April 23, 2019

Dear LACCD Colleagues:

Tomorrow, April 24, 2019, millions of people across the world will choose to take action to support survivors of sexual assault by wearing denim. Tomorrow, I encourage LACCD employees to wear denim clothing to support LACCD’s own Denim Day to raise awareness and educate our students, faculty and staff about the impact of all forms of sexual violence in our society, and the myths about rape that serve to allow these injustices to persist against members of our communities. More information on the origins of Denim Day can be found here: https://www.denimdayinfo.org/about.

This important day coincides with our monthly board committee meetings at the Educational Services Center and it is our local opportunity to signal the importance of this issue throughout the district. Many of our colleges and the Educational Services Center will be sponsoring educational programs focused on raising awareness and demonstrating our solidarity with the victims. ESC programming will begin at 10 am and conclude at 2 pm in the Board Room. All are welcome to attend.

In addition to celebrating its annual Denim Day, earlier this month, LACCD proudly joined the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and 27 other colleges and universities from across the country to establish an Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education. The purpose of the Action Collaborative is to develop and research additional evidence-based strategies to prevent sexual harassment across all disciplines and among all people in higher education. The Action Collaborative builds on the National Academies’ 2018 report Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2018).

Thanks and let’s all continue to do our part to put an end to sexual violence in our communities.

Sincerely,

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor