



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Los Angeles Community College District Applauds Historic Nationwide Tuition Free Community College Program in President Biden's American Family Plan

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is one of the largest community college districts in the nation offering tuition free community college to all first time, full time students since 2017.

The following statement can be attributed to LACCD Board President, Steven F. Veres on behalf of the LACCD Board of Trustees and Administration:

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is deeply appreciative of President Joseph Biden for putting tuition free community college for all American students at the core of his American Family Plan to rebuild our country and economy.

With the support of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, and several community based and philanthropic organizations, LACCD has led the way in providing tuition free community college for all. We launched the LA College Promise program in 2017, which provides tuition free community college to first time, full time students – meaning, every LAUSD graduating high school senior qualifies. LACCD sponsored AB 19 authored by California Assemblyman Miguel Santiago to make the California College Promise program available to all community college students in the state. To date, the program has enrolled nearly 20,000 students, resulting in improved access, equity and success. It serves a population that is nearly ninety percent students of color and eighty-two percent low-income. In its first two years, direct enrollment from the Los Angeles Unified School District to LACCD increased by twenty-four percent, while direct fulltime enrollment increased by fifty-six percent. And during the COVID-19 pandemic, LA College Promise students stayed in school at a higher rate than the general student population.

As President Biden's American Family Plan recognizes community colleges are one of American education's greatest and most durable innovations, providing pathways for students from all backgrounds to a secure and stable career in many industries of our future, from information technology to social services and green energy. However, more than two-thirds of our students come from under-resourced backgrounds, and many are the first in their families to attend college.

Importantly, the American Family Plan not only would provide over \$100 billion for two years of tuition free community college for every American student, it helps support these students by investing an additional \$62 million in proven strategies that increase retention and completion rates at community colleges and other institutions. We know from the California College Promise program that these additional supports are a critical factor in ensuring student persistence and completion through college.

We know the life-changing impact a community college education can have on a family and an entire community. We commend President Biden for making the most significant move in our nation's history to make community college accessible to all.

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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, [@laccd_edu](https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu).

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