## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# ALL CLASSES THAT CANNOT BE MOVED ONLINE WILL BE POSTPONED TO MAY 4, 2020; EARLY WITHDRAWAL, REFUND INFO FOR STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez announced today any class at all nine colleges, plus the South Gate Campus and the Van de Kamp Learning Center, that cannot be converted into an online learning platform for the onset of remote instruction March 30 will be temporarily postponed until at least May 4, 2020.

The overwhelming majority of classes *are* being converted to online platforms and online instruction is scheduled to begin March 30, however, the District has determined less than five percent of the thousands of classes offered still require in-person interaction in order to meet course and program learning objectives and requirements. It is only this small percentage of classes that will be temporarily postponed. For example, classes that include hands-on performance as learning outcomes, such as stage production and lighting classes, will be postponed.

The District and the Colleges are working with faculty to finalize a list of those classes that have cannot be done online and all affected faculty and students will be notified as soon as possible. The colleges include <u>Los Angeles City College</u>, <u>East Los Angeles College</u>, <u>Los Angeles Harbor College</u>, <u>Los Angeles Mission College</u>, <u>Los Angeles Pierce College</u>, <u>Los Angeles Southwest College</u>, <u>Los Angeles Trade-Technical College</u>, <u>Los Angeles Valley College</u> and <u>West Los Angeles College</u>.

The classes that cannot be converted online run on various schedules, so the resumption date of Monday, May 4, 2020 was identified to sustain and complete the academic calendar to the extent possible and to help keep LACCD in sync with recommendations from Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Superintendent of Schools Debra Duardo, who recommended an extended closure of all Los Angeles County public schools until Tuesday, May 5, 2020, and also with the announcement by Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Austin Buetner, who extended LAUSD's school closure date to May 1, 2020.

#### Summary to remember:

- Those courses unable to transition to remote learning will be suspended through May 3, 2020 and will resume May 4, 2020.
- The District is currently working on a plan regarding effective social distancing protocols so that these in-person classes can be done safely.
- The Chancellor has directed an internal analysis and update on this action to occur no later than April 17, 2020 and updated information will be shared with all as soon as possible thereafter.

# Early Withdrawal & Refunds for Students

<u>State authority</u> has now been granted to allow students to withdraw from classes because of the current crisis. If a student wants to withdraw, the student will receive an excused withdrawal (EW) on their transcript. The EW will not count against a student's academic progress requirements. If a student decides to withdraw at this time, a refund of enrollment fees and other related fees will be made.

"We encourage all students to stay enrolled and finish their classes, starting March 30. We will recover from this global health emergency. It is essential that our students take advantage of our online learning environment and achieve their higher education goals. Don't let this current situation take you off your path—hang with us, as we are doing everything we can to position you for success," LACCD Chancellor Rodriguez, Ph.D., said.

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To withdraw from a class, students use the <u>LACCD Student Portal</u>, log in and click on the Manage Classes icon tile and select "drop classes" from the menu. Select the class, confirm and submit. Students should work with their college's Financial Aid Office to determine the impact of dropping classes and if repayments might be required. Students who are U.S. Veterans receiving benefits must check with their Campus Certifying Officer first. Contact information is on the student portal.

If a student drops classes as a result of the COVID-19 health emergency, LACCD and the colleges will make sure a student's academic record is not impacted. This will include the use of excused withdrawals, which do not impact your GPA for transfer or degree purposes. There is no need to make a request for this action. The college will convert your withdrawal (W) to an excused withdrawal (EW) automatically. This will also trigger a refund or credit to your student account, if applicable.

If you paid for your classes using cash, personal check or credit card and do withdraw from the class due to the coronavirus outbreak, a refund will be automatically processed for all excused withdrawal on or after March 20, 2020.

Additional information is being posted to the District's website at <a href="www.laccd.edu/coronavirus">www.laccd.edu/coronavirus</a> -- including updated <a href="Frequently Asked Questions">Frequently Asked Questions</a>, and the main social media accounts, Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/LACCD/">https://www.facebook.com/LACCD/</a> and Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/laccd">https://twitter.com/laccd</a>. Statewide information for the California Community College is at: <a href="https://www.ccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Communications-and-Marketing/Novel-Coronavirus">https://www.ccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Communications-and-Marketing/Novel-Coronavirus</a>

# Prevention and Hygiene recommendations from LACDPH continues to be:

- If you are sick for any reason, stay home!
- Call your doctor or healthcare provider for direction
- Follow all Health Orders, including the "Safer at Home" order from state and local officials
- Symptoms to watch for include a fever over 100.4 degrees; cough or shortness of breath
- Frequent and complete hand washing for at least 20 seconds
- Stay six feet or more away from strangers and those who are ill
- Stop shaking hands with others to reduce the spread of germs
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Sneeze and cough into a tissue or your sleeve, safely throw away used tissues

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## About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (<a href="www.laccd.edu">www.laccd.edu</a>) is the nation's largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California's diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/LACCD">https://www.facebook.com/LACCD</a>, @LACCD, and on Twitter, <a href="https://www.instagram.com/laccd\_edu/">https://www.instagram.com/laccd\_edu/</a> @laccd\_edu.

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