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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LACCD Applauds Mayor Garcetti's Vision for Tuition-Free Community College Opportunity

Los Angeles – April 14. During Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's State of the City address today, the mayor pledged to partner with the Los Angeles Community College District and the Los Angeles Unified School District to eliminate the first year of community college tuition if the students worked hard and graduated from an LAUSD high school.

"When you give young people the promise of a college education, graduation rates and academic achievement soars," said Mayor Garcetti. The Mayor also shared the expanded opportunities available through LACCD for high school students to dual enroll in college-level courses while in high school, tuition-free.

Community colleges provide an opportunity for college for everyone at an affordable price. As the needs of a dynamic economy changes, community colleges change to meet these needs.

"As a student whose education began at a community college, I applaud Mayor Garcetti for his pledge to help us make community college tuition-free for incoming students," said Scott Svonkin, President of the Board of Trustees for the LACCD.

LACCD has become a vital path for thousands of people of all ages to more lucrative and satisfying jobs and careers, and to four-year university degrees.

"Mayor Garcetti's approach to funding education is visionary and practical, and his investment today underscores that," said Francisco Rodriguez, Ph.D., LACCD's Chancellor. "The Mayor's plan affords every student, irrespective of zip code or station in life, an opportunity to succeed and demonstrates the vital connection between an educated citizenry and a strong, functioning economy."

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The LACCD board supports the federal legislation, America's College Promise Act, which builds upon President Barack Obama's plan to provide college tuition and fees for qualified community college students. Svonkin serves on the president's America's College Promise Campaign National Advisory Board. Members of the LACCD board and the chancellor met with White House and other federal officials last month to discuss ways to promote access to college and support services to ensure students successfully complete their education.

In January, the LACCD Board of Trustees unanimously passed a Resolution to enhance college access and completion for Los Angeles area residents and students of the district's nine-colleges by establishing the *Los Angeles College Promise*, a nonpartisan, local and state-led initiative to ensure higher education becomes reality for students of the LACCD region.

The Board of Trustees is also advocating for state legislation that provides the framework and sustainable funding for a statewide *California Promise* Program.

About the Los Angeles Community College District

The Los Angeles Community College District, the nation's largest community college district, is comprised of nine colleges and serves 250,000 students a year in more than 36 cities across Los Angeles County. LACCD Colleges have educated and trained the region's diverse workforce since 1969. The LACCD Colleges are: East L.A. College; L.A. City College; L.A. Harbor College; L.A. Mission College; L.A. Pierce College; L.A. Southwest College; L.A. Trade Technical College; L.A. Valley College; and West L.A. College.

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