



Date: May 17, 2005
To: Honorable Mayor O'Neill and Members of the City Council
From: Frank Colonna, Council Member, Third District *FC*
Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: California State University, Long Beach- City Internship Program**

Background

It is clear that California State University, Long Beach is one of America's best universities. *U.S. News and World Report* in its 2005 America's Best Colleges Guide, ranked CSULB as one of the top three public masters universities in the west.

Cal State Long Beach was also ranked among the top 32 colleges and universities of all 129 private and public masters institutions in the Western United States, placing it in the first tier of rankings (the top 25 percent) for the first time in the university's history.

CSULB also ranked first in the west among masters institutions in least debt load, meaning graduates from the university's Class of 2003 graduated with the lightest debt load in the west. In addition, Cal State Long Beach was also mentioned as one of west's top institutions in student body diversity.

Under the leadership of Dr. Robert Maxson, CSULB has transformed into an academic leader in the Western United States.

As a city, we should partner with the university to create a program that offers interested students internship opportunities in all aspects of city government. University departments that could be involved include criminal justice, social work, public policy, environmental studies and health science.

I would like to explore establishing a program similar to our management recruitment program. This new program could also be modeled after the city's youth opportunity internship program, which already attracts and places over 250 youth in various businesses throughout Long Beach each year.

This type of partnership would continue to strengthen the positive relationship between the city and the university. It would also ensure that the city has access to some of the best and brightest future managers and employees in the state.

Recommended Council Action

Move to request the City Manager to present a plan to the City Council for the creation of a CSULB student internship program within 45 days.