Barack Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to visit Los Angeles Trade Tech College Thursday, speaking about the importance of job training in front of a crowd of approximately 2,000.

“This is a school that does good work helping the unemployed retrain for new careers,” President Obama said. “Today, I’m here to focus on the one thing we should be doing which is training more Americans to fill the jobs we are creating. Right now, there are more job openings in America than at any time since 2007.”

A strong advocate for community colleges since entering the White House, Obama pointed out that Jill Biden, wife of the vice president, teaches at a community college.

Obama also told the story of a woman working as a waitress who enrolled in a community college and, today, is an accountant.

“I’m always impressed by people who have the courage to go back to school, especially later in life,” Obama said.

Two days earlier, he signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. “It can help,” he said, “communities update and invest in job training programs like these (at Trade Tech).”

“Our strength in the Los Angeles Community College District,” said LACCD Board of Trustees president Scott Svonkin, “is our ability to connect business and industry, no matter the sector. Both can bring employers to the table to help develop course curriculum, tell us the skills that are needed in the future, and support internships and work-based learning. All these elements are in alignment with President Obama’s opportunity agenda.”

Late last year, Trade Tech was the recipient of a $19.2 million grant from the Dept. of Labor that focuses on healthcare and involves all nine LACCD colleges in collaboration with major hospitals and other healthcare providers.

“The president’s appearance is a testament to community colleges as places where jobs can happen,” said Svonkin. “His appearance is also a tribute to our faculty and staff who work so hard to turn people lives around and make dreams come true.”

“I am living proof that you can do anything you want with hard work and determination. You can go from being a high school dropout to being president of the board of the largest community college system in the nation.”
My Esteemed Colleagues of the Los Angeles Community College District,

We are tasked with building the District’s profile and reputation as the best urban community college district in which to study and work, and to focus on our No. 1 priority – student success. Not just to be the biggest, but indeed the best. To accomplish this goal, we must have a well-prepared and innovative faculty, responsive curricula, excellent educational administrators, superbly trained and professional support staff, and state-of-the-art buildings and modern instructional equipment. We must also enhance our business partnerships and community engagement.

As Governor Brown and the State Legislature direct new money to support public higher education, the California Community Colleges are focused on expanding access and improving our completion rates, including better serving underprepared, low income and historically underserved populations. The horrible recession translated to a depletion of financial resources over the last five years and a loss of 20,000 Full-time Equivalent Students (FTES) at LACCD. Even so, and to your credit, we maintained our academic standards and financial standing. This ‘can-and-will do’ attitude and level of excellence that I am witnessing throughout my college visits in the District has propelled tens of thousands of LACCD graduates to achieve their goals and dreams.

With the State’s economy now rebounding, we are able to improve access by restoring classes, increasing enrollments towards our aggressive enrollment target of 4.75%, while maintaining our focus on student success. The State’s adopted budget provides additional funding for access, categorical programs, and much-needed monies for deferred maintenance and instructional support. As a result, the LACCD budget is more stable than it has been in recent years, helping us to meet the challenge of ensuring equal educational opportunities and promoting student success for all students.

As we prepare for the 2016 districtwide accreditation, let’s embrace the accreditation process and professional self-regulation as an opportunity to refine and improve our institutional processes, and ultimately the educational outcomes of our students. Our students and their success–there is no more important goal.

Contained within this e-newsletter are samples of the many great stories occurring daily throughout our District and the transformative impact we are making in our communities. Thank you for your commitment to our students and to this District and please receive my very best wishes for a strong start to the fall semester.

Un abrazo

(A warm embrace),

Francisco C. Rodriguez Ph.D.
Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District

THREE VALLEY COLLEGES TAKE TO THE STREETS

BY DOREEN CLAY

Pierce College, L.A. Valley College and L.A. Mission College, the three LACCD schools that span the San Fernando Valley, have banded together to take to the streets in a bold new way. They have launched a unique advertising campaign to attract students, fully wrapping their college names, logos, mega-sized student photos and cool graphics around two Metro buses in a colorful display.

“We wanted to come out in a big way and let students in our communities know that we’re open for business, with more classes available than in recent years, and to invite them back to enroll,” said Pierce College President Kathleen Burke.

The budget cuts that plagued community colleges for the last several years caused some students to be turned away because not enough classes were offered to meet the demand. But that has turned around in 2014.

With the California budget picture brightened, the colleges are now able to open up more classes. To spread this message, the two eye-catching Metro buses will traverse the entire Valley over the next year, starting in Thousand Oaks, cruising along Ventura Boulevard to Burbank, north

Continued on the next page
to Sylmar and back via Chatsworth. Their passage on Metro Route 8 brings the buses close to Pierce in Woodland Hills, L.A. Valley in Valley Glen, and L.A. Mission in Sylmar. The buses can be easily spotted by the oversized photos of actual students from the respective schools along with the slogans “Our Students are Going Places,” and “Your College in Your Community.”

“A priority of our mission is to serve the communities in which we are based, so we want people to understand that we truly are ‘your college in your community,’” Burke said. “The buses depict our students as they study, transfer or graduate, and then enter the job market. These are all aspects of their journey that we are here to support.”

California community colleges still provide the lowest-cost higher education in the nation. Students who take advantage of the convenient locations, esteemed professors and dedicated resources can achieve success without incurring debt. The buses feature one easy-to-remember website address for people to access more information, www.my3colleges.com. This will direct them to the website for Pierce, Valley, or Mission. It is also configured for mobile devices.

The attention-grabbing buses raise the three LACCD colleges’ profiles in a fun and positive way, letting West Valley communities know that their colleges are back recruiting and providing more classes, announcing to potential students that it’s time to return to college and pursue their educational goals and dreams.

**ARTIST ROBERTO CHAVEZ ON DISPLAY AT ELAC**

*BY KAREN RAPP*

The first exhibition of visual artist Roberto Chavez in the Los Angeles area will be on display at the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College through Dec. 6. “Roberto Chavez and the False University: A Retrospective” is in the museum’s large gallery.

Chavez grew up in East Los Angeles, earned a master’s degree of fine arts at UCLA, and joined the ELAC faculty in the 1960s as a pioneering educator in the then fledgling Chicano Studies Department.

More than 50 artworks dating from the mid-1950s to the present are included in the exhibition. Subjects range from self-portraits to portraits of friends and family, as well as works that allude to the socioeconomic conditions of the working class.

Chavez’s palette is often dark and his brush strokes heavy, giving his work a moody and sometimes somber tone.

The show will also include a full-color, 48-page catalog with original essays by co-curators Sybil Venegas and Bill Moreno. Venegas writes about the impact Chavez had as an educator and mentor to students and artists. She also focuses on the controversial whitewashing of Chavez’s mural, “The Path to Knowledge and the False University,” at ELAC in 1979.

Also this fall, in conjunction with the Los Angeles-Islamic Arts Initiative, the Vincent Price Art Museum will be hosting a solo exhibition of the work of Los Angeles-based artist Roya Falahi. It will run from Sept. 23 to Dec. 6 with the opening reception on Sept. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Falahi is known for her large-format photography in which she combines portraiture with narrative tableaux compositions. With a focus on depictions of the head/upper body, Falahi’s striking photographs resonate with visual and psychological impact. They are technically flawless, but often deeply ambiguous. The viewer is rarely afforded the opportunity to meet with the subject’s gaze. The artist often depicts herself obscured by a veiled or shrouded visage. Gesture is an important part of the viewer’s reading of the work and plays up the feelings of ambiguity. The artist’s compositional choices reflect a tension by simultaneously revealing and disguising the body.

The artist’s web site: www.royafalahi.com

The 2014 Juried Student Art Exhibition will be on display in the small gallery from Sept. 23 to Dec. 6 with the opening reception on Sept. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.

In order to be eligible to participate, a student must have taken a course in studio art, architecture or photography at ELAC within the last academic year.

Cal State Long Beach art professor Marie Thibeault, and graphic and multimedia designer Raul Vergara, an ELAC alumnus, are serving as jurors.

The Vincent Price Art Museum is home to a permanent collection of more than 9,000 pieces, including 2,000 donated by the late actor and his wife.

Hours: Tue., Wed., Fri., Sat. 12-4 p.m., Thu., 12-7 p.m.
Tel: (323) 265-8841, Fax: (323) 260-8173
Email: vincentpriceartmuseum@elac.edu
Web: http://vincentpriceartmuseum.org

Admission and events are open to the public at no charge. Guided tours can be arranged by appointment.
Los Angeles Harbor College has a tradition of excellence in athletics. Its teams have won state championships in football (1964, 1970), basketball (1971), baseball (1978), track and field (1974), soccer (2005), tennis (1995) and water polo (1976). Its athletes have distinguished themselves at both the collegiate and professional level. They include football players Don Horn (Green Bay Packers), Haven Moses (Denver Broncos) and Dick Harris (San Diego Chargers); basketball players Dennis Johnson (Boston Celtics), Jim Newman, Tasha Burnett, and Bridgett Williams; baseball players Bob Watson (Houston Astros), Enos Cabell (Astros) and Pat Ahearne (Pepperdine); and track and field stars Bob Kersee, Herman Franklin, Sherry Simmons, and Diana Karg.

In 2007, as construction on the new PE/Wellness Building progressed, all of the school’s athletic mementos, team trophies and pictures were moved from the old gym to the library for storage. Concerned that the college’s athletic heritage would be lost and forgotten, Jim O’Brien, Harbor’s athletic director (2004-2005) and former baseball coach, came up with the idea of an annual event to recognize the college’s most accomplished teams, athletes, administrators and coaches. Thus, the Harbor Hall of Fame was born. O’Brien, working very closely with former Los Angeles Harbor College Foundation Director Bonnie Easley and the Foundation Board of Directors, formed an all-volunteer committee that staged the first Hall of Fame ceremony in 2007.

To commemorate those selected over the years, a Wall of Fame was built in the new PE/Wellness Building, showcasing Harbor’s athletic history.

This year, the 8th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Banquet will take place on September 19, at the Ports O’ Call Restaurant in San Pedro.

Among the inductees are baseball players Rolando Avila and Matt Nuez. Avila led the Seahawks baseball team to its seventh and eighth consecutive conference titles in 1992 and 1993. In 1994, he was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles, beginning a 13-year career in the minor leagues. He was also a star on the 2003 USA Baseball World Cup team.

Nuez played an instrumental role in helping the Seahawks baseball squad win the 1990 state championship as well as its fourth and fifth consecutive conference titles in 1989 and 1990. He went on to San Jose State and then Pepperdine, where he was an outﬁelder on the 1992 team that won the College World Series.

Also being honored: World-record power lifter, Harbor track and field — Vicky Gagne Hembree (1980-81) and Jane Phineas (1968); basketball — George Padovan (1956) and Donnie Daniels (1973); football — Jerry Rodich (1964) and Keith Wright (1981); soccer — Alex Chavez (2008); and the 1981 football team, league champions and winners of the Southern California Bowl over Ventura College, 50-45.