

**Long Beach City College**  
**SABBATICAL LEAVE PROPOSAL**

Name: Julian J. DelGaudio, Ph.D.

Date: 29 September 2011

Academic Year: 2012-2013

Full Year: Yes

1. Briefly state the purpose of your sabbatical leave.

I am requesting a sabbatical leave to complete a **history of the city of Long Beach**, California. The history is a joint research/writing project I have undertaken with my colleague, Dr. Craig Hendricks. Dr. Hendricks retired from the History/Political Science Department in December 2010. We both continue to work on the project, which we undertook in 2005. The history is the first professional historical study of the city ever written. Its goal is to raise the level of scholarship about the city of Long Beach from its current "coffee table" and "picture book" approach to a genuine professional study.

2. Give the details of your proposed plan. This should include all activities, projects, research, itinerary, study, employment, expected outcomes, relationships with current coursework, etc. connected with your proposed leave.

I teach early (History 10) and recent (History 11) U.S. history courses at LBCC for the History and Political Science Department. I also teach the Honors History 11 course. In addition, I team-teach the Humanities 7/Social Science 7 course as part of Interdisciplinary Studies at the college. I also teach all of these courses except the Honors History 11 course in fully on-line versions. In 2002, I undertook with a small group of faculty in the history and social sciences to found the **Long Beach Community Studies Project**. Our project established a formal program of student centered community-based research at LBCC. Initially, we targeted the courses taught in my department and in the social sciences serving honors students to offer our most prepared students an opportunity to undertake research projects into the past and present of our community. In 2007 we established a website as the vehicle to publish our students work and to create a repository and archive for our findings. The website is accessible through the LBCC website at <http://longbeachstudies.lbcc.edu/>

Since 2005, I have engaged in a research project with both the National Archives and Records Administration (originally located in Laguna Niguel, now in Perris, Ca.) and with the Historical Society of Long Beach to investigate their holdings on all matters related to the development of the city of Long Beach. This project was undertaken with my colleague Dr. Craig Hendricks. As a result of this research, we envision a ten-chapter study of the economic, social, political, environmental, and cultural development of Long Beach. The study will document the several transformation of the city from tourist attraction to industrial economy, to a war defined arsenal, and finally to a major international

trade entrepot, and assess the role of various agents of change in this story, including boosters, city officials, political representatives, the military, entrepreneurs, and federal development bureaucrats such as the Army Corps of Engineers.

3. Provide a timeline indicating how the activities in your plan will be completed within the time frame of the proposed leave.

I will be responsible for five of the ten chapters, as well as co-author the introduction to the study. My areas of authorship include Long Beach demographics and economic hierarchy, the development of the Long Beach Airport, the development and decline of the aviation industry, including military and commercial space, the civilian mobilization during World War II and the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and the War on Terror, and the transition from navy centered economy to today's international trade economy. I am also research the interconnection between the establishment of an Army Corp of Engineer flood control regime and the dramatic expansion of urbanization covering the period form 1937 through 1960. My timeline will be to complete one chapter every two months, with the expectation that we will have a completed manuscript by August 2013. Specifically, my work schedule should occur in the following sequence:

August-Mid-October 2012: Chapter on Aviation in Long Beach. This chapter will cover the early aviation efforts of "winged Gospel" advocates such as Earl Daugherty, the industrialization of aviation with the arrival of Douglas Aircraft Corporation (later McDonnell Douglas and still later Boeing Corporation), and the establishment, loss, and recapture of the Long Beach municipal airport.

Mid-October-Mid December 2012: Chapter on Civilian Defense in Long Beach. This chapter will cover the mobilization of the civilian population to serve in the passive defense of the city from World War I until the present, assessing the role of threats foreign and domestic and the quantity and quality of civilian participation in protection of Long Beach as a "strategic city."

January-February 2013: Chapter on military and commercial space in Long Beach. This chapter will answer the question: what role did defense contractors and space entrepreneurs play in the effort to bring advanced space technology to the city.

March-April 2013: Chapter on the shifting demographics of Long Beach. This chapter will cover what federal census data tells us about the changing diversity of the city of Long Beach and the implications for understanding the dynamics of social and economic power within the city and region.

May-June 2013: Chapter on federally constructed infrastructure and the process of urbanization. This chapter will cover the building of the flood control system and

its direct and indirect connections to real estate and construction firms operating in the city.

July-August 2013: This period will be reserved for the writing of an introduction to the study.

4. Describe how the proposed leave will contribute to your professional development, including how it relates to your current assignment.

Completing a major academic study of the development of Long Beach will establish Dr. Hendricks and myself as leading historians in this field. Participation in the Long Beach Community Studies Project, with its extensive investigations into archival materials at the National Archives and Records Administration, and at the Historical Society of Long Beach, as well as the Long Beach Public Library and other smaller archives around town (Municipal Airport Archive, Douglas Aircraft Corporation Archive with the Boeing Corporation, and the Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles Archives), has enabled me to renew my credentials as a scholar as well as a teacher. Because this research project has been directly tied to the Long Beach Community Studies Project and community based research opportunities for students, it has lent greater credibility to the LB Community Studies Project and propelled me to the center of Long Beach studies. In 2010, for example, I organized the first Long Beach Studies Conference, an event that brought together some 60 academic and private researchers studying the city. An audience of 150 attended the conference. We will be holding our second conference in February 2012 and expect an even larger turnout. As a result of this effort I was invited to join the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Long Beach in 2010. Finally, since I intend to continue teaching the Honors History 11 course, my completion of the Long Beach history will mean the college has a foremost expert on the subject in the classroom working directly with our students.

5. Describe how the proposed leave will benefit the college and students.

Completion of a major academic history of the city of Long Beach will propel Craig Hendricks and myself into the first rank of scholars on the city of Long Beach. Since I intend to continue to be a participant in the Long Beach Community Studies Project and in the teaching of Honors History 11, my expertise in the field of Long Beach studies will be an invaluable resource for all students doing community based research in the program.

6. List and describe the specific, tangible products you will bring to the college within 90 days after your return to your assignment.

The tangible product will be a publishable manuscript on the History of Long Beach. Our tentative title is, **Federal City: How Boosters, Officials, and the Federal Government have Continuously Transformed Long Beach,**

**California, 1900-2010.**

7. Describe how you will share the outcomes of your proposed leave with other interested parties upon your return.

I expect that completion of an academic history of Long Beach will afford numerous opportunities to the authors. Craig Hendricks and I are currently on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Long Beach. The publication of our book will be a major event in the intellectual history of the city and will in all likelihood lead to numerous opportunities to present our findings to organizations around the city. We will also present the results of our findings to the professional associations to which we are members including at conferences in urban history and U.S. history. We plan to share our findings with the historians at Long Beach City College and at other local universities and research libraries.

8. If applicable, disclose additional sources of employment earnings if applicable.

This item is not applicable to my request.

Julian J. DelGaudio  
Signature of Applicant

September 29, 2011  
Date Originally Submitted