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LACCD Board of Trustees President Scott Svonkin Appointed To President Obama’s Advisory Board on Tuition-Free Proposal

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama launched the College Promise Campaign, a three-year, nonpartisan community and state-led initiative to push for his proposal, introduced earlier this year in his State of the Union address, to make two years of community college tuition free for responsible students.

Helping to guide and bolster the campaign will be the National Advisory Board, headed by Honorary Chair Dr. Jill Biden, wife of the vice president, and Honorary Vice Chair Jim Geringer, a former governor of Wyoming. Among the 18 members of the board, consisting of advocates from education, business, philanthropy, students, non-profits, labor and elected officials, is Scott Svonkin, president of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees.

Svonkin, the only community college board of trustees president selected, was present Wednesday at Macomb Community College in Warren, Mich., where President Obama kicked off the campaign.

“It was amazing,” said Svonkin. “I am honored and humbled to be a part of this campaign. It is a great responsibility to represent Los Angeles in the effort to convince Congress and the nation of the need to make community college tuition free.

“It is clear to me that President Obama understands that community colleges can be the path to a brighter future for so many. I myself am a high school dropout and the president told me today that his goal is to give students like I was the chance to go to college.”

“LACCD is proud to have Board President Svonkin serve in this capacity,” said Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, LACCD chancellor. “We are confident that he will

provide useful insights to shape a national strategy towards tuition-free higher education for deserving community college students.”

Merely attracting students to community college will not be the sole mission of the campaign. Once there, they will be the focus of programs designed to help them complete their courses of study.

On Wednesday, the president also launched Heads Up, a grassroots movement to support the tuition-free proposal, and announced an apprenticeship program of \$175 million in Labor Department apprentice-shop grants to provide training opportunities to 34,000 new apprentices across the country.

"We're not going to just retrain a workforce," Obama said. "We are going to renew our nation's promise. We're going to rebuild our middle class. We're going to remind the world why America is the greatest country on Earth."

“Board President Scott Svonkin is one of our district's most avid advocates for the College Promise Campaign,” said Mike Eng, vice president of the LACCD Board of Trustees. “This program would provide a college and career pathway for the most disadvantaged students in the nation, some of whom are among the five million residents who make up our district.”

“I want to thank President Obama for his leadership,” said Svonkin, “and I look forward to working with all the members of the National Advisory Board to make sure this proposal becomes a reality.”

[Check it Out: Heads Up America – New PSA on #FreeCommunityCollege](#)

[HeadsUp Facebook.jpg](#)

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ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The Los Angeles Community College District, the nation's largest community college district, serves one-quarter million students a year in more than 36 cities in Los Angeles County at its nine colleges. The District covers nearly 900 square miles and has educated and trained the region's diverse workforce since 1969.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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