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Long Beach Women Visionaries: Inside The Unique Ideas Of Five Local Women Determined To Make A Difference



Cheri Bazley



Marcelle Epley



Kerstin Kansteiner

By **SAMANTHA MEHLINGER**
EDITOR

2018 has been called “the year of the woman,” but throughout the nation women live each year of their lives with purpose, vision, grit and determination. It may have taken until 2018 for them to be recognized with their own year, but women have been striving to advance themselves, their communities and this country before it was even founded.

The Business Journal has been profiling local women in business for decades, working to ensure that the stories and efforts of women leaders in our community are told. In this edition, we selected five women that we, and many others in the city, consider to be visionaries. These are individuals who started with unique ideas and seized upon opportunities to bring them to fruition for the betterment of the Long Beach community or their industries at large.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a visionary as “a person with original ideas about what the future will or could be like.” The five women highlighted within these pages were chosen because of the magnitude of impact their ideas are making on the community. Each of them works or lives within Long Beach.

From the creation of a unique effort that brought the city’s largest publications together for an award-winning series, to the early adoption of green business practices, to forward-thinking holistic cancer care, to the creation of an event that has brought in millions to help families in need, and even a program that brought massive works of art to city streets, the women’s visions have had far-reaching impacts. They are: Cheri Bazley, executive director of Long Beach Ronald McDonald House; Marcelle Epley, president and CEO of the Long Beach Community Foundation; Julia Huang, president and CEO of interTrend Communications; Kerstin Kansteiner, owner of Portfolio Coffeehouse, Berlin Bistro and Portfolio Fit; and Erin Sommerville, mind-body oncology coach at MemorialCare Todd Cancer Institute.

Julia Huang



Erin Sommerville

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Rethinking Local Journalism

Expanded Long Beach Post Hopes To Crack Sustainable Model

By **SAMANTHA MEHLINGER**
EDITOR

In Late June, local investment firm Pacific6 purchased the Long Beach Post, immediately doubling its newsroom – in part by snagging staff from the Press-Telegram – with the intention of providing daily, expanded coverage of the goings-on in the City of Long Beach. Pacific6 co-founder John Molina felt that Long Beach – a city with a larger population than Atlanta, Miami and St.

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New Regs For Trucks

Port Service Trucks Must Be 2014 Or Later

By **ANNE ARTLEY**
STAFF WRITER

Harbor commissioners at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles have approved a policy that mandates new trucks registering for service at the ports must be model year 2014 or later. This ensures that they meet the clean engine standards set

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After A Decade, The College Promise Has ‘Exceeded Expectations’

By **BRANDON RICHARDSON**
SENIOR WRITER

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Long Beach College Promise, a program put in place to increase access to higher education for all Long Beach students regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic status.

A report was released earlier this year to show the progress of the program and showed large gains in several indicator areas for all three educational institutions involved: Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD), Long Beach City College (LBCC) and California State University, Long Beach (CSULB).

“I would say it has exceeded expectations,”

Reagan Romali, superintendent-president of LBCC, said. “When we saw how successful it was, particularly the graduation rates here and . . . at Long Beach State – it’s groundbreaking. It’s changing the shape of education today.”

The College Promise introduces the idea of attending college at an early age, with all

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MILLENNIAL PULSE

By Editor Samantha Mehlinger

So You Just Turned 30 . . . Now What?

Two days before I turned 30, my car broke down. As one does, I took it to my car guy.

He opened the hood, got behind the wheel and hit the gas while it was in park. The engine looked

like it was going to jump right out of the car. “All your engine mounts are broken,” he said. “ALL of them?” I asked, not sure how many engine mounts there were or exactly

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