

L.A. Business This Week

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE L.A. AREA CHAMBER

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IN THIS ISSUE

Advocacy in Action

Read what the Chamber is doing on behalf of business

This Week At The Chamber

Read about the latest Chamber activity

Member News

Read good news from Chamber members

Issues of Interest

Read about important issues to business



CHAMBER ADVERTISEMENT



THE BRAVE ONES

May 8th | USC

Join UPS for this one-day leadership event broadcast live from Atlanta.

RSVP NOW



A Vision for the City of L.A.

Herb J. Wesson

Friday, April 24
7:45 – 9 a.m.

RSVP NOW

BIXEL EXCHANGE CONTINUES TO LINK START-UPS TO TECH SUCCESS

In just the two years since its inception, [Bixel Exchange](#) has made tremendous progress in helping L.A. tech entrepreneurs thrive. Launched in January 2013 as a partnership between the Small Business Development Center and the L.A. Area Chamber, Bixel Exchange offers programs and services that mentor, educate and connect new technology companies so that they continue to grow, produce jobs, commerce and new technologies here in L.A. To date, Bixel Exchange has:

- advised more than 150 companies/clients
- brought on 14 advisors to help foster growth
- secured more than \$500K in capital infusion through advising and workshops
- hosted more than 20 events for more than 3,000 attendees

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Contact us to advertise in this space and reach thousands of businesses.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Adding value to your Chamber membership



Chamber members get a special summer rate!

LEARN MORE

COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER

FRI | April 17
Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council
[more info & register](#)

WED | April 22
Land Use, Construction & Housing Council
[more info & register](#)

WED | April 22
Connect for Lunch
[more info & register](#)

THURS | April 23
Tech Thursday
[more info & register](#)

In addition, with its partners, Bixel Exchange has developed the first technology task force for the L.A. Fire Department, piloted **SAP's** Startup Focus accelerator program in L.A., collaborated with **Warner Brothers** Media Camp and sent the Chamber's first technology delegations to Washington D.C. and Sacramento to meet with legislators to advocate for important technological issues.

Want to be a driver in the high tech fast lane? [Learn more](#) or contact [Kevin Lew](#), 213.580.7584.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION:

L.A. Chamber appointed to Covered California SHOP Advisory Council
Covered California has

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

Commuting from LAX
L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti announced during the State of the City address on Tuesday that ride-share



OVERHEARD



"There is a great divide between what is actually going on in the classroom and what Sacramento thinks is happening in the classroom."

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (AD 70), Chair of the California Education Committee, speaking at the Education & Workforce Development Council meeting.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

The State We're In: California Leading the Nation?
CSUF News
 April 15, [Read more](#)

All in favor of raising the minimum wage, start marching
Los Angeles Magazine
 April 14, [Read more](#)

From small farming to urban agriculture: El Monte and subsistence homesteading
KCET
 April 14, [Read more](#)

LA Plans to go green
News24.com
 April 9, [Read more](#)



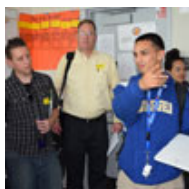
established the Small Business Health Options Program Advisory Group (SHOP Advisory Council) to provide input to the Covered California Board and staff on critical issues for small business customers. As a key regional stakeholder, the Chamber was one of only 20 organizations in the State selected to provide advice and recommendations to the Covered California Board. Samantha Beasley, senior manager of Health Care Policy, will represent the Chamber on the Advisory Council to assist in the continual refinement of policies and strategies to ensure Covered California offers unique value to small businesses that purchase coverage through SHOP. Contact [Samantha Beasley](#), 213.580.7558.

**THIS WEEK AT THE CHAMBER:
 Diversity, equity, and excellence in education**



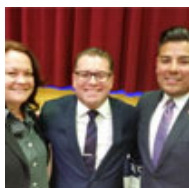
On Wednesday, the Chamber partnered with the Association of American Colleges and Universities to host a forum on "Diversity, Equity, and Excellence: College Learning and America's Unmet Promise." The forum brought together education, policy, civic, and business leaders to examine college students' need to thrive in a knowledge-based economy, and participate actively and responsibly in today's society. The forum featured a presentation by Christopher Thornberg of **Beacon Economics LLC**, and showcased high-impact practices implemented in higher education to help students develop the skills needed to succeed in the job market. Contact [Paola Santana](#), 213.580.7586.

Leadership L.A. focuses on education



On Friday, Leadership L.A. focused on the City's public education system. During the seminar, the Fellows heard from leaders from LAUSD and local nonprofit organizations working to increase graduation rates and improve college access for all students. They also had the opportunity to join the Chamber's Education & Workforce Development Policy Council meeting, featuring Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell, chair of the California Education Committee. Afternoon excursions explored different educational models and programs to help bridge the gap to increase graduation rates. The night before, Fellows attended a special workshop with Christopher Thornberg, founding partner, **Beacon Economics, LLC**, to gain a deeper understanding of the local economy. Contact [Erin Tanenbaum](#), 213.580.7526.

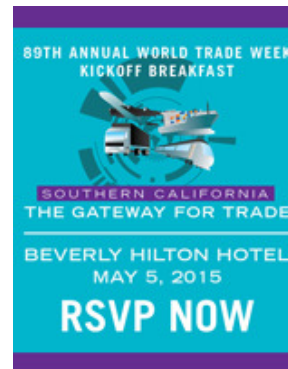
Leadership L.A. Fellow sworn in as mayor of South Gate



On Tuesday, Leadership L.A. Fellow, Jorge Morales, was sworn in as mayor of the city of South Gate. The oath of office was administered by Leadership L.A. alumni and California State Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens). Upon being sworn in, Mayor Morales told his

companies like **Uber** and **Lyft** will soon be able to pick you up at LAX. Currently, vehicles from ride-share companies are not allowed to pick up passengers at the airport. [Read](#) the full article.

MEMBER OPPORTUNITY



Do you remember your first job or internship?

We are calling on business leaders to provide young adults with pathways to crucial entry-level work experiences



REGISTER TODAY TO GET INVOLVED

constituents, "I want to work on developing an informed and engaged constituency. I want to go out and meet with our businesses and help them become engaged in the community." Contact [Nancy Olson](#), 213.580.7577.

Photo L to R: Southern California Leadership Network Executive Director Nancy Olson, Mayor Jorge Morales, Sen. Ricardo Lara

GOOD NEWS FROM CHAMBER MEMBERS:

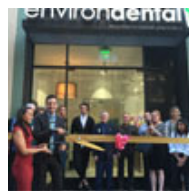
Cal State L.A. advancing the University's priorities and goals with new council



Cal State L.A. recently convened its first meeting of the new President's Council, which is comprised of accomplished business and civic leaders from the Greater L.A. area who will help strengthen the

University's role as a premier public comprehensive university. The 42 council members will work closely with Cal State L.A. President and Chamber board member William A. Covino, offering input and advice as the University solidifies community and corporate partnerships, launches innovative academic and research initiatives and pushes forward with an ambitious branding campaign. [Read more.](#)

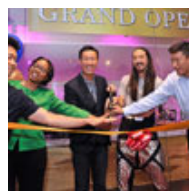
Ribbon cutting for a cutting-edge member



Last Thursday, **Envirodental** celebrated its grand opening at its location on South Olive St. in downtown L.A. Envirodental practices a new kind of dentistry that provides oral healthcare in

an atmosphere that applies environmentally friendly methods, including paperless charting and waterless vacuum system that saves over 300 gallons a day. [Learn more.](#) Contact [Brenda Valiente](#), 213.580.7559.





Member makes coffee a part of morning commute



The **Barista Society** coffee shop opened its doors on Tuesday. Located in the East Portal of Union Station, the concept includes high quality coffee specialities and a wide variety of unique pastries. Stephanie Wiggins,

Interim Deputy CEO of **Metro**, addressed the crowd and welcomed the new addition to the growing development in Union Station. [Learn more.](#) Contact [Brenda Valiente](#), 213.580.7559.

[Click here](#) to submit your member news.

Follow the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce on     and at [lachamber.com](#).

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit [lachamber.com](#)