FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Media Contacts:
William H. Boyer, Director of Communications & External Relations, boyerwh@laccd.edu
Maria Luisa Veloz, Legislative & Governmental Affairs Officer, (213) 431-7337, velozml@laccd.edu

LACCD Secures Over $5 Million in Omnibus Appropriations Bill to Meet Student Needs and Grow Opportunities

LACCD applauds its congressional delegation to secure valuable Community Project Funding for basic needs, student transportation, workforce development and more in bill signed by President

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) has achieved a significant victory, as the recently passed omnibus appropriations bill, H.R. 2471, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022," includes over $5 million in dedicated funds for crucial student services, such as transportation, workforce development and basic needs. This much-needed funding will help increase student access to LACCD colleges and provide additional support to underserved students.

“We want to thank our local members of Congress, Senators Feinstein and Padilla and President Joe Biden for their strong support of community colleges, which is evident in this appropriations bill,” LACCD Board of Trustees President Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D., said. “LACCD will continue to advocate for an agenda that ensures students have access to quality education and the resources to succeed.”

The procedural vehicles for these allocations are Community Project Funding, previously referred to as Congressional Earmarks, which provide for direct funding for specific projects in larger spending bills such as this one.

“The District recognizes and appreciates the dedication of our Congressional representatives to ensure that our community colleges have the resources they need to provide a pathway to success for underserved students,” LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D., said. “We have always put equity first, and this funding directly creates resources that will have an impact on students who need them most.”

All of these newly funded programs, ranging from a Basic Needs project at Los Angeles City College to a new healthcare hub at East Los Angeles College, reflect LACCD’s dedication toward providing accessible, high-quality education that meets the needs of students and their communities.

“We want to thank our passionate members of Congress for fighting for our District and helping us secure this truly transformative funding,” LACCD Board of Trustees Vice President David Vela said. Vela, who also chairs the Board’s Legislative and Public Affairs Committee added that “This is a momentous occasion for LACCD and will change so many lives.”

Seven different legislators sponsored the Community Project Funding grants—including both of California's senators, Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla—reflecting the broad support in our state for LACCD’s equity-first agenda. Senator Padilla helped to support several of the House projects in the Senate, ensuring their passage in the Senate and ultimately guaranteeing their inclusion in the final appropriations package.

-MORE-
“I am proud to deliver over $1.3 million to help expand the Los Angeles Community College District’s health care and biotech programs,” said Sen. Alex Padilla. “These programs will prepare students for good-paying jobs in rapidly growing industries and help make the entire Los Angeles area stronger.”

The LACCD Community Project Funding grants, totaling $5.025 million, include:

- $1.5 million to provide student support at Los Angeles Southwest College sponsored by Rep. Maxine Waters, funding the Re-Entry Initiative for Success in Education (RISE) Center and the Family Resource Center that provide services and resources to students from underserved populations to help them continue their education;

- $1 million for student basic needs sponsored by Rep. Adam Schiff. The program will help some of the most at-risk students achieve a college education and will provide direct resources such as food aid, housing assistance, health services, and essential expense assistance as part of the Los Angeles City College (LACC) Basic Needs Project. In addition, the program will also offer help with textbooks, test fees, course supplies, transportation, success coaches, and tutoring;

  “Young people are already working so hard to be able to pursue the dream of higher education. We need to be doing everything we can to ensure that once they get to college, they can focus fully on their studies and their futures—not where they’re going to get their next meal, or how they’re going to pay for basic needs like housing, health care, and textbooks,” said Rep. Adam Schiff. “It is an honor to be able to fight for and deliver nearly $1 million in much-needed funding for LACC’s Basic Needs program, and to ensure the brilliant young students in my district have the resources they need to thrive and succeed.”

- $1 million for student transportation sponsored by Sen. Feinstein, expanding the Metro Fareless System Initiative Pilot Program to ensure that students have access to transportation to get to college and work;

- $925,000 sponsored by Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán to develop a comprehensive training hub focused on healthcare careers at East Los Angeles College’s South Gate Center;

  “The future healthcare career training hub at the South Gate campus of East Los Angeles College will provide remarkable hands-on learning for students entering the health industry. Southeast Los Angeles County is disproportionately impacted by air pollution, underemployment, and other social determinants of health,” said Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán. “In order to meet the unique public health challenges of South Gate and surrounding areas, we need a workforce that is representative of our community. That is why I am honored to support this vitally important project in my district.”

-MORE-
- $1.3 million and $400,000 for workforce development at Los Angeles Mission College and Los Angeles Valley College sponsored by Sen. Padilla and Rep. Tony Cardenas, expanding on the current workforce development programs offering short-term, vocational training to non-traditional students in the biotech, manufacturing and transportation program; and

  “Valley and Mission Colleges are no stranger to building up and investing in the next generation of leaders and innovators,” said Rep. Tony Cardenas. “This $400,000 we secured for additional training programs will help our future STEM workforce build the skills needed to thrive. Thank you, Los Angeles Community College District, for working with our office to bring much-needed federal dollars to the San Fernando Valley. Together, we will inspire and empower current and future diverse STEM leaders.”

- $200,000 sponsored by Rep. Judy Chu for success and access programs at East Los Angeles College (ELAC), which include webinars, workshops, tours, and college resource centers to promote college access, family engagement, academic preparation, and college success and retention.

  “As a former educator, I know how life changing a college degree can be. And as a proud former educator at ELAC, I know exactly how instrumental their work can be in making those possibilities a reality,” said Rep. Judy Chu. “That’s why I’m so proud to have secured this funding specifically for ELAC to increase their work with the community to be more prepared to apply to and succeed in college and to put more people on a path to better opportunities.”

LACCD’s campuses span several Congressional districts, and the District succeeded in securing funding from multiple representatives to support specific programs that fit the needs of each college.

The LACCD colleges include: Los Angeles City College; East Los Angeles College; Los Angeles Harbor College; Los Angeles Mission College; Los Angeles Pierce College; Los Angeles Southwest College; Los Angeles Trade-Technical College; Los Angeles Valley College and West Los Angeles College.

---

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, https://twitter.com/laccd @laccd and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd.edu/ @laccd.edu.

Members of the Board
Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D., President | David Vela, Vice President | Nichelle Henderson, Second Vice President | Andrea Hoffman | Ernest H. Moreno | Steven F. Veres | Coraima Martinez, Student Trustee