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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LACCD Officials Discuss College Access and Affordability with White House Officials**

Los Angeles – March 16. The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees president Scott Svonkin, trustees Andra Hoffman and Mike Fong, and Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Ph.D. are meeting with White House officials in Washington D.C. today to discuss ways to promote affordable access to college and support services to ensure students successfully complete their education.

The meeting is in support of recent federal legislation, America's College Promise Act that builds upon President Obama's plan to provide college tuition and fees for qualified community college students. Svonkin serves on the president's America's College Promise Campaign National Advisory Board.

"We are going to Washington to help our students get the opportunity they deserve. We are meeting with Congressional members to ask them to join us in helping guarantee every person who wants a college education will be able to afford one. Community colleges are pathways to a brighter future. I was a high school dropout and the goal is to give students like me the chance to go to college," said Svonkin.

In January the LACCD Board of Trustees unanimously passed a Resolution to enhance college access and completion for Los Angeles area residents and students of the district's nine-colleges by establishing the *Los Angeles College Promise*, a nonpartisan, local and state-led initiative to ensure higher education becomes reality for students of the LACCD region.

The goals of the Los Angeles Promise are to build widespread support for tuition-free community college education for all responsible students, and to create a broad public understanding that community college education is an investment in America's future and a necessary continuation of K-12 education. LACCD has become a vital path for thousands of people from this region of all ages to more lucrative and satisfying jobs and careers, and to a four-year university degree.

The Board of Trustees is also supporting and advocating for legislation in California that provides the framework and sustainable funding for a statewide *California Promise* Program.

“Our public and private education partners in Los Angeles are helping to forge a local strategy towards higher education for all deserving community college students. Our vision is to make our local promise program a model for urban education in this country,” said Fong, chair of the board’s committee on student success.

The LACCD Colleges are East LA College; LA City College; LA Harbor College; LA Mission College; LA Pierce College; LA Southwest College; LA Trade Technical College; LA Valley College; and West LA College

### **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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