



# DAS NEWS

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Nov. 7, 2014

Faculty, student ASOs (for the first time), and Administrators came together for our annual DAS-District Summit to discuss ongoing issues and mutual concerns. The Summit provides an opportunity for engagement and inspiration as well, and this year was no exception. The theme for the event was *New Chancellor, New Directions*, and the focus was really on how the District would not only address the coming 2016 district-wide accreditation but how the District would move off the dime and commit to proven student success models scaled to the needs of our entering and continuing students.

On Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, in the new Student Union Building at Los Angeles City College, the day began with interactive poster presentations from the Student Success teams of the nine colleges. Everyone had an opportunity to see what each campus had been doing to improve student success and to ask questions about what worked and what didn't as they moved from table to table. The wide-range of approaches and activities designed to move our students through the matriculation process to their first classes and their first successful year, one proven indicator of future success, offered exciting previews into our campus efforts.

LACC President Renee Martinez gave a short welcome, emphasizing the long history of education at City that extends back to 1882 when the Southern California Normal School for teaching was established on the site by the State. Next up, Trustee Mona Field, a member of the Board's Institutional Effectiveness Committee, pointed to the 2016 Accreditation visit by the ACCJC teams and the first "9 plus 1" referring to the simultaneous accreditation of the nine colleges and the Educational Services Center. She reminded the group of the importance of accreditation and the process of self-examination as steps towards improvement of our academic programs and the functioning of our district in support of our students. She was pleased to see so many faculty and administrators in the room and welcomed everyone to a productive day.

Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez, the new LACCD Chancellor, who seems to have made it his goal to personally meet every person in the District, was the keynote speaker and began by reminding the audience that while his eyes had aged (he had forgotten his glasses), "everything else was working fine." This line brought a round of laughter and applause. He then proceeded to tell the story of his own family when he was younger, gathering around the dining room table where meals were served, homework was done, and discussions about politics and the world were conducted. That table was the center of his family life and he wanted to make that image of a family the centerpiece of his views of the District and its functioning. "We are one family," he said. He went on to share his views of the district and reminded the audience that his own personal experience was an experience common to many of our students. The Chancellor insisted that, in an era of tighter resources, we could no longer do more, without re-evaluating what was not working. He said that we must be more efficient and more focused on success by weighing the costs and the outcomes of our efforts. He concluded by answering a few questions from the audience before the breakouts started.

Four breakouts were held in the morning (all were repeated in the afternoon) in classrooms in the newly refurbished Franklin Hall and one was held in the meeting room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Student Union. One of the most popular and talked about breakouts was presented by a team of faculty, staff and administrators from LA Harbor College called the ESCAPE plan for student success, funded by a Learning Works grant which features an interactive one-day cultural equity training workshop. The concept is based on a program developed by the Community College of Baltimore

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County that is designed to enhance student success through mentoring that helps students develop “diverse social capital networks.” Other breakouts included a technology-themed panel that looked at technology as an aid to engaging students by integrating technology into the classroom with mostly free tools on the Internet, a report from the state Online Education Initiative and an introduction to new IT policies and procedures for data security developed by a district-wide task force that will be considered by the Board this fall. Another breakout, entitled *Tomorrow is Here Today*, featured SB 1456 SSSP implementation, compliance issues and challenges facing the district as we meet the mandates of the law. The fourth breakout at Franklin Hall was an interactive presentation by the District Senate on issues ranging from curriculum to equivalency, and how and when to contact the Senate to assist when hiring new faculty or developing new curriculum. Back in the Student Union, Accreditation 2016 was the topic and Interim Vice Chancellor Bobbi Kimble and City faculty member, Dan Wanner, provided an overview of the accreditation process and the rough schedule of accreditation events and milestones along the way. There were many questions about how the district and campus plans would support each other. Both Kimble and Wanner assured the group that the District Planning and Accreditation Committee (DPAC) has been working to address just those issues and would be providing more information and scheduling visits and Board testimony in the coming months.

After lunch, Trustee Mike Eng delivered a few remarks and called on faculty and administrators to take seriously the accreditation process. He said that we all must work together to preserve the accredited status of all of our colleges. As chair of the Institutional Effectiveness Committee of the Board of Trustees, he reported that the committee would be visiting all the campuses, including the District office, to listen and learn, and to offer assistance, if necessary, to achieve that goal. He reiterated that he was looking for the truth and the facts, not window-dressing. He told the group that he didn't want surprises after the ACCJC visited – he wanted to hear the honest problems and concerns of each campus so that they could be addressed and resolved before the visit. He praised the attendees for coming together at the event and for showing our commitment to student success and a successful accreditation effort.

Breakouts were then reconvened. Afterwards, most attendees returned to the main venue for a quick recap of the day, some last minute cookies and coffee, and praise and thanks all around for a successful event. In particular, the students who attended were given a hearty round of applause and one walked off with a bag of ‘bling.’

The long list of people to thank includes Chancellor Rodriguez, LACC President Renee Martinez, Trustees Mona Field and Mike Eng, Interim Vice Chancellor Bobbi Kimble, Associate Vice Chancellor Maury Pearl, Dean of Student Success Deborah Harrington, DAS 1<sup>st</sup> VP David Beaulieu, DAS Equivalency coordinator Eloise Crippens, LACC Senate President John Freitas, Chief Info Officer Jorge Mata, Assoc. General Counsel Ann Diga, and the presenters, facilities and support staff, and all the faculty, staff, administrators and students who attended and contributed to making this event such a success.

We are looking forward to another Summit this coming spring. Watch your email for a Save the Date, coming soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gauthier, DAS President

(See link for aerial photo of the LACC campus in 1922.)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University\\_of\\_California,\\_Los\\_Angeles#mediaviewer/File:UCLA-vermontcampus-1922.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Los_Angeles#mediaviewer/File:UCLA-vermontcampus-1922.jpg)