come out in support of the plan.

The proposal includes a 4 percent payroll levy for employers with 10 or more employees who do not already contribute at least that much to providing health insurance for their employees.

“By 2010, there will be 1 million available summer jobs. He also applauded the Chamber for its recent stance on health care reform.”

"Businesses can play a role," said City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, explaining that businesses can get involved with programs designed to influence preventive change among parents and children.

The panelists emphasized the need for after school programs, workforce development and job training as pivotal tools in keeping kids out of trouble and equipping them with the skills they need to secure good paying careers.

"By 2010, there will be 1 million available summer jobs," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "We need to have the Chamber is forward looking and always thinking ahead."
Putting the Focus Back on Infrastructure Projects

Advocating for long-term infrastructure improvements to enhance the economy, create good jobs and improve our quality of life has been an important part of the mission of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Since our founding in 1888, the Chamber has played a major role in projects key to the growth of our region including the San Pedro Ports, the Metropolitan Water District, and dozens of highways and transit lines.

Critical now to our region’s growth is the renovation of the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Serving 60 million travelers a year, LAX must be renovated in order to accommodate new and larger aircraft and remain competitive with other world-class airports. In August, Federal Aviation Administrator Marion C. Blakely spoke to the Chamber and urged the Los Angeles business community to give new momentum to the stalled efforts to renovate LAX.

The Chamber has embraced this challenge and we will continue to promote the renovation of LAX and other major infrastructure projects at the ports, Caltrans, Metro, Metropolitan Water District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. As a trustee of the region, we will take a big picture view when evaluating these projects and make decisions based on what is in the best interest of the community as a whole. Without this big picture perspective, nearly every new infrastructure project is too expensive or too controversial to undertake.

Most of the infrastructure that supports the economy of our region was built years ago. It was designed and built when projects were cheaper and opposition from neighbors, environmentalists and business competitors were less vocal or nonexistent. Times are different. Infrastructure projects are much harder to build and much easier to stop. But the need for new infrastructure has not changed—it is greater today than ever before.

In today’s political environment, if the broader business community does not speak more clearly to the community’s needs, we will all lose. Thank you for adding your voice to this chorus through your membership and participation in the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Gary L. Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Want to know what’s coming up at the Chamber this fall? Visit www.lachamber.org to view and register for upcoming events.

Below are some key signature events you won’t want to miss:

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

WED & THU | OCT. 10 & 11
Cash for College: College & Career Convention • L.A. students and their families are invited to attend the convention, which will feature representatives from colleges and universities from across the country, along with interactive career demonstrations and a wealth of information on scholarships and financial aid. For more information, contact Director of Education & Workforce Development Alma Salazar, 213.580.7566 or asalazar@lachamber.org.

TUE | OCT. 16
Construction Industry Awards • The 72nd annual luncheon honors exceptional contributions in developing the built environment of L.A. to unite the region’s diverse communities. The event will honor Jim McNulty, Parsons Corporation; Gin Wong, Gin Wong Associates; and Carol Schatz and the Central City Association. For more information, contact Director of Events Michelle Attebery, 213.580.7577 or mattebery@lachamber.org.

THU-SAT | NOV. 1-3
World Trade Week International Business University Competition • The second annual competition will showcase the talents and skills of college students by challenging them to think and act like real world professionals. Participating students have the chance to win $12,500 in prize money. For more information, contact International Policy Sam Garrison, 213.580.7568 or sgarrison@lachamber.org.

TUE | DEC. 4
Southern California Leadership Network Visionaries Luncheon • Join business executives, elected officials and community leaders for a luncheon to honor those who’ve shown extraordinary commitment to strengthening the L.A. community. The event will benefit Leadership L.A. and Leadership Southern California. For more information, contact V.P. of Leadership Programs Kevin Cottrell, 213.580.7577 or kcottrell@lachamber.org.

IN THE NEWS

Chamber media highlights

“The governor received a boost Monday when the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce endorsed his plan,” Gary Toebben, who heads the chamber, said the plan is “based upon shared responsibility. Californians can no longer afford the status quo.”

“We believe everyone should be part of the solution, not just businesses,” said David Fleming, chairman of the Los Angeles Area Chamber. “Everyone has to have skin in this game.”

“L.A. Chamber of Commerce backs Governor’s health program,” Los Angeles Times, Sept. 18

“We are trying to build a 21st century school system and our taxpayers have voted to. But those projects are at risk and our visionary plan for new schools is at risk,” said Chamber President and CEO Gary Toebben.

“Leaders back school funding formula change,” Daily News, Aug. 2

Home and auto insurance at a discount

Through the Chamber’s Member Advantage discount program, you can enjoy an average 10 percent on your policies by doing business with United Insurance Partners. Let United Insurance Partners do the shopping for you. You can take advantage of great rates, quality companies, and prompt professional service from member insurance specialists.

For more information, contact Armando Rivas at 850-707-2860 or grijalva@lachamber.org.

The Chamber’s member-to-member discount offers a variety of savings, from hotel rooms to printing to shipping. If you’d like to offer Chamber members a discount on your products or services, contact Membership Manager Pat Clark, 213.580.7575 or pclark@lachamber.org.
10 ways the Chamber helps your business

Your investment in the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce helps us build a stronger economy and quality of life in the region. Here are a few ways we helped improve L.A. business this quarter:

1. Developed guiding principles for LAX Renovation

The Chamber developed guiding principles to articulate our position on the Los Angeles International Airport and to assess the viability of airport renovation proposals. The Chamber continued to facilitate and host stakeholder meetings on bringing LAX back to its glory days as a leading world-class airport.

Bottom line: LAX is a $60 billion economic engine for our region, which supports more than 400,000 jobs in Southern California. For decades LAX set the standard for air travel but has not kept pace with the efforts of other major airports and cannot accommodate the newer generation of quieter and more fuel efficient aircraft. We must work together to renovate LAX.

2. Advocated for meaningful health care reform

The Chamber endorsed Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s health care reform proposal, which includes a 4 percent payroll tax on employers with 10 or more employees who do not already contribute that much to providing health insurance for their employees. The Chamber will continue to evaluate any modifications to the proposal, as well as new alternatives that may develop during the special legislative session.

Bottom line: The governor’s plan provides the best possible platform for reform negotiations moving forward. It will ensure a balanced approach to finance expanded health care coverage for all Californians without placing excessive burdens on business. The plan also takes advantage of our system of health care providers already in place.

3. Provided youth with employment opportunities

The Chamber’s AT&T and Vons teams teamed with L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the City of Los Angeles to support the Hire LA’s Youth campaign to help more than 10,000 young adults gain access to employment opportunities during the summer. In collaboration with Hire LA! Youth, the Chamber’s Work Readiness Certification program certifies young adults as work-ready, allowing employers to identify qualified candidates.

Bottom line: A skilled workforce is critical to L.A.’s economy. By building career pathways for youth, the Chamber helps develop a 21st century workforce equipped with the skills for tomorrow’s jobs.

4. Supported green growth at ports

The Chamber co-sponsored the TransPac project at a public comment meeting on the Environmental Impact Report in August. The TransPac project provides an unprecedented opportunity to move forward with a green growth plan balancing port growth with environmental concerns.

Bottom line: With the large amount of cargo passing through the ports on a daily basis, it is important that its facilities continue to be able to sustain expected growth. The Chamber encourages the Port of Los Angeles, community stakeholders and the business community to continue to produce discussions on green and growing our ports.

5. United for school construction funds

The Chamber joined education, business, civic and community leaders to voice support for AB 1014, which will ensure that state matching funds are available to build the new schools required to reduce busing, relieve overcrowded campuses and eliminate multi-track calendars.

Bottom line: Even with LAUSD’s historic building effort underway, our schools remain overcrowded. After the current building program is complete, the district will still have 200,000 students in portable buildings and long-term forecasts predict that enrollment will continue to increase through 2020. L.A. needs schools now and we will need even more in the future.

6. Partnered with Export-Import Bank

The Chamber signed a partnership agreement with the Export-Import Bank of the United States to give L.A.-based small and medium sized businesses easier access to financing for export opportunities.

Bottom line: As an Ex-Im Bank City/State Partner, the Chamber will be able to help local businesses learn about and apply for a range of Ex-Im Bank financing products, including short-term export credit insurance, loan guarantees to increase export-related working capital and medium-term financing for foreign buyers.

7. Engaged small business owners on business resources

The Chamber convened business owners to discuss cost saving opportunities that will help conserve water and energy, and led a roundtable discussion on utilizing Web technology to further visibility.

Bottom line: L.A. is the small business capital of the world with more than 200,000 small businesses. The Chamber continues to be a strong advocate for small businesses, which are the backbone of L.A.’s economy.

8. Fought for more transportation and goods movement funding

The Chamber joined government, transportation and business leaders during the summer to speak out against the threat of losing $1.3 billion in funding for new highways and transit projects. In July, Mobility 21, a Southern California transportation coalition, met to discuss attracting bond funding for L.A. goods movement corridor, with State Sen. Alan Lowenthal and L.A. City Councilmember Janice Hahn.

Bottom line: Traffic congestion is a growing problem in Los Angeles County. With job growth and personal travel dependent on a transportation infrastructure that works, we must continue to advocate for consensus and regional solutions to our transportation needs.

9. Called for reduction in business gross receipt taxes

The Chamber continued to advocate for a reduction in gross receipt taxes. The L.A. City Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on Business Tax Reform approved a 4 percent reduction in the city’s gross receipt tax bringing the total reduction up to 11.1 percent. The Chamber-supported 2004 Business Tax Reform approved a 4 percent reduction in gross receipt taxes.

Bottom line: The Chamber will continue to advocate for further tax cuts and other incentives to improve the city’s business climate. We must continue to cultivate a business-friendly environment in the City of L.A. if we want to keep our economic edge.

10. Co-hosted L.A.’s ninth annual networking event

More than 2,500 people attended L.A.’s Largest Mixer IX in downtown L.A. in July. Business owners and employees made connections with more than 250 exhibitors at the Shrine Auditorium Expo Center. The event is just one of several Business After Hour Mixers that the Chamber hosts throughout the year for its members.

Bottom line: Networking is an important part of business. The Chamber offers a variety of events for our members to expand their networking circle.
Southern California Leadership Network

Leading the Way

A mong the millions of people in Southern California are leaders waiting to emerge. For more than 25 years, the Southern California Leadership Network (SCLN), a partnership with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, has developed a network of exemplary and diverse leaders with the skills to address the critical challenges facing our region.

Graduates of SCLN’s Leadership Southern California (LSC) and Leadership L.A. (LLA) programs go on to serve on boards for organizations and are active participants in the communities where they live and work. “Our graduate are armed with the knowledge to address quality of life issues with visionary, creative leadership,” said Executive Director Kevin Cottrell, who is also the Chamber’s VP of Leadership Programs. “With the challenges that our region faces on a daily basis, it’s important that we continue to build a network of collaborative civic leaders.”

More than 900 participants of the Southern California Leadership Network are currently making a difference, including Kimberly Freeman, Sempra Energy; Randal Hernandez, Bank of America; and David Porges, Deloitte.

Africa Bound

For Kimberly Freeman, community involvement goes beyond Southern California. Her passion for international public service has led her to work with women and children affected with AIDS throughout southern Africa. In May, she volunteered in Cape Town, South Africa.

Freeman has participated in three leadership programs, including LSC in 2002. Through LSC, Freeman increased her understanding of how diverse cultures, economies, geographies and politics fit together in an increasingly complex society.

“In many ways, the challenges and opportunities I see here in Los Angeles parallel those I see in my travels... whether it’s poverty, disease, homelessness, equity and access,” said Freeman, regional director of community partnerships for Sempra Energy.

In her role at Sempra, Freeman directs charitable giving and community outreach to the more than 500 communities served by Sempra. Freeman also serves on the Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission as an appointee of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa - an opportunity she credits to her participation in LSC.

“On a daily basis I am applying what I have learned,” she said. “In some respects, Leadership Southern California is like a ‘graduate degree’ in Southern California.

Civic Involvement

A 1996 LSC graduate, Randal Hernandez has made economic and workforce development initiatives in Southern California a priority.

“SCLN has inspired me to think regionally and act locally,” said Hernandez, a senior public policy executive for Bank of America. “Many of the challenges facing California today require regional collaboration and planning that are brought to life at the local, community and often neighborhood level.”

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Hernandez in 2006 to serve on the California Community College Board of Governors and Hernandez chairs the California Center for Regional Leadership (CCRL), among other board involvement.

“My mission is to advance innovative regional solutions for the state’s major economic, environmental and social challenges,” he said.

An Overview of SCLN

In 2007, the Leadership L.A. Foundation, founded in 1987, and the Southern California Leadership Network, which administered Leadership Southern California, and was founded in 1989, officially merged into one organization and continued in a partnership with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Now programs of SCLN, Leadership L.A. and Leadership Southern California will continue to be the region’s two premier leadership programs.

Sessions are organized around the concept of civic entrepreneurship and include three key components that are distinctive to SCLN’s programs:

1. A comprehensive overview of the issue at hand.
2. Dialogue and discussion among peers and experts.

Leadership L.A.

Leadership L.A. has been strengthening the Los Angeles community by developing and empowering emerging leaders. The program includes 25 selected participants who engage in nine monthly, full day sessions devoted to exploring key community issues and leadership development. It is for individuals who are becoming increasingly active in community leadership roles throughout L.A. County. Participants get an in-depth knowledge of the county and build strong relationships between participants and the organizations they encounter.

Leadership Southern California

Leadership Southern California is a unique, experiential “master class” in Southern California in the company of talented, high-energy peers. Each year the program enrolls about 40 carefully selected mid-to senior-level leaders in a 10 session program that embodies the values of regional stewardship, experiential learning and a deep exposure to regional policy issues. Participants travel across five counties, exploring county-wide themes while interacting with leaders of regional, state and national note.

In the spirit of SCLN, Porges pays attention to the many challenges our region faces, both economic and social.

"The more information I have about these matters the better, and SCLN gave me that,” he said. “It also gave me new connections to people and institutions, which have since proven valuable in other areas of my work.”

SCLN is continuing to engage new groups of local and regional leaders waiting to join the ranks of Freeman, Hernandez and Porges. Gain the knowledge and experience to make a significant and profound difference in our region, or refer somebody who would be interested. For more information, contact VP of Leadership Programs Kevin Cottrell, 213.581.7757 or kcottrell@lachamber.org

A better L.A. is our business

Bank of America
Free Cash for College

As the college application season begins, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and partners of L.A. Cash for College are making it easy for students in Los Angeles to learn about and access higher education and college financial aid.

The College & Career Convention on Oct. 10 and 11 at the Los Angeles Convention Center will feature colleges and universities from throughout the state and country, will provide information about scholarships and other financial aid opportunities, and feature college preparation workshops all designed to help students understand the importance of college and accessing financial aid resources.

The Chamber’s Cash for College program will host financial aid workshops throughout the L.A. region from January to March and will host its annual Cash for College Day on Feb. 9 for students and their families to receive one-on-one assistance that housing and mixed-use developments may be more appropriate for certain areas. Key areas for review include downtown Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley and along the Los Angeles River. Ultimately, the Chamber supports creating a regional industrial land use plan that encompasses all local cities and communities.

Statewide Health Care Reform

The Chamber supported Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s health care reform proposal in September, as a strong alternative to AB 588. In May, the Chamber advocated for comprehensive statewide health care reform with a statement of principles developed by the Health Care Reform Task Force and Health Care Committee. Built on the foundation of shared responsibility, the principles promote expanding coverage to all uninsured children, spreading the financial burden among all stakeholders and providing access to every California. In addition to legislative efforts, the Chamber will also focus on competing state ballot initiatives expected in 2008.

Improving L.A.’s Business Climate

The Chamber continues to work with the L.A. City Council and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s office to develop better policies to make Los Angeles more business friendly. The Chamber is an active member of the mayor’s Los Angeles Economy & Jobs Committee and the L.A. City Council’s Business Retention & Retraction Task Force. Efforts continue to develop greater incentives for housing production, transit-oriented development, lower business taxes and a coordinated strategy for helping local businesses.

Cash for College Expansion Legislation

The Chamber sponsored AB 8450 to expand the highly-successful Cash for College program statewide and place it under the direction of the Student Aid Commission. Authored by Assemblymember Judy Carol Garcia, with State Sen. Tom McClintock and Assemblymember Mark Leno as the principal co-authors of this important legislation to expand college education opportunities for all risk young people.

Free Trade Agreements with Key Trading Partners

The Chamber supports Congressional ratification of the pending free trade agreements between the United States and South Korea, Peru, Colombia and Panama. Trade between the United States and these nations has doubled over the past four years and all four countries currently enjoy nearly free access to the U.S. market. Passage of the free trade agreements will allow American businesses to export American products almost tariff-free.

San Pedro Ports Trucking Plan

The Ports’ Truck Plan would prohibit self-employed truck drivers from operating at the ports and mandate expensive compliance measures that are not required at any other California port. A better solution is a statewide clean air truck plan that creates uniform emission standards for all trucks servicing all of our ports and rail yards. The Chamber supports a statewide plan as the most equitable, effective and environmentally sustainable alternative to the Ports’ Truck Plan.

Fixing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

State Senator Bill SB 704, would levy a $60 per container fee on goods passing through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach with the goal of funding clean rail projects. However, the fee money would be sent to Sacramento with no guarantee that it would be spent on local projects. In addition, no funding is provided for desperately needed congestion relievers on local highways or much-needed improvement of the ports’ access bridges. This bill also conflicts with a proposed container fee designed to improve the same infrastructure by funding local projects at the local level.

Build More Affordable Housing

The Chamber supports implementing the Los Angeles City Planning Department’s proposed density incentives for the development of affordable housing. This includes ensuring that very low and very low income units in a condominium development are offered for both sale or rent by the property owner. In addition, the Chamber continues to work with partners streamlining the city’s permitting and planning process to spur more transit-oriented, smart growth housing developments.

Statewide Legislative Redistricting

Of the 459 separate races in California over the last three election cycles, only four seats switched party hands. Currently, electoral districts are drawn by incumbents. The Chamber will continue to monitor redistricting efforts aimed at promoting fairness, transparency, and competition of both ideas and candidates in our state’s elections.

L.A. City Industrial Land Policy

As the City of Los Angeles reviews its industrial land use policy, the Chamber continues to work with stakeholders to ensure that protect vital industrial lands and enable mixed-use developments may be more appropriate for certain areas. Key areas for review include downtown Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley and along the Los Angeles River. Ultimately, the Chamber supports creating a regional industrial use plan that encompasses all local cities and communities.

Big dreams for a better L.A.

For nearly 120 years, the L.A. Area Chamber has advocated and helped establish L.A.’s port, international airport, water system, entertainment industry hub and freeway system. We asked members of the Chamber Board of Directors about their dream project or policy idea for the L.A. region that the Chamber can help make a reality.

“My dream is that one day all Californians will have access to high-quality, cost-effective health care paid for by all of us—not just employers. The business community must continue to work together in promoting a more efficient and effective health care system.”

—Albert E. Greene, President & CEO, Valley Presbyterian Hospital

“My dream is to create a world-class, 1,700-seat performing arts center featuring Broadway-caliber performances in the San Fernando Valley. This has been a dream for this region for three decades—let’s work in collaboration with the county’s Music Center to bring unprecedented cultural opportunities to more people in the Los Angeles area.”

—Jolene Koester, President, California State University, Northridge

“My dream for L.A. is for more of our young people, especially those from inner-city communities, to be equipped and encouraged successfully to obtain a college education. Our next generation of leaders needs to possess the tools required to fend off the breakthrough solutions that will continue to make our region competitive and viable in the 21st century.”

—Michael J. Anzalone, President & CEO, TELACU Industries
Giving Non Profits A Boost

Non profit organizations in the Los Angeles area are facing immense challenges with increased needs, unfunded mandates and rising accountability requirements.

L.A. County boasts more than 50,000 non profits, with six to seven new non profits being created every day on average in the last year, according to UCLA’s Center for Civil Society, Creating Opportunities: The State of the Nonprofit Sector in Los Angeles 2007. The non profit sector grew by 1 percent from 2000 to 2005, but by nearly 20 percent from 2000 to 2005.

The sector has grown more in numbers than in financial capacity, with many non profits serving a greater number of people per organization and spending less per person in need, according to UCLA’s study.

To help non profit executives face these challenges head on, the L.A. Area Chamber will kick off a new program for the non profit community this fall. The Chamber will launch The Non Profit Council to help the non profit community in policy issues and solidify the partnership between the business and non profit communities through a number of program opportunities.

“The Chamber is positioned to build sustainable partnerships with the business and social sectors,” said Program Manager Bridget Netter. “Our partnership will impact the health and economic welfare of our region.”

The council is open to Chamber members only, but additional programs will be available through the council to engage the business community at large, including the executive roundtables ’Non Profit Plus’.

“There’s no better time than now to further the conversation between non profits and the business community,” said Chair of the Non Profit Council Lance Slaughter, executive director of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. “I look forward to working together with all of our partners as we face the challenges ahead.”

For more information, contact Program Manager Bridget Netter, 213.580.9766 or bridget@lachamber.org.

Success in tomorrow’s global economy depends on the education of today’s youth, particularly in critical subjects such as math and science.

Unfortunately, for U.S. business, according to a new survey commissioned by the Raytheon Company, American middle school children would rather clean their rooms, take out the garbage or visit the dentist than do their math homework, leaving education and business leaders worrying about the future of our workforce.

“This is disturbing because mathematics is essential to comprehending the principles of engineering, which advances our standard of living as a nation and lends critical support to the economy of California,” said Jon Jones, president of Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems (SAS), headquartered in El Segundo.

Still, students have confirmed, that it is not the approach, not the content that is discouraging them from pursuing these essential subjects. More than 60 percent of these same sixth to eighth graders say they want to improve in math, and 94 percent say doing well in math is important to them. Some 80 percent reported the subject would interest them more if they knew how people in music, sports and video games used math in their jobs.

Recently, the L.A. Area Chamber, philanthropists, school reformers, and policymakers in the Los Angeles area have advocated for Multiple Pathways, an approach designed to provide academic and career foundations for students through school programs based on their interests and unique strengths. The Multiple Pathways perspective advocates that students learn better when academics are relayed in a more hands-on approach.

“We’ve established that American students want to and can do well,” Jones said. “But they need to be engaged in math on their own terms. In middle school, too many students think math is geeky. But they don’t think it’s geeky to design a rollercoaster or a video game, or go for a cross-court winner on the tennis court.”

Raytheon recently invited 350 middle school students to its campus in El Segundo to hear from professional bicycle moto-cross rider Dave Mirra and video game designer Mark Skaggs talk about how they use math in their work.

“That’s why Raytheon conducted the survey and has launched an initiative called MathMovesU (www.mathmovesu.com),” said Pat Coulter, vice president for communications public affairs at SAS. “Our objective is to help middle school students see the relationship between studying math now and living an exciting and rewarding life later.”

For the L.A. region to have the per-capita growth and human capital to propel a thriving economy in the future we must start with education. The Multiple Pathways approach provides both the academics and inspiration for students to want to learn, ensuring an effective education environment and the foundations students need to succeed, which will ultimately benefit an entire business community.

For more information, contact V.P. of Education & Workforce Development David Ratray, 213.482.3987 or draftray@lachamber.org.

Business spotlight:
Combining academics and inspiration for success

When you’ve been in the energy business as long as Chevron, you learn the importance of lasting relationships. Every day we’re forging new partnerships with communities and organizations in our business’ 168 countries. That’s why the $15 million in support of our more than 55,000 employees in turning local opportunities into success for all. To learn more, visit us at chevron.com.

RIDING ON MATH. Professional bicycle moto-cross rider Dave Mirra talks to children of Raytheon’s El Segundo facility during Engineers Week on how mathematics comes into play when performing his gravity-defying stunts.

Bottom-Line Benefits
Save money everyday—a benefit of your membership.

Don’t forget, your Chamber membership is the key to Bottom-Line Benefits—big savings on everyday business costs, including shipping with DHL Express, airport parking at The Parking Spot, discounts on office supplies with Office Depot and savings with NationJob Network. For more information, contact Membership Manager Pat Clark, 213.580.7956 or pclark@lachamber.org.
MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to our renewing members! We greatly appreciate your continued support and involvement. *Circle Member Levels are in bold

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<td>Bowen &amp; Girls Clubs of America</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>(323) 264-1234</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@bgca.org">info@bgca.org</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Telco Communications, Inc.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>(818) 708-0123</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@telco.com">info@telco.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dollar General Corporation</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>(310) 482-5000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@dollargeneral.com">info@dollargeneral.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Johnson Controls, Inc.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>(310) 482-5000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@johnsoncontrols.com">info@johnsoncontrols.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Liberty Mutual Insurance Group</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>(310) 482-5000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@libertymutual.com">info@libertymutual.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER

Thanks to our new members, who joined the Chamber during June, July and August 2007.

To learn more about Circle Level membership benefits, call 213.580.7500.

Harry Bajwa
Executive Vice President of Operations
Quarteg

March 2008

We welcome Chamber members, events and members regularly. As a result, not only have we acquired a wealth of business partners, we also expanded our professional network.

We have now joined a variety of new organizations—or ones that may have never crossed our paths. The Chamber fosters a sense of community for business owners, and gives us a voice.

“Everything I need to support my business, I found at the Chamber.”

Barbara Rocha
Barbara Rocha & Associates

“Individuals who involve themselves with the Chamber on any level can affect the development of policies affecting the region.”

Timothy Smith
Executive Director, Special Government Affairs
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Member since 1993

The Chamber allows me to represent my employee’s concerns on health policy issues through the Health Care Coalition. The Chamber also provides me with the unique opportunity for training and civic engagement through the Leadership Los Angeles program, which has allowed me to interact with professionals from a number of fields and has inspired me to become involved with my community in new ways.

ACES, a Merrick Partnership

“The Chamber is a leader for our region in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., while collaborating with other business organizations, including the Central City Association, on efforts affecting Southern California.”

Lucinda ‘Cindy’ Satterfield
Partner
Lucid Management

This year, the Chamber has allowed me to interact with professionals from a number of fields and has inspired me to become involved with my community in new ways.

“I believe in the Chamber and its mission to bring business and community together in one place to impact the future business growth of Los Angeles.”

Forbes Rocq
President & CEO
Community Financial Resources Center

“I am proud of our accomplishments and our ability to attract other influential organizations—those that may have never crossed our paths. The Chamber fosters a sense of community for business owners, and gives us a voice.”

FACES OF THE CHAMBER

Members talk about why they invest in the L.A. Area Chamber

P. 20

Californian’s busiest freeway corridor is the junction of the 5, 10 and 110 freeways—averaging 580,000 vehicles daily.
It’s Clark Kerr’s fault.

“Forty-seven years ago, the president of the University of California introduced an idealistic, untested and truly modest plan to build the finest public higher education system in the nation.

“Happily, Doctor Kerr’s Master Plan succeeded, but there was an unforeseen consequence: it over-performed.

“Today, California’s public universities (including one that’s not even 100 years old and is in L.A., of all places) rank among the most highly regarded universities, public or private, in the nation or the world.

“That freshman you just passed on State Street may be the next Bill Gates, the next Picasso, the next Jackie Joyner. That professor over there could create an unforgettable piece of music, a cure for a deadly disease, 10,000 new high-tech jobs or a math program for failing schools that actually works.

“So, how can UCLA maintain that momentum, that excellence? How do we nourish this priceless community asset, this spectacular economic engine that enriches us all?

“Start with this reality check:

“California state government funding for the university system has gone from 42% a generation ago to less than 18% today. And that money’s not coming back.

“Which brings us back to us, the citizen/owners. Not just alumni, not just the university family. We need every business, large and small, every member of the leadership community, anyone who benefits from this university. That would very likely be every one of us.

“One last thought: The future has been around for a very long time. It will be there tomorrow. But now is now. The momentum, the excellence, the need is now.”

Sherry Lansing. UCLA, Unabashed.

In this issue:

- 10 ways the Chamber helped L.A. business this quarter
- Southern California Leadership Network grows leaders
- Chamber forms new Non Profit Council

Local businesses have an ample menu of ways to save money and stay healthy.

- Bank of America
- Kaiser Permanente
- Latham & Watkins, LLP
- Los Angeles Times
- Majestic Realty Co.
- Microsoft Corporation
- Port of Los Angeles
- Ralphs Grocery Company
- Southern California Edison
- The Gas Company, a Sempra Energy utility
- Time Warner Cable
- Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.
- Wells Fargo

The views contained in the Chamber VOICE reflect positions taken by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and do not necessarily reflect the views of our Diamond Club members.

Honor this year’s winners of the Lifetime Achievement award. Engage transportation officials and experts on priorities in the five-county region. Register now for these events and more at www.lachamber.org.

October 16
- Attend the 72nd annual luncheon to honor exceptional contributions in developing the built environment of L.A.

November 4
- Join elected officials, transportation, business and community leaders for the sixth annual Mobility 21 Summit.

December 5
- Honor those who’ve shown extraordinary commitment to strengthening the L.A. community.