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**LACCD Bolsters College Access and Jobs through an Equity-First Agenda With Passage of AB 1913 (Bryan), AB 2425 (Bryan) and AB 2266 (Santiago)**

*Bills will establish center for climate change education, five-year program for formerly incarcerated students and extend Los Angeles College Promise to returning students*

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) celebrates the passing of three critical policy priorities of the District’s legislative agenda to build a more equitable higher education system that meets the needs of students and California’s economy now and in the future: AB 1913 (Bryan), AB 2425 (Bryan) and AB 2266 (Santiago). The three bills passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 19, 2022 with bipartisan support.

“Providing a hub for climate change education, increasing access by expanding the College Promise Program to returning students, and increasing supports for formerly incarcerated students are significant planks in a truly progressive, equity-first agenda, and we are grateful to members of the legislature for their overwhelming bipartisan support,” said LACCD Board President Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D.

AB 1913 (Bryan) establishes the LACCD California Center for Climate Change Education, recognizing the Climate Change and Environmental Studies Associate of Arts Degree offered by West Los Angeles College—the only community college degree of its kind. This degree will be available to students across California.

The LACCD California Center for Climate Change Education will serve as an educational resource for community colleges on climate change education specifically focusing on climate change as a global issue of equity and justice; build pathways that lead to appropriate certificates and degrees in climate change that lead to employment opportunities; explore and expand internships, apprenticeships, other work-based learning opportunities in the equity, environmental justice, and green jobs sectors; partner with local and regional entities to support the workforce training needed in the greening of the energy grid, and green jobs sectors; and develop and sustain an urban climate change sustainability conference.

“As educators, we have a firm responsibility to help our students understand the immediacy of climate change and how they can contribute to solving this global challenge,” said LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. “AB 1913 is bold legislation that helps us better understand climate change and increase awareness, modify behaviors, and prepare our current and next generation of workers for green sector jobs and careers, and for the environmental stewardship essential to alter the impacts of global warming.”

AB 2425 (Bryan) establishes the five-year Hire UP Pilot Program administered by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office which provide stipends for formerly incarcerated individuals enrolled in an educational or professional training program at one of the State’s community colleges. This pilot program, will create upward mobility and income security for individuals exiting incarceration, who currently face many barriers in acquiring long-term, stable employment.

The Los Angeles Community College District currently enrolls approximately 1,000 self-identified formerly incarcerated students, but suspects this number to be much higher. Formerly incarcerated students have additional hurdles in completing their education. Stable employment

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and the opportunity for upward economic mobility are keys to rehabilitation and to reducing recidivism. LACCD has established several innovative programs for this population of students. An example is The Logistics Education and Career Program, a partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Probation and UPS. This program provides youth in L.A. County Juvenile Probation Camps an opportunity to earn a Certificate in Leadership in Global Logistics Skills. Immediately upon release these students are eligible for employment with UPS. Approximately 120 youth have completed this program and have been hired by UPS in the last three years.

“AB 2425 creates pipelines to quality jobs, upward economic mobility, or an opportunity for university transfer, through the stipends, necessary and stabilizing income security for those exiting incarceration,” said David Vela, LACCD Board Vice President and Chair of the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee. “This bill is a prudent investment for the state that goes beyond providing opportunity for a vulnerable population. It has the added potential to lower unemployment, strengthen the economy, and reduce the costs associated with incarceration and recidivism.”

AB 2266 (Santiago) will extend the [Los Angeles College Promise \(LACP\)](#) to all full-time returning students. LACP was designed to increase college access, bolster equity, and increase student completion. The program includes:

- Priority registration for classes
- Full-time enrollment
- Dedicated academic counseling support
- Additional financial support to assist with transportation, books, or food
- A laptop and Wi-Fi connectivity
- Access to emergency aid funds
- Choice among hundreds of certificates and Associate degree programs and University transfer.

AB 2266 will offer these benefits to all returning full-time students, providing the wrap-around supports allowing them to be successful and benefiting students, the community and the economy at large. Launched in 2017, the LACP served an entering cohort of over 4,000 students. Since then, the program has enrolled more than 20,000 students. Over eighty percent (80%) of LACP students are low-income students of color, African American or Latino. Nearly eighty percent (80%) of the students meet the income qualification for the California Promise Grant, and fifty-one percent (51%) are Pell grant recipients. Almost seventy-five (75%) of students persist to the next academic year, and a majority of those retain fulltime enrollment status in their second year.

“A higher education continues to be the greatest lever for economic and social mobility, especially for first-generation and lower income college attendees. AB 2266 opens the door to numerous Californians with some college credit, but with no degree or certificate that will be necessary for them to compete in this economy,” said Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. “This forward-looking bill extends the benefits from the very successful College Promise Program model to all full-time, returning students, improving access, equity and college completion.”

LACCD also sponsored the landmark bills that established and authorized the California College Promise Program, AB 19 (Santiago) [Chapter 735, Statutes of 2017] and AB 2 (Santiago) [Chapter 509, Statutes of 2019].

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#### About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD ([www.laccd.edu](http://www.laccd.edu)) 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, [@LACCD](https://www.facebook.com/LACCD), and on Twitter, [@laccd](https://twitter.com/laccd) and Instagram, [@laccd\\_edu](https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu).

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