

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

- TO: LACCD Board of Trustees
- **FROM**: Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

DATE: February 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Chancellor's Monthly Report February 2022

Happy Lunar New Year!

The LACCD Chancellor's Monthly Report for February 2022 includes brief updates on the following:

- I. Status on COVID-19 Public Health Emergency & District Recovery
- II. Update on the LACCD Enrollment
- III. Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges
- IV. Black History Month Highlights
- V. Special News, Events and Other Announcements
- VI. Communications and Media

I. Status on COVID-19 Public Health Emergency & District Recovery

Overview

February 2022 marks the 23rd month for official emergency operations by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. As of March 18, 2022, it will be two years since the District's Board of Trustees declared an emergency at its <u>March 18, 2020 meeting</u>, resulting in the (ongoing) activation of the LACCD Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Incident Command Centers (ICCs) at the nine colleges. It was also two years ago that the <u>first positive case of COVID-19</u> in Los Angeles County was reported on January 26, 2020. Many other two-year milestones regarding the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic have also been reached, or soon will be, meaning the pandemic is now entering its third year cycle.

The current surge in positive cases from the Omicron variant that began in late 2021 appears to have peaked in Los Angeles County. Health officials have guarded optimism that the worst of this particular surge is behind us—but not yet over—as overall positive case numbers and most other metrics are trending down while vaccination and booster rates continue to slowly climb up. It could be another one to two weeks before the pandemic tracking metrics return to pre-surge levels. Currently, health officials confirmed that other variants of the coronavirus are in low-level circulation, but, to date, none have been identified as "variants of concern" akin to Omicron or Delta, and could be a positive sign about possibly turning the corner in the pandemic.

The case numbers locally and <u>worldwide</u> due to the Omicron variant surge have been staggering. During the past month, more than 86 million new cases have been recorded around the world, nearly all due to Omicron. Worldwide totals are now at about 382 million cases and almost 5.69 million deaths since the pandemic began, according to the <u>Johns Hopkins website</u>. In the U.S., the totals now stand at about 75.35 million cases and almost 900,000 deaths.

For Los Angeles County, the peak in positive cases appears to have occurred around mid-January, when the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) said more than 287,000 positive cases were recorded during the seven days of <u>January 7-13</u>, with the single highest-day total of 45,584 cases on January 9. In all, more than 888,000 new positive cases were reported in the county January 1-27, 2022, according to LACDPH media briefing <u>statistics</u>.

The most recent report from LACDPH shows daily <u>case total for February 1, 2022</u> dropped to 8,786 cases, bringing the total cases in L.A. County to nearly 2.67 million and nearly 29,000 deaths.

	Th 1/13	W 1/12	Tu 1/11	M 1/10	Su 1/9	Sa 1/8	F 1/7
Daily new cases	45,076	40,452	34,827	43,582	45,584	34,448	43,712
Daily deaths	45	39	15	13	13	16	28
Daily hospitalizations of confirmed cases	4,175	3,912	3,766	3,472	3,364	3,200	2,902
Daily positivity rate (7-day avg)	20.8%	20.5%	20.6%	20.9%	20.9%	21.0%	20.8%
Daily Case Rate (7-day avg)	408	398	378	360	320	284	271

From LACDPH Media Briefing slides January 13, 2020 showing peak numbers for Omicron surge.

LACCD experienced its own surge in positive cases, albeit on a much smaller scale and with no deaths. Since January 1, 2022, there have been almost 1,200 positive cases reported to the District's EOC and ICC Safety Officers. The cases represent a mix of both in-person and off-site positive cases voluntarily reported by employees and students, plus cases detected from the free COVID-19 testing services provided by the District. In just the one month of January 2022, the total cases documented by LACCD exceeded the combined total of about 995 cases that were reported and tracked by the District during all of 2020 and 2021.

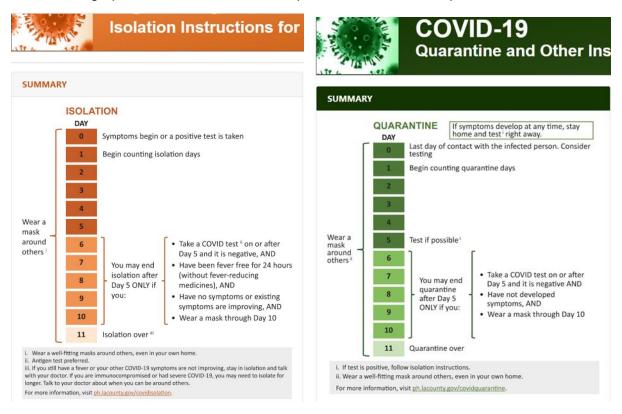
The growing concern now, however, is the long-term negative impacts that the disease has had both physically and mentally on everyone. Health officials around the nation are tracking the long-term effects, including at the <u>Mayo Clinic</u>, Johns Hopkins and others. A stunning visual report by <u>National Geographic</u> now shows the damage to the human body caused by COVID-19 with high definition, "bright X-ray" imagery. Meanwhile, signs of fatigue and mental strain are also prevalent and increasing. Recently, CNN ran a <u>report about how weary the American public</u> has become. Locally, **Los Angeles Southwest College student Mekhi Williams**, who is also the college's ASO Executive Vice President, wrote a powerful and moving <u>article published in USA Today online</u> about his own mental journey through the COVID-19 pandemic during the past two years. His message is worth the read.

Everyone is reminded about the importance of mental health. If you are feeling concerned, anxious, upset (or if you know someone who is) and need to talk to someone, for any reason, it is OK, you are not alone. You are encouraged to call the <u>Los Angeles County Department of</u>

<u>Mental Health</u> which operates a free helpline, 24/7, at (800) 854-7771, or by sending a text message ("LA") to 741741. Additional information <u>is online</u>. Remember, you are not alone.



LACDPH <u>Health Orders</u> were updated effective January 11, 2022 and are subject to additional changes. <u>Home Isolation instructions</u> for people who test positive were updated January 19, 2022 and <u>Quarantine Instructions</u> for close contacts were revised January 14, 2022. New timeline info graphics have also been developed to better under the process.



District Status

The District's Spring 2022 Semester will begin on time, as scheduled, starting February 7, 2022, with no delays in educational instruction being offered at the "LACCD Colleges of Los Angeles" through a previously planned mix of in-person, hybrid and remote learning (online) instruction. While the Omicron surge may have caused other higher education institutions to delay or change plans, LACCD's nine colleges have spent the past several months in preparation.

In support of the colleges, the District <u>Board Policy 2900</u> was modified to bring the vaccine requirements for employees and students into alignment with County requirements that being up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccine means getting a booster shot when eligible.

To date, LACCD has nearly full compliance by all active employees showing that they have received either the one- or two-dose COVID-19 vaccination, or they have an approved exemption on file. Several notices have now been sent to all employees not in compliance as part of progressive discipline process. Students who wish to take any in-person class for the new semester cannot enroll until they also provide proof of current vaccination or exemption status.

As part of the new modifications for Board Policy 2900, employees will have until February 28, 2022 to update their vaccination records on file. More details to employees will be announced soon.





Indoor masking mandates for all employees and students remain in force per both County orders and Board Policy 2800 at all colleges and District facilities by using upgraded disposal surgical-style masks or the N-series of respirators. Masks are available for free to everyone at each of the nine colleges and District facilities. The colleges have been proactively distributing masks and other supplies to students for a smooth transition going into the spring semester, including the event at Los Angeles Harbor College on January 25 (left).

Free COVID-19 testing remains available to all employees and students. In addition, most of the colleges continue to proudly serve our communities by hosting additional testing and/or vaccination-booster clinics for anyone. Details for the publicly accessible clinics are posted on the colleges' websites.

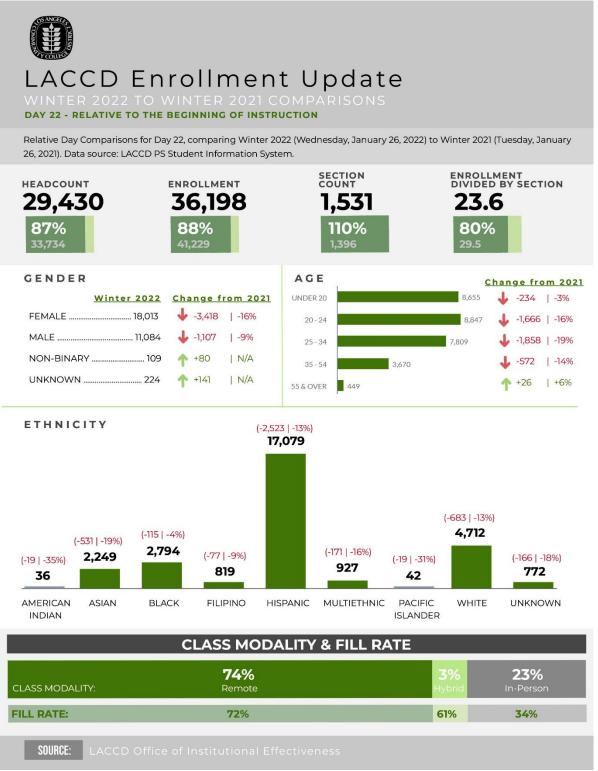
The EOC and ICCs are working to ensure masking

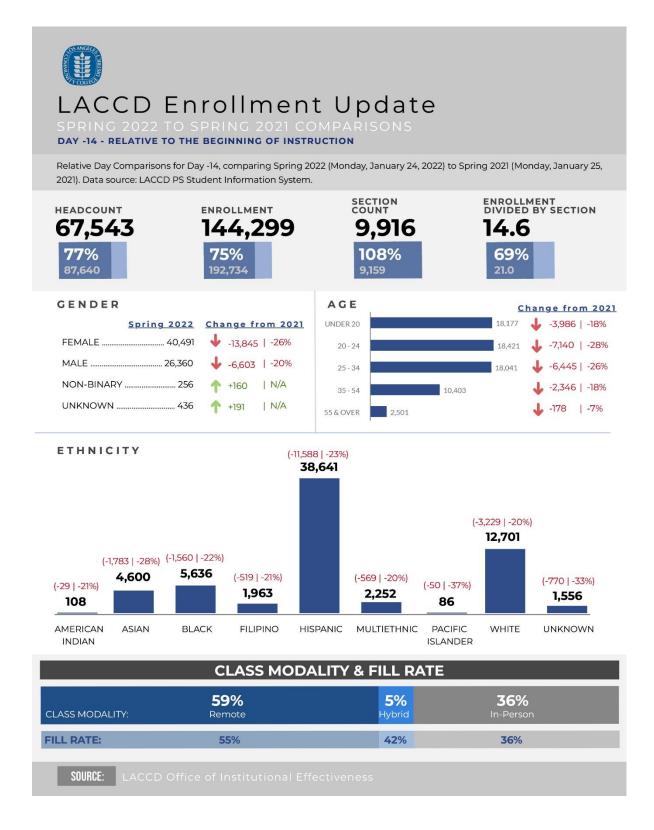
and hand sanitizer supplies remain plentiful and a large shipment of antigen (rapid, selfadministered) test kits are expected to be delivered by about February 10 for distribution to employees and students via the colleges. Anyone can now also order a free four-pack of antigen tests from the federal government by <u>ordering online</u>.

Robust messaging, website and social media postings, town hall meetings, on-campus signage and other reminders continue to be directed to employees and students to keep them informed about requirements, testing and other COVID-related details.

II. Updates on LACCD Enrollment & Marketing

Winter 2022 and Spring 2022 enrollment information is provided as follows by the District's Office of Institutional Effectiveness.





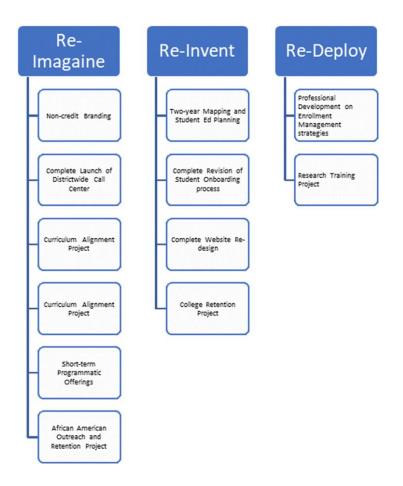
Enrollment Town Hall February 1 & Chancellor Enrollment Retreat January 13-14

More than 800 employees joined the Chancellor, the Colleges Presidents and members of the District Administration for a special virtual town hall meeting on February 1 to talk about strategies to increase enrollments and retain students. A link to the video recording of the meeting will be released as soon as possible. The town hall built upon, and helped introduce, many of the themed subject areas developed by members of the Chancellor's Cabinet during the Winter Leadership Retreat January 13-14.

Participants used the following learning lessons to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on enrollment and to revise strategies and plans moving forward that provide additional focus on recovering lost enrollments and capturing new markets, including:

- To foster an intentional and authentic equity-mindedness to our leadership ethos
- To transform our institutions that lead to improved outreach, enrollments and student outcomes, and service to the community
- To embrace the immediate Call to Action with vigor, integrity and purposefulness
- To build community, empathy, trust and interdependence as one District team

The results were encapsulated into three general areas as to how LACCD can "Re-invent, Redeploy and Re-imagine" our work and our service to the community. The planning sessions then produced the "**The Dynamic Dozen**" critical areas of focus, shown below, that will necessitate going beyond the traditional efforts for enrollment management.



III. Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges

The Foundation's districtwide "Max the Vax" incentive campaign, generously funded by Kaiser Permanente, concluded last month with a total of more than **2,600** eligible vaccine doses that were given to students and community members by using \$200,000 in incentives to help motivate people to get vaccinated—that's more than 2,600 lives of students and others were protected and saved!

Below are two of the many messages received by the Foundation from Max the Vax participants:

"I am currently a Registered Nursing student at LATTC community college. I'd like to convey my appreciation for providing this scholarship as a way for students to be safe during the present pandemic. This is a fantastic plan for ensuring that we have access to all available resources, including the Covid vaccination. Since its release, many people, including myself, have been suspicious of the vaccination. However, after much thought and consideration, I was able to make the decision to get vaccinated. I realized it was necessary to be vaccinated as a registered nursing student in order to protect myself and others. I aspire to work as a registered nurse at one of the Kaiser Hospitals in my area one day. Thank you so much!

And

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Kaiser for their generosity and commitment to making sure that everyone gets vaccinated, and that this nightmare of a pandemic is put behind us. I am a single mother that goes to school and works full time, so any little thing helps. This specific incentive will allow me to get vitamins and healthy groceries for me and my little one to ensure that we all remain healthy and energetic for the days to come....I will continue to wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and continue good hygiene - both in the house and when outside. Once again, the biggest thank you to Kaiser for making the world a much safer place for my daughter."

Scholarship Highlights

To date, the Foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships, grocery gift cards, and mobile hotspots in the 2021-22 academic year. The Foundation continues to process scholarships, grant awards, and donor reports for the 2021-22 academic year. The Foundation is also soliciting philanthropic contributions and developing initiatives that will support LACCD students in the 2021-22 academic year.

The Foundation launched "Umoja – African American Student Outreach Scholarship" to students participating in Umoja programs throughout the District and has already awarded five students \$500 each. The next round of scholarships will be awarded in Spring 2022. For more information and to donate to the African American Student Success Fund – visit <u>https://www.giveffect.com/campaigns/17101-african-american-student-success-fund</u>.

The Foundation is launching the previously announced PepsiCo Uplift Scholars program later this month. This scholarship program will support a robust, enhanced pipeline into high-demand fields in information technology, manufacturing, auto technology and transportation, e-commerce, logistics, sales, and marketing.

In addition, the Foundation is currently fundraising for the following initiatives:

- Food for Families program-<u>https://www.giveffect.com/campaigns/14483-food-for-families</u>
- Undocumented Student Success Fund <u>https://www.giveffect.com/campaigns/16055-undocumented-students-success-fund</u>

IV. Black History Month Highlights

All nine colleges have announced plans in celebration of Black History Month. Check the colleges' websites and social media platforms for more details as more events and activities can be added, or schedules changed. Below are some of the highlights for this year. **City**



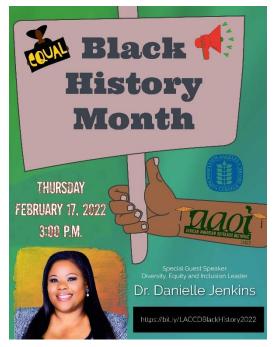


In Honor of Marcus M. Garvey, Click & Sign: https://bit.ly/exonerategarvey

CONTACT: Enter Your Information

What Would You Like to Say?: Type ... "Exonerate Marcus Garvey."

African American Outreach Initiative:



The LACCD African-American Outreach Initiative invites you to our 2022 Black History Month Celebration on Thursday, February 17, 2022.

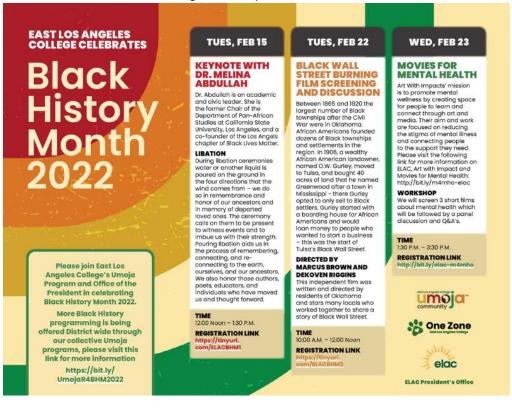
RSVP Today at:

https://bit.ly/aaoiblackhistory2022

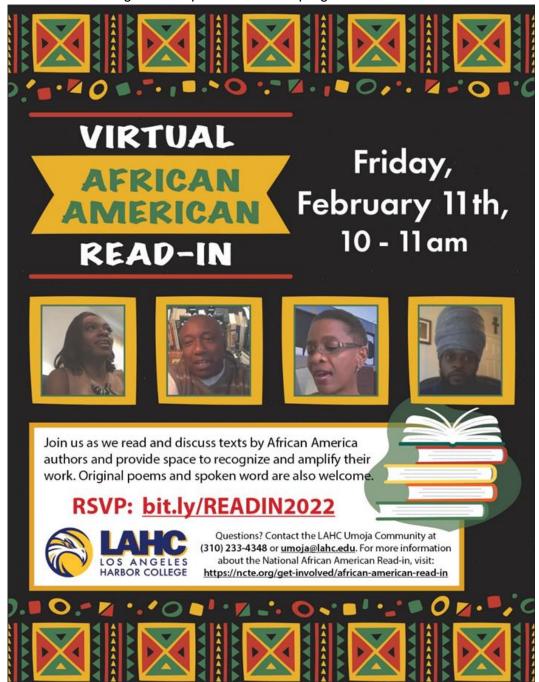
The event begins at 3:00 p.m. and features special guest speaker and diversity, equity, and inclusion leader, Dr. Danielle Jenkins.

East

East L.A. College begins its <u>Black History Month activities</u> on Tuesday, February 15 with a very special event featuring academic and civic leader Melina Abdullah, Ph.D., co-founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles Chapter. Other events noted below and online.



Harbor



Join L.A. Harbor College for its special "Read In" program!

Mission

Los Angeles Mission College Presents BLACK HISTORY HISTORY NONTH The Legacy Continues...

Watch a panel discussion on critical race theory and mental health needs in the Black community.

Premiering on YouTube: youtube.com/lamissioncollege

Wednesday, Feb. 16 12 p.m.



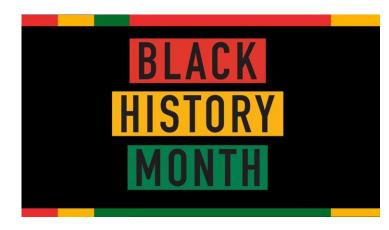
Request for Accommodation: We encourage people with disabilities to participate in college activities/events. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation, or have questions about issues of access at the location of the activity/event, please contact the Vice President of Administrative Services at <u>DisabilityAccess@lamission.edu</u> or call **818-364-7780** as soon as possible, but no later than seven business days prior to the event.

Pierce

Los Angeles Pierce College Umoja Program's Black History Month events included on the districtwide calendar below include:

- Umoja Practices: Grounding Our Practices in Black History-Wednesday, February 16, 1-2 p.m.
- Cocoa, Cookies, and Culture event Thursday, February 24, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Pierce BFSA/Umoja BHM Luncheon Friday, February 18 1-2:30 p.m.
- Umoja Community Region 4 Village Voices: A Talk with Chris Emdin Tuesday, February 22





Southwest

Celebrate Black History Month throughout February! The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. Explore the LASC's Library collection of print and electronic books related to African American Health

Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month

Browse all print and electronic books by visiting <u>www.lasc.edu/library</u>



Need more information? Email: lasclibrary@lasc.edu Text/SMS: 323-241-2989



Trade



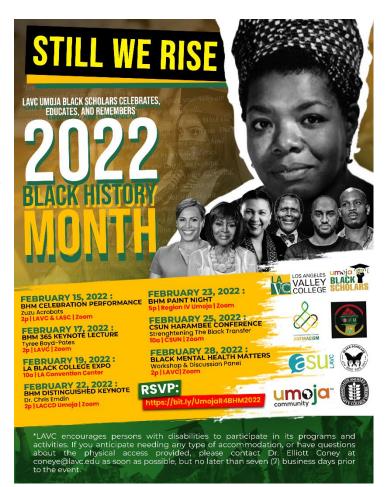
On Wednesday, February 23, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., LATTC's Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA), in partnership with Umoja and ASO, will host the Annual Black History Luncheon in honor of Black History Month.

The event features special guest speaker, Dr. Jonathan King, a diversity trainer with 15 years of faculty and executive leadership in community colleges, as he relates his family's personal experiences with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s. He will discuss how Dr. King's legacy of nonviolence helped heal his community, and the importance of wellness as it relates to the Black History Month theme for this year, which focuses on Black Health & Wellness.

A limited number of in-person seats are available for those that want to take part in the luncheon, as well as a virtual tie-in for those that would like to view the presentation remotely. Please contact Jeremy Jackson at jacksojb@lattc.edu for more information.

Valley

Valley's Umoja has put together a great series of programs to celebrate Black History Month and welcomes all to join for any or all of this year's activities.



West



MAKING BLACK HISTORY & Reflections

For Black History Month, WLAC celebrates some of its alumni who have and are making history in government, business, education, activism and athletics. A different alum will be featured on our home page and social media each week. But you can see them all at once at <u>WLAC.edu/News/Celebration-BHM.aspx</u>

- Judge Kevin Brazile: The 1st African American Presiding Judge of the LA County Superior Court
- Kim Etheredge: Co-Founder of Mixed Chicks products
- Nzinga-Christina Reid: Author & Activist
- **Dr. Linda Rose**: Former President of Santa Ana College and LA Southwest College

• Football Hall of Famers and Super Bowl Participants: Warren Moon, Isaac Bruce, Stephen Baker, Keyshawn Johnson and Edell Shepherd.

The <u>page</u> and our social media will also showcase <u>Faculty Reflections</u> on prominent African Americans and organizations in history.



V. Special News, Events and Other Announcements

All Are Welcome!

Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Black/African American Student Affairs Thursday, February 3, 2022 2-4 p.m.

Virtual Meeting: https://laccd.zoom.us/j/93771153124 Dial-in: Phone: (669) 900-6833, ID: 93771153124



Five LASC Students to Perform at Super Bowl LVI Halftime Show!



https://www.lasc.edu/news/LASC-Students-Perform-Super-Bowl-Halftime-Show

The hometown NFC Champions Los Angeles Rams football team are not the only local talent taking the field at SoFi Stadium on February 13 for the LVI Super Bowl. Five members of Los Angeles Southwest College's award-winning Experimental Theatre Lab have been selected as backup performers at the Halftime Show that will be watched by millions around the world featuring Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, and Kendrick Lamar on February 13 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood.

LASC students Ferra Diggs Adamou, Sheronda Jacobs, Khadijah Abdullah, Timiyon Holliness, and Jeremy Ojeda were all cast in the show. They have been involved in the theatre program and the Experimental Theatre Lab as lead actors. The students jumped at the chance after Dr. Kristine Wright, Professor of Sociology at LASC, alerted them.

Super Bowl LVI and the Halftime Show will air live on NBC and Telemundo and stream live on Peacock. Watch the show with pride knowing that our students are representing LASC during this iconic halftime show.

L.A. Harbor College Hosts Fourth Annual Leadership Conference for Men of Color Action Network



L.A. Pierce College Soccer Star "Kiki" Washington Named First Team All American



Pierce College is proud to announce that **Kiara "Kiki" Washington** has become the first women's soccer player in the college's 20-year-soccer history to receive the honor of first-team All American.

Head Coach Adolfo Perez said, "This is an incredible accomplishment when you consider only 11 players in all of America receive this award out of thousands and thousands."

Washington is one of three freshmen awarded the title, and the first L.A. Pierce College athlete to be named First Team All-American for soccer. She finished her freshman season with 21 goals and 3 assists.

She is pictured, left, in Kansas City, Missouri, accepting her award from the <u>United Soccer</u> <u>Coaches Association</u> on January 22 at their 2022 convention. Each year in December the United Soccer Association names the <u>Junior College</u> <u>Division III Men's and Women's All-America Teams.</u> Washington was recently named All-Conference Offensive Player of the Year by the Western State Conference. She is joined by her teammates Alexandra Meza, Arianna Vigil, Natalia Puccio, and Lauren Montiel, who made 1st team allconference. Additionally, Preet Kaur, Halle Manalili, Brenda Arias were named 2nd team All-Conference, with honorable mentions going to Anabelle Rosas and Flor De Luna.



The Pierce women's soccer team finished the season with a record of 11-5-4 and made it to post conference play, ultimately losing in the first round of playoffs.



LACCD, L.A. Mission College and The Latino Theater Company Create New Program LACCD is honored to announce a groundbreaking partnership with award-winning Latino Theater Company and their Artistic Director and Board President, José Luis Valenzuela.

This new partnership will provide students districtwide with a world-class education in dramatic arts. The Theater 285–Directed Study course originating at Los Angeles Mission College is being taught by theatrical legend and UCLA Emeritus Distinguished Professor Valenzuela, allows students at any of the nine LACCD colleges to learn from an iconic director and attend performances at the Los Angeles Theatre Center on Spring Street in downtown Los Angeles.

"The District is deeply appreciative of this partnership of the Latino Theater Company and the generous spirit of Professor Valenzuela," said LACCD Board President Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. "This will be a truly special course that highlights so much of what the LACCD and Los Angeles are all about, and will provide world-class teaching to an extremely deserving student body."



Theater 285 - Directed Study

LATINO HEATER of The Los Angeles CO.

The course will be offered as an in-person/virtual hybrid course during the Spring 2022 semester, with classes every Tuesday between April 11 and June 6 from 6-8 p.m.



Latino Theater Company

Registration information for the Theater 285 course is available for students enrolled districtwide at bit.ly/latinotheaterclass.



L.A. Pierce Communication Studies Wins Western States "Model Program" Award The Pierce College Communication Studies Department has won the Model Communication Program Award, granted annually to one community college program by the 2022 Western States Communication Association (WSCA).

Long-time Professor Barbara Anderson, who also serves as Pierce's Senate President, will attend the WSCA conference in Portland on February 20 to accept the award.

According to the WSCA, the program awarded reflects the breadth and depth of the communication discipline, has teaching personnel with specialized training in communication, has integrated curricular and co-curricular activities, has strong administrative support, and relates to the mission of the institution.



The Communication Department, pictured from left, top row: Michelle Silver, Barbara Anderson, Robert Loy, Mary Anne Gavarra-Oh (Dean); bottom row: Christine Ersig-Marcus, Jennifer Rosenberg, Sally Kassamanian, Yeprem Davoodian (Chair). Not pictured, Michelle Brownlee and Jasmine Ashoori.

Video of Groundbreaking Event at Los Angeles Southwest College In case you missed the Groundbreaking Event December 17, 2021 for LASC's new, twostory, 31,000-square-foot Student Union Building, here is a video highlight of the event. <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28DQrYb5W2M</u>

VI. Communications and Media News Releases

Dental Assistant Apprenticeships at West L.A. College Announced

LACCD Announces Partnership with Latino Theater Company

East L.A. College Joins College Volunteer Corps For Students to Earn Tuition Money

News Media Highlights

CBS 2 / KCAL 9 - Drive-thru testing site at Los Angeles Pierce College https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dK3GTSb605Y

WLAC Free Dental Program

https://californianewstimes.com/free-program-by-west-l-a-college-and-west-coast-dentalcreating-jobs-and-filling-gaps-los-angeles-sentinel-los-angeles-sentinel/667375/

https://www.culvercityobserver.com/story/2022/01/27/news/free-program-by-west-lacollege-and-west-coast-dental-creating-jobs-and-filling-gaps/10992.html

https://lasentinel.net/free-program-by-west-l-a-college-and-west-coast-dental-creating-jobsfilling-gaps.html

Latino Theater Company Partnership

https://mynewsla.com/education/2022/01/28/laccd-partners-with-latino-theater-company/

https://www.broadwayworld.com/los-angeles/article/Latino-Theater-Company-Partners-With-Los-Angles-Community-College-District-To-Make-An-IMPACT-20220131