



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: William H. Boyer, Director of Communications, (213) 891-2247 office | (213) 317-6691 cell | [boyerwh@email.laccd.edu](mailto:boyerwh@email.laccd.edu)

**DISTRICT SUPPORTS REGIONAL APPROACH FOR COLLEGE PROMISE STRATEGIES**

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez and other District officials are enthusiastically endorsing a new project announced last week by several prominent educational organizations to create regional, multi-partner strategies that will enable more students to successfully complete their initial two years of college.

The California College Promise Project at WestEd <https://californiacollegepromise.wested.org/> is partnering with the Campaign for College Opportunity <https://collegecampaign.org/> and UNITE-LA <https://www.unitela.com/> to launch the Los Angeles County “Promises That Count” initiative. Funded by the California Community Foundation, <https://www.calfund.org/>, the initiative focuses on supporting the development, implementation and continuous improvement of College Promise efforts to ensure more students graduate in Los Angeles County. <http://collegecampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/LA-County-Promises-That-Count-Factsheet-040218-1.pdf>

“The Los Angeles Community College District is proud and well-positioned to join the Promises that Count initiative. Partnering with diverse, influential stakeholders has been the hallmark of the Los Angeles College Promise and creating a collaborative, regional model will further our efforts to build strong academic and support programs for all students,” Chancellor Rodriguez said.

College Promise programs—including the District’s LA College Promise Program that began in 2017 with funding from the Mayor’s Foundation for Los Angeles and the Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges—provide important financial assistance for enrollment, but many students may not complete a two-year degree; earn a credential or transfer to a four-year institution, the initiative’s organizers said.

The key to making these promise programs count, now statewide in California under AB19 legislation, is to remove other barriers with academic support; clear, simple and consistent messaging to students and their families; improved assessment and placement measures; education and career guidance; cohort models; guided pathways and other support services.

“A college promise begins with making sure all capable students are able to afford going to college. A promise that counts focuses on supporting a student once he or she arrives on campus so they can reach their dreams successfully earning a degree, certificate or transferring,” Michele Siqueiros, President, Campaign for College Opportunity, said.

LACCD officials will be participating in a 15-month centerpiece of the initiative, dubbed Promises That Count Community of Practice (CoP), to focus on strategies intended to help College Promise programs advance in this essential work.

“If we want Los Angeles to be the true City of Graduates, we must work together with our colleagues on a regional scale for solutions that benefit students at all community colleges, LACCD or elsewhere,” Dr. Ryan Cornner, LACCD Vice Chancellor of Educational Programs and Institutional Effectiveness said. “This initiative helps us extend the promise for future students.”

###

**About the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD)**

LACCD ([www.laccd.edu](http://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.

**Members of the LACCD Board of Trustees**

Sydney Kamlager-Dove, President | Mike Fong, Vice President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. | Andra Hoffman | Ernest H. Moreno | Scott J. Svonkin | Steven F. Veres | Christopher Martinez, Student Trustee