As the massive Woolsey Fire blazed its way through the hills and neighborhoods of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, officials at Los Angeles Pierce College opened the doors on campus to hundreds of evacuees and their animals.

At peak operations, nearly 1,200 people with a multitude of small pets found refuge at L.A. Pierce College, the first time the campus was ever used as an official Red Cross Evacuation Center. Out at the College’s Farm, meanwhile, the barns, pasture and stalls brimmed to capacity with about 300 large animals, including horses, donkeys, pigs and goats.

The extraordinary effort saved hundreds of animals and gave emergency shelter to those in need. Stories documenting the situation were produced by national and local press, from USA Today, the Los Angeles Times and Sports Illustrated to the College’s student newspaper, the Los Angeles Pierce College Roundup.

Under leadership by Interim President Larry Buckley, faculty, staff and even students—including members of the men’s volleyball team—rolled up their sleeves and did whatever was needed to provide comfort and care. Even actress Octavia Spenser of “The Shape of Water” fame stopped by to help and to share a special preview of the new movie “Instant Family” with evacuees.

In summing up the unprecedented response, President Buckley said the effort “proved that L.A. Pierce College is not simply a college in its community; rather, it is the community’s college.”

Visit www.piercecollege.edu for more info about L.A. Pierce College.

Pierce College Aids Woolsey Fire Victims

LACCD Runs in L.A. Marathon

Dust off those running shoes and start training now to help represent LACCD or one of our colleges at the L.A. Marathon March 23-24, 2019! Participate in the full- or half-marathon March 24 or the “L.A. Big 5K” walk/run at Dodger Stadium on March 23. Either way, you can help raise funds for the District or our students and maybe even earn bragging rights as a top runner.

This is the District’s second year to participate as a recognized charity partner in the event. More info is available at www.lamarathon.com. The goal is to field at least 75 runners for the marathon; 30 for the half-marathon and 40 for the Big 5K. The District also hopes to see a “college challenge” with teams in friendly competition for bragging rights. Contact Katrelia Walker, WalkerKC@email.laccd.edu, (213) 891-2040.

WLAC Celebrates 50th Anniversary in 2019

The year was 1969. Despite record breaking rain, flooding and incomplete construction, dedicated faculty and staff opened West Los Angeles College (WLAC) to a waiting community on February 10, 1969. Fifty years later, WLAC’s small college feel and “can do” spirit remains as vibrant as ever. From just 20 acres, WLAC has blossomed into a 70-acre campus with modern classrooms, labs, and other first-class student facilities in a park-like setting that has served more than 250,000 students.

The college now offers nearly 100 degrees and certificates, including 23 Associate Degrees for Transfer in partnership with the California State University system; a four-year Bachelor’s Degree in Dental Hygiene—the largest and most successful of any California community college bachelor’s program; and one of the largest online learning programs of any community college in California.


Chief Executive Officer’s Message

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Over the next five years, LACCD will encounter multiple changes and opportunities that are impacting the community college landscape. A new funding formula, the development and integration of Guided Pathways and the implementation of Assembly Bill 705, which requires the placement of students into English and Math courses based on high school performance, are vivid examples. Change, however, brings about opportunity for the greater benefit of student success.

As the largest, most comprehensive community college district in the country, offering guaranteed university transfer admissions and hundreds of degrees and certificates for workplace training, we endeavor to be the engine of social and economic prosperity and the gateway to the middle class. Student success is our collective mission and responsibility, and we will continue to educate all students—without exception and without apology.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Happy New Year and our very best wishes for a healthy and productive 2019!
Groundbreaking, Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies Highlight District’s Progress

District officials recently joined with faculty, students and staff from Los Angeles Trade-Technical (LATTC) and East Los Angeles (ELAC) colleges to “turn the dirt” starting one project and to “cut the ribbon” for completing another.

It was a culinary and ice carving extravaganza at LATTC where about 300 people gathered for the groundbreaking of the $48 million, state-of-the-art Culinary Arts building. The two-story, 71,000-square-foot building will be the new home for the oldest, college-based Culinary Arts program in the nation. About 800 students per year receive culinary and/or bakery education at LATTC, transferring to a four-year institution or graduating with an Associate’s degree.

At ELAC, the ribbon was cut and the learning now begins inside the new, $17 million Physics and Earth Sciences building. The two-story, 26,000-square-foot building completes the 120,000 square-foot Science Career & Mathematics Complex (SCMC) at ELAC College. The newly opened building has five classrooms and five laboratories. Both projects were completed using Measure J bond funds approved by Los Angeles voters.

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 Los Angeles 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.

» Los Angeles 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 Year, LACCD distributed $262 million in financial aid awards, excluding loans.

» LACCD is the leading educator of Latina and African American students in California. LACCD educates nearly 2 times more Latino students and 2 times more African American students than all of the UC campuses combined.

» 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.