

# CALIFORNIA ApparelNews

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## Port Security Measures Could Delay Cargo

By Deborah Belgum  
SENIOR EDITOR

Port workers may be hauling more than cargo this time next year.

The federal Department of Homeland Security has mandated that anyone who works inside the gates of the nation's ports must carry a high-tech security card that identifies them by their fingerprints or a retinal scan.

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach probably will be one of the first ocean gateways in the nation to employ the tamper-resistant security cards, called a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), which will cost workers \$139 and last five years. Implementation should start at the end of this year.

But port workers are concerned that the mandatory cards, which have taken three years to develop, could cause more than a hole in their wallets. They may lead to a temporary labor shortage at the ports and delay offloading

*Port page 6*

## Active Gambles With Santa Monica Flagship

By Andrew Asch  
RETAIL EDITOR

Competition has never been much of a worry for the nearly 20 years that **Active** has been in the retail business. But the surf, skate and fashion purveyor may be in for a shock this August.

Since its start-up in 1989, the small chain of stores has grown and thrived by building many of its boutiques in the newly minted neighborhoods that dot the suburban Inland Empire region east of Los Angeles, which has been riding a wave of residential construction.

But in August, Active is headed west. The Chino, Calif.-based company will open a flagship store at 1460 4th St. in Santa Monica, one of the more bustling and competitive retail markets on the West Coast.

Active's new store will be just a block over from the

*Active page 6*

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## PORTFOLIO presentation

Students at American InterContinental University presented their annual fashion show in Los Angeles to a packed house.

Student designer Denise Torres won a "Technical Excellence" award for her creations, such as this spicy, ruffly affair that is *muy caliente*. See page 8 for more student fashions.

Denise Torres

# Events



Shiho Oribe



Janice Day



Melinda Schneider



Rebekah Fisher-Ogden



Shannon Martin



Lauren Hawthorne

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## An Evening of Style and Substance

**Who:** American InterContinental University

**What:** Portfolio 2006 fashion show

**When:** June 22

**Where:** Avalon nightclub, Hollywood

**The Scene:** Students and fashion fans filled the dance floor for American InterContinental University's annual Portfolio runway show featuring the designs of the school's graduating seniors.

The judges consisted of designers Ashley Paige, owner of **Ashley Paige Swim**, Chrissy Azzaro of **My-Tee** and Nick Verreos of **Nikolaki**, along with Nike's Blanca Gonzalez, Elizabeth Mason of **The Paper Bag Princess Vintage Couture** and style pundit Lawrence Zarian.

Student designer Shannon Martin won two awards—"Most Marketable" and "Most Outstanding Collection"—for her line of swimsuits and glamorous coverups in earthy shades of brown and teal. Ani Karapetian showed a collection that included a dramatic curve-skimming coat in metallic blue leather—and landed the "Most Creative" award in the process.

The AIU's Fashion Advisory Board selected two winners of the "Technical Excellence" award: Denise Torres and Lisa Schleicher. Torres' dramatic collection included a dress with corsetry details and layers of spice-colored ruffles trimmed in beads. Schleicher's childrenswear line was trimmed in rickrack, ribbon and lace.

Other highlights included Janice Day's copper-colored evening gown trimmed at



Lorrie Ivas and Karen Mamont

the hem with matching feathers; Konomi Takezaki's cropped pants with petal-like hem; and Lauren Hawthorne's jersey and raw-edged denim dropped-waist dress.

The university also honored **1928 Jewelry Company's** Karen Mamont as its "Style and Substance" award recipient. Mamont, a former marketing executive at the **California Market Center**, was recently named director of marketing for



Lisa Schleicher



Noriko Kakihara



Jason Ryan

the Burbank, Calif.-based jewelry brand.

Lorrie Ivas, AIU's fashion marketing coordinator, presented the award to Mamont. "If there is a recipe to make more of this woman, there would be a mad rush to copyright it," Ivas said. "But I'll take a stab at what it might be: Stir in a cup of Betsey Johnson, a pint of Elsa Schiaparelli, a bit of Patricia Field. Blend in Frida Kahlo or, as Estevan Ramos would say, 'Freaka' Kahlo.' Add a drop of Fern Mallis, Dawn Mello and Geraldine Stutz. Fold in Diana Vreeland, Peggy Guggenheim, Zandra Rhodes, Edith Piaf, Bettie Page and Chanel. Then add some sequins, cowboy boots and Chihuahuas."

Mamont accepted her award dressed to the nines in a traditional mariachi outfit and custom-made leopard-print corset.

"I'm so proud to be honored by AIU.

And to be compared to the aforementioned fashionistas is a real treat," Mamont said. "To the students, I would like to say we are fortunate to have chosen an industry that values individuality."

Mamont offered several pearls of wisdom, including: "Expose yourself to all forms of art, not just fashion apparel but architecture, music, film, dance. Style falls under one umbrella."

She urged the students to strive for the extraordinary and keep an open mind. "Never make fun of anything you don't understand and *always* have the confidence to carry out your vision, even when others may not share your creativity."

Mamont concluded by telling the crowd: "The passion you feel for this industry is what will take you to success in your work and in your life."—*Alison A. Nieder*

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