



FOR MEDIA CONTACT

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LACCD BOARD MEMBERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE; NEW OFFICERS SELECTED FOR 2023

LOS ANGELES—Newly elected and re-elected members of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees took the Oath of Office Wednesday during a ceremonial opening to the Board’s meeting on December 14, 2022. The meeting also served as the Board’s annual election of new officers for the coming year.

“As we transition to new leadership, I will continue our commitment and priority to the Basic Needs program that addresses food and housing insecurity. This, alongside a high-quality education, will be our focus as we increase access for our community,” said Trustee [David Vela](#), who was elected by the Board to be the new Board President. “As the first LGBTQ person of color to serve as the LACCD Board President, I will dedicate my efforts to serving all our students. We are stronger together and I will carry this message to local community stakeholders and elected officials about the critical importance of advocating for our LACCD family.”

In addition to President Vela, the Board elected Trustee [Nichelle Henderson](#) to serve as Vice President and Trustee [Kelsey Iino](#) as the Board’s Second Vice President.

The Oath of Office was conducted for newly elected Trustee Sara Hernandez, Board Seat Four; and re-elected Trustees [Steve Veres](#), Seat One, [Dr. Gabriel Buelna](#), Seat Six; and Kelsey Iino, who was previously appointed for Seat Seven. Hernandez, Veres and Buelna trustees were each elected to four-year terms until 2026 with Iino elected for the remaining two-year term until 2024. Trustee Buelna was recognized for his leadership as Board President where he successfully navigated the passing of Measure LA and increased access to educational opportunities for the region.

Newly elected Trustee Iino added “I am honored to be elected to the board after my appointment. I look forward to continuing my mission of advocating and increasing equitable pathways for our LACCD students and the campus community.” Re-elected Trustees Veres also expressed his commitment to student success and access for all students.

Newly elected Trustee Sara Hernandez said she was grateful for the support and encouragement she received from the community during the election. “As a community college instructor and former LAUSD teacher, I can continue my work on improving education to better our communities,” said Trustee Hernandez. “I hope to advance a bold policy agenda that directly serves LACCD students by increasing pathways to high-quality and affordable college options for all Angelenos.”

As an attorney, Trustee Hernandez works regularly with organized labor, community, and business leaders in connection with some of the most pressing environmental, land use and housing issues in the region. She has done extensive pro-bono work representing indigent immigrants in asylum proceedings and is involved with the Southern Immigrant Freedom Initiative. Trustee Hernandez holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy from Duke University, a Master in Education from Loyola Marymount University and a Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School.

“Given the deep, complementary talent on the board, I am excited to see how each Trustee will bring their passion, intelligence, and skills to the Board. I am energized, full of hope, and have confidence that this Board will work continue to lead our future at LACCD,” said Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez.

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](#).

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About the Los Angeles Community College District LACCD is *Where Los Angeles Learns!* LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation’s largest community college district, educating about 210,000 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. Learn more about our L.A. College Promise program of free tuition at [OurPromiseYourPath](#).

Members of the Board | David Vela, President | Nichelle Henderson, Vice President | Kelsey K. Iino, Ed.D., Second Vice President | Andra Hoffman | Sara Hernandez | Steven F. Veres | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. | Kenneth-Alan Callahan, Student Trustee