Chancellor’s Message  
Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Welcome! In about three months, our collective attention will be focused on commencement ceremonies at all nine colleges. While each graduation is special, this year’s commencement includes the first cohort of students to graduate who enrolled in our Los Angeles College Promise program in Fall 2017. What a wonderful achievement and testament to their dedication to higher education.

The District continues moving forward on many fronts. Beautiful facilities are being built and we’re also installing new safety locks for classrooms and laboratories. We’re hiring 80-plus new, full-time faculty for Fall 2019. We are monitoring the state and federal legislative landscape, working closely with elected officials, including leading the way for second-year tuition-free education in California. Our Foundation has secured additional grants and philanthropic support, and is awarding transfer scholarships to deserving students. Our culinary arts programs at L.A. Harbor, Mission, and Trade-Tech colleges are preparing to compete for the first-ever LACCD Culinary Cup trophy. The newly published 2017-18 Annual Report provides even more details on LACCD’s progress.

The enthusiasm for our mission and service to our students is apparent everywhere I travel in the district. At LACCD, we serve every student, without exception or apology. On behalf of our Board of Trustees, I thank each of you for your dedication to ensuring we are the premier two-year community college district in the nation.

Successful Trips to Sacramento and D.C.

A delegation of students and staff led by members of the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Rodriguez walked the halls of both the State and Federal capitol buildings recently to ensure the District’s needs and concerns were heard by our elected officials.

The trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., are part of the District’s important legislative agenda to improve the quality of higher education.

A whirlwind of about 50 meetings were held during the two trips. District representatives met with elected leaders, their staffs and key government officials on topics such as higher education costs and tuition; grants; food and housing issues; DACA, the Dream Act and other immigration concerns; more support for LGBTQ students and budget funding formulas.

For LACCD students, it was an opportunity to not only represent their student colleagues and the District, but to see first-hand the inner workings of how laws are created and the important work the District’s Trustees do to advocate on behalf of the District and its students.

2017–2018 LACCD Annual Report Available

The LACCD Annual Report is now available online. Access a flipbook style and PDF of the Annual Report here: laccd.edu/Chancellor/Pages/Annual-Report-2018.aspx

District Hiring 80 Academic Positions for Fall 2019 Semester

About 80 full-time academic positions are available throughout the District at its nine colleges that need to be filled in time for the Fall 2019 Semester. Applications are only accepted online at laccd.edu/Employment/Pages/Academic-Jobs.aspx

New Building Signs, Wayfinding Maps for LATTC Coming Soon!

New building signage and wayfinding information is coming to Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC) to better reflect the important pathway education and training that occurs on campus. These changes will provide easy navigation for those attending or visiting LATTC. The Board of Trustees approved the re-naming of campus buildings earlier this year and plans call for the change to initially begin this Fall.

After thorough discussions with campus constituents through the LATTC Work Environment Committee, there was strong agreement that the current “tree naming” designations are confusing and do not provide clear alignment with the Guided Pathways studies for each building. An example of the new signage appears in the artist rendering at left.

A campus geographic and numerical grid has been created to help establish a permanent wayfinding system on campus. Once college maps, catalogs and schedules are updated, permanent signage will be developed for the buildings.

It is expected that the temporary signage will go up for the Fall 2019 semester, combined with a directed informational campaign aimed at students, staff and faculty, so they become familiar with the names and locations.
Foundation Provides Important Support to the Los Angeles Community College District

The Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges is the non-profit organization that provides direct financial benefit to the District and its students. The Foundation solicits grants and provides oversight on scholarship administration.

Recently, the Foundation received a $150,000 grant from The College Futures Foundation to support an “Inside Education” television special to be produced by KVIE, a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) affiliate in Sacramento, Calif. KVIE will produce three, half-hour segments on California’s community colleges that will air under the “Inside California Education” series on PBS stations throughout the state and on the local stations’ websites. The segments also will be made available to all California community colleges for their use.

The Foundation recently awarded $500 each to 201 students for a total of $100,500 as part of the Vicky Chang NCLEX Grant Award. The grants assist nursing students who graduated in December 2018 with the cost to prepare and take the NCLEX exam required to become a registered nurse. Students who receive the grant agree to take the test within four months of their graduation date. Data has shown that taking the test soon after graduating improves the passing rates for students.

To donate, please visit: tinyurl.com/lacollegepromise

LACCD AT-A-GLANCE

» LACCD is the largest community college district in the nation. The District’s nine colleges serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from about 900 square miles of Los Angeles County.

» An average of about 250,000 full- and part-time students per year are educated at LACCD’s nine colleges.

» L.A. College Promise Program offering free tuition enters second year in Fall 2018 with 25 percent jump in participants now at 5,000 students.

» For first time ever, West L.A. College, in June 2018 awarded 29 four-year bachelor’s degrees in dental hygiene, the most bachelor’s degrees awarded by any community college in California in 2018.


» East L.A. College ranked Number 2 among two-year colleges on the “Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics” by The Hispanic Outlook on Education’s 2018 annual rankings.

» Toni Harris, the first-ever female football player at East L.A. College, who also starred in a Super Bowl LIII commercial in 2019, has made college football history as the first female player in a non-kicking, full-contact position to sign a national letter of intent by accepting an athletic scholarship to play football at Central Methodist University in Missouri.

» Kitty Black Perkins, a fashion design graduate of L.A. Trade-Technical College, was the first African-American designer at Mattel. She designed the first black Barbie in the 1970s and, during her 28-year-career at the giant toy manufacturer, helped to pave the way for more African-American designers to be hired at Mattel.

» L.A. Mission College recognized as having one of the best online paralegal studies programs in the nation by Affordable Colleges Online (AC Online), a leader in higher education rankings.

» During the 2016–2017 academic school year, LACCD awarded 395 Associate Degrees and 449 Certificates to U.S. Veterans. LACCD colleges enroll about 4,000 Veterans per year returning to college.

“Culinary Cup” Competition Slated May 17

Culinary students from Los Angeles Harbor, Los Angeles Mission and Los Angeles Trade-Technical colleges are gearing up for some Top Chef-style competition during the District’s first-ever “Culinary Cup” competition Friday, May 17, 2019.

Cooking and baking competitions, exhibits and demonstrations as well as some tasty hors d’oeuvres will be part of the three-way college tournament leading up to a judging and the awarding of the new Culinary Cup. Oh yes, extensive bragging rights will be up for grabs too!

A special VIP ticketed viewing area and sponsorships will be available. Mark your calendars now. More information will be posted on the District’s website, laccd.edu, the colleges’ websites and social media.