Chancellor’s Message
Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

The Board of Trustees, the nine college presidents, our senior staff and I welcome you to the start of the Fall Semester 2019!

This year marks the beginning of our 50th year of service as the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD).

The beginning of the fall semester is an invigorating time of year. Our colleges are full of new and returning students, each eager to pursue their higher education dreams. Each student represents an opportunity for us to achieve our mission to positively impact their lives. Please welcome them and serve them well.

For more than half of our students, an LACCD education is their first chance to attend college. For others, it’s an exciting second chance. For some, it’s their only chance to pursue a quality, accessible and affordable higher education.

Please also welcome the dozens of new classified staff and managers, along with over 80 new, tenure-track faculty and our new college presidents—Dr. Barry Gribbons, L.A. Valley College, and Dr. Alexis S. Montevirgen, L.A. Pierce College; and Interim Presidents Dr. Raúl Rodríguez, East L.A. College, and Dr. Andrew Jones, L.A. Trade Technical College.

Thank you for your continued contributions to make LACCD the best urban community college district to learn, work and teach. I am proud of the work we do together to move the needle on college access, equity, completion and success!

Gov. Newsom Visits ELAC

California Gov. Gavin Newsom visited East Los Angeles College on Aug. 29, 2019 as part of a statewide tour of community colleges to help promote that the California Promise, known locally for LACCD as the L.A. College Promise, has now officially expanded to two full years of free tuition for all first-time, full-time students.

Gov. Newsom was met by about 300 supporters in a packed house at ELAC, including students from all nine colleges, members of the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, some of our college presidents and dozens of news media outlets.

LACCD’s colleges are reporting that College Promise enrollment continues to grow as the free-tuition program gains more awareness by high school seniors and their parents.
First Week of Classes Across LACCD (cont’d)


PBS Series to Highlight Harbor, Southwest Colleges

A special series of television programming being developed by KVIE, Sacramento, for the PBS show, Inside California Education, will highlight the Nursing Program at Los Angeles Harbor College, and the construction training program at Los Angeles Southwest College, the HireLAX Apprenticeship Readiness Program.

Thousands of students have graduated from Harbor’s Nursing program, which is in its 50th year and has some of the highest state testing rates of any community college in California. The HireLAX program is an intensive, eight-week program that directly leads to well-paying construction jobs at the Los Angeles World Airports (LAX) complex or other nearby worksites.

Both programs will be featured in the PBS series with stand-alone segments lasting about six minutes. Filming for the HireLAX program has already been completed at Southwest, while a production team is set to visit Harbor near the end of September. Both segments will be part of a three-part special edition of Inside California Education that takes a close-up look at the positive impact of community colleges throughout California. The series is expected to air later this year.

West Receives National, $12 Million Grant

West Los Angeles College has been awarded a $12 million federal grant—the single largest grant in the college’s history—to develop and oversee a variety of apprenticeship programs across the country for as many as 5,000 students during the next four years. WLAC will be the lead college on the grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and will work with five other colleges across the country, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, plus numerous private-sector employers and professional organizations.

Prepare for Emergencies!

September is traditionally considered to be National Emergency Preparedness Month and everybody needs to be prepared for disasters and emergencies. One of the best places to start planning is with the County of Los Angeles website, https://www.lacounty.gov/emergency/

LACCD At-A-Glance

- LACCD is the largest community college district in the nation. The District’s nine colleges serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from about 900 square miles of Los Angeles County.
- An average of about 230,000 full- and part-time students per year are educated at LACCD’s nine colleges.
- L.A. College Promise Program first-ever cohort of about 500 students graduated in June 2019. Program enters third year with Fall 2019 term and now provides two years of free tuition.
- West L.A. College in June 2019 awarded 49 four-year bachelor’s degrees in dental hygiene. This was the second year that West awarded bachelor’s degrees.
- East L.A. College ranked Number 2 among two-year colleges on the “Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics” by The Hispanic Outlook on Education’s 2018 annual rankings.
- L.A. Mission College recognized as having one of the best online paralegal studies programs in the nation by Affordable Colleges Online (AC Online), a leader in higher education rankings.

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