

Overview: Dolores Huerta Labor Institute

The idea for the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute (Institute) - a labor studies program for the nine-campus Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) - is the result of a long and productive relationship among the District, its unions, its faculty and the Los Angeles Labor Movement.

Under the direction of the LACCD Board of Trustees, two of the region's long-standing Labor Centers - Trade Tech and UCLA - developed the plan to create the Institute.

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the AFT Faculty Guild led the effort to raise more than \$300,000 from sixteen different Los Angeles unions as seed money for the program. The support from these "founding sponsors" demonstrated to the Trustees and the District the commitment of the Labor Movement to the Institute. The District matched this sum dollar for dollar.

The District hired an executive director in late 2006, and the Institute was officially launched in 2007. In 2007, the Institute added a program coordinator to its staff.

The Institute develops educational opportunities that allow the 130,000 students attending the nine campuses of the LACCD to learn about the political, social and cultural impact of work, the public and private policies that govern employment, the practice of democracy in the workplace and society and the significance of the labor movement. The Institute does this by offering teaching resources for faculty, classes, special lectures, film series, workshops and seminars, and internships for students. The Institute also partners with faculty, scholars, unions and labor studies programs at other higher education institutions to bring educational resources to the community colleges.