



LACCD ANNOUNCES STRONG SUPPORT FOR ACA 5: CALIFORNIA ACT FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

LOS ANGELES —The Los Angeles Community College District today announced its strong support for the State of California’s Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (ACA 5), authored by California Assemblymember Shirley Weber.

ACA 5 amends the California Constitution by repealing Section 31 of Article I relating to the prohibition against discrimination or preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. Specifically, this Constitutional Amendment repeals provisions enacted pursuant to Proposition 209 in 1996, which banned any consideration of traditionally underserved communities.

“Since becoming law in 1996, Proposition 209 has cost women- and minority-owned businesses \$1.1 billion each year,” said Assemblymember Weber. “It has perpetuated a wage gap wherein women make 80 cents on every dollar made by men and has allowed discriminatory hiring and contracting processes to continue unhindered.”

LACCD is one of the largest, most racially diverse community college districts in the country serving more than 225,000 students annually. Today, 85 percent of LACCD students are from underserved, under-resourced communities and are disproportionately impacted by the ill effects of Proposition 209, which exacerbates their risk for unequal opportunities in employment, access to high-quality education and access to fair contracting.

“In the wake of the murder of George Floyd by racist police officers, we need to be deliberate in confronting and eradicating systemic racism,” said LACCD Board of Trustees President Andra Hoffman. “ACA 5 would help us overturn inequities for people and communities who have consistently faced the consequences of systemic racism, and haven’t been afforded a fair or equal opportunity. We have been *legally* precluded from considering the unique circumstances of these people and their communities for far too long. It’s time for a change. Let’s take this bold anti-racist step forward together.”

“LACCD is proud to stand with the numerous organizations who have registered support for this constitutional amendment,” said LACCD Board of Trustees Member David Vela. “As a gay Latino man, I unequivocally support this necessary amendment, which presents California with an opportunity to further ensure that every individual is protected under our State Constitution.”

“With the passage of this legislation, we have a chance to ‘re-right’ California history and reverse the pervasive damage made to our colleges and universities caused by the passage of Prop 209 in 1996 and restore equitable hiring, public contracting and university admissions policies,” said LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Ph.D. “This amendment will allow the District the opportunity to intentionally advance our diversity and equity goals and promote equitable opportunities and outcomes.”

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (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 and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ @laccd_edu.

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