



# LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CITY / EAST / HARBOR / MISSION / PIERCE / SOUTHWEST / TRADE-TECHNICAL / VALLEY / WEST

## OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 7, 2016

Dear LACCD Faculty and Staff Colleagues:

Today marks the start of an unprecedented event in our District's history: a comprehensive accreditation visit that includes all nine colleges and the Educational Services Center (ESC) by ten (10) separate external evaluation teams. This week, we welcome more than one hundred of our colleagues and fellow educators from community colleges from throughout California and Hawaii. Dr. Helen Benjamin, Chancellor at the Contra Costa Community College District, is chairing the March 7-10, 2016 visit.

Accreditation is an opportunity for our colleges and district to demonstrate how we are meeting the standards of our accrediting body, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, commonly referred to as the ACCJC. Stated simply, accreditation is geared to help us serve our students better and assures our public that we are utilizing their resources to fulfill our mission. The visit also allows each of our colleges and district to "tell our story" on how the LACCD is serving the educational needs of our region, something we can all be proud of.

Many of you have been working toward this week for the past two years, while some only recently engaged in this process. Whatever your role, large or small, I want to thank you and let you know how proud I am to be serving as your Chancellor during this visit. I am excited at the prospect of sharing the good news about the many ways our colleges are addressing the needs of our community and to take action on those areas where we can improve.

Whether you are among the individuals scheduled to be interviewed or if you simply meet our visitors informally, I encourage you to welcome them, answer their questions, and point them in the right direction if they appear lost. Most of all, help them to know who we are as an LACCD community of educators. One great way to do so is by attending the Open Forums scheduled as part of the accreditation visit at any one of our colleges or the ESC.

Thank you for the incredible heavy lifting you have done to get us to this point – our students deserve it. I have full confidence that we will all do well as a result of this visit.

My very best wishes for a great week!

Sincerely,

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor