

California State University Long Beach

2nd Annual Black Alumni Scholarship Honorees



STEVEN NEAL, President – Board of Harbor Commissioners
Port of Long Beach, California

Steven Neal is President of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners, the Board responsible for setting policy for the Port of Long Beach and overseeing the staff of the City's Harbor Department. He was elected to the post by his colleagues on the five-member Board in July 2021 following a term as Vice President.

Appointed to his first six-year term in July 2019 by Mayor Robert Garcia, he was unanimously confirmed by the City Council as the 70th appointee to the Board since the current Commission was established in 1925.

Mr. Neal represented North Long Beach on the Long Beach City Council from 2010 to 2014. A longtime community leader, he is the senior pastor for LIFE Gospel Ministries. He is a co-founder of the Economic Policy Impact Center, a nonprofit agency working to advance economic opportunity for working families, Executive Director of the Long Beach Collective Association, and has served on the boards of Long Beach Transit and the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network.

The Commission provides policy direction and oversight for the Port's capital improvement program, a plan to invest \$1.6 billion over the next 10 years to upgrade Port facilities, protect the environment, increase revenue and enhance competitiveness. Projects include the Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility, Long Beach Container Terminal at Middle Harbor, and other roadway, waterway, dock and rail improvements to speed cargo flow and reduce traffic.

Besides serving on various Commission subcommittees, Mr. Neal also represents the Port on national and international trade missions and serves as the Board representative or alternate to a variety of Port-related leadership organizations.

As a Councilmember, Mr. Neal focused on issues of jobs and economic development and bringing together business, labor, clergy and community leaders on programs that led to living-wage job growth.

He has also served in community advocacy roles with Molina Healthcare and United Way of Greater Los Angeles where he was Director of Labor for 10 years.

A longtime leader in the labor movement since his first election as a shop steward in the Retail Clerks Union Local 324, Mr. Neal worked his way up the ranks as a member of CWA Local 956 to become Executive Vice President and served in the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor.

A Compton native, Steven Neal and his wife, Katonja, live in Long Beach, are the proud parents of five daughters and one son, and are equally proud grandparents.

#

The Port of Long Beach is the Port of Choice – the premier U.S. gateway for trans-Pacific trade and a trailblazer in innovative goods movement, safety, environmental stewardship, and sustainability. As the second-busiest container seaport in the United States, the Port handles trade valued at more than \$200 billion annually and supports 2.6 million trade-related jobs across the nation, including more than 575,000 in Southern California. The Port of Long Beach prides itself on its top-notch customer

service and operational excellence, and in 2019 and 2020 industry leaders named it “The Best West Coast Seaport in North America.” Founded in 1911, the Port today encompasses 3,200 acres with 31 miles of waterfront, 10 piers, 80 berths and 70 gantry cranes. In 2020, the Port handled 8.1 million container units, the busiest year in its history.



Dr. Rashida Crutchfield, Associate Professor- School of Social Work
California State University Long Beach

Dr. Rashida Crutchfield is an associate professor in the School of Social Work at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and Director of the newly founded Center for Equitable Higher Education, which is dedicated to studying and promoting economic, food, and housing justice. She is also an advocate committed to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities through research and service. Prior to her work at CSULB, she served on the staff of Covenant House California, a shelter for 18-to-24-year-olds experiencing homelessness. This experience blossomed a passion to support this student population.

Dr. Crutchfield was a Principal Investigator for the California State University Office of the Chancellor study on food and housing security. Her work has been instrumental in the development of programs and services for students experiencing housing and food insecurity at all 23 CSU campuses. Her continued research and advocacy on basic needs for students has garnered statewide and national attention. She has provided input on state policy and provides consultation and support to agencies, and higher education staff, faculty, and administrators across the nation.

Dr. Crutchfield has authored or co-authored many articles, including “The starving student narrative: How normalizing deprivation reinforces basic need insecurity in higher education” and “Jumping through the hoops to get financial aid for college students who are homeless: Policy analysis of The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007” in *Families in Society*. Co-authored with Drs. Ronald Hallett and Jennifer Maguire, her text [Addressing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Higher Education: Strategies for Educational Leaders](#) is used as a manual for developing programs and services to support student basic needs throughout the country.