



Legislative and Governmental Relations Division - Office of the Chancellor

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Los Angeles Community College District Welcomes Equity-First Investments in California Community Colleges in Historic State Budget Bill

Funding for District priorities AB 2425 (Bryan), AB 2266 (Santiago), and AB 1913 (Bryan) will increase access to higher education for all Californians and create a more dynamic workforce

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) secured a significant victory in its push for more equitable access to higher education for all, as Governor Gavin Newsom signed the largest budget in the history of California at \$307.9 billion.

Governor Newsom signed SB 154 (Skinner) the California Budget Act of 2022, and AB 183 the [Higher Education Budget Trailer bill](#) last month. This budget package will be transformative for generations of students in California and delivers sweeping and historic investments in California's 116 community colleges, and specific equity-first initiatives across the LACCD's nine colleges.

"Budgets are a reflection of our values, and they should center on the people who need help the most. That's exactly what our Budget has done this year for our Community Colleges through the Hire UP program, helping students exiting incarceration, former foster youth and those struggling to keep food on the table support themselves and their families while getting their degrees, said Assemblymember Issac Bryan. We're also investing in our green future: The LACCD California Center for Climate Change Education at West Los Angeles College will ensure that students have the resources and training they need to join the clean energy workforces and that current workers in oil and gas industries have realistic pathways to the careers of the future. We're so proud to have brought these vital investments back to communities that need them the most and I am enormously grateful for the incredible work from LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez and his team in Los Angeles as well as Chancellor Eloy Oakley for his statewide advocacy."

"Governor Newsom's signing of this historic budget package is a landmark moment for equity in higher education in California," said LACCD Board President Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. "The District's advocacy for an equity-focused agenda has garnered the funding to put our plans into action to give students the resources they need to thrive in today's economy."

Three Assembly bills received bipartisan support and were at the core of the District's student-focused and equity-first agenda that includes:

AB 2425 (Bryan) Community colleges: Hire UP from Corrections to Career Pilot Program

- \$30 million in one-time funding for AB 2425 (Bryan) establishes the five-year Hire UP Pilot Program which provides stipends for formerly incarcerated individuals enrolled in an educational or professional training program at ten community colleges. This pilot program will create upward mobility and income security for individuals exiting incarceration, who currently face many barriers to acquiring long-term, stable employment. AB 2425 was co-sponsored by LACCD and the County of Los Angeles.

AB 2266 (Santiago) Community colleges: California College Promise Expansion

- \$25 million statewide ongoing to fund AB 2266 (Santiago) extends the California College Promise Program to returning full-time community college students. The California College Promise Program established by AB 19 and AB 2 both authored by Assemblymember Santiago and sponsored by LACCD were designed to increase college access, bolster equity, and increase student completion. At LACCD, the Los Angeles College Promise Program includes benefits such as two years of tuition-free education, 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; and a choice among hundreds of certificates and Associate degree programs and University transfer. AB 2266 now incorporated in the FY 2022-2023 budget will offer these benefits to LACCD students returning full-time at any of the District's nine colleges. AB 2425 was sponsored by LACCD.

AB 1913 (Bryan) Los Angeles Community College District California Center for Climate Change Education

- \$5 million to fund AB 1913 (Bryan), which establishes the Los Angeles Community College District California Center for Climate Change Education. The bill recognizes the Climate Change and Environmental Studies Associate of Arts Degree offered by West Los Angeles College, the only Associate of Arts Degree offered at a community college of its kind. This degree will be available to students across California. The Center for Climate Change Education will also 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; building pathways that lead to appropriate certificates and degrees in climate change that lead to employment opportunities; 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. AB 1913 was sponsored by LACCD.

“This year’s budget includes \$25 million to expand two years of free community college to all full-time students, whether they are returning or first-time,” said Assembly Member Miguel Santiago. (D-Los Angeles). “This expansion of the College Promise program will encourage more students to enroll in community college and receive a debt-free higher education degree.”

“We are proud to share that many of the District’s 2022 budget and legislative priorities are included in the final budget agreement, and I want to thank Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Assemblymember Miguel Santiago, and Governor Gavin Newsom for their consistent, stalwart support of LACCD and our state’s community colleges, said LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. “The efforts of our Board of Trustees, college presidents, administrators, faculty, staff and student advocates, and our advocacy team united to deliver unprecedented funding that increases our District’s capacity to better serve community college students across the state and help them secure economic mobility and fulfilling careers.”

Other LACCD-sponsored institutional investments in the final Higher Education budget trailer bill include \$10 million to fund Los Angeles Mission College to create a San Fernando Valley Regional STEM Hub at Los Angeles Mission College, \$1 million for the development of the Valley Academic and Cultural Center at Los Angeles Valley College—both from the Proposition 98 General Fund and \$1 million to support the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College.

“This is a historic moment for LACCD, as several key pillars of our equity-first agenda are now funded as part of California’s largest budget ever,” said David Vela, LACCD Board Vice President, and Chair of the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee. “Putting students first with policies such as extending the California College Promise program to all full-time students will dramatically increase access to education for communities most in need and change lives.”

About the Los Angeles Community College District

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

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