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CONTACT: Shaena Engle
Manager, Public Relations
Los Angeles City College
engles@lacitycollege.edu
213.200.4728

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE SUPPORTS BLACK LIVES MATTER

*new Race, Equity and Social Justice Center, proclamation and Town Hall meetings
advance gender and racial justice*

(September 8, 2020) In response to the rising movement for Black Lives Matter, Los Angeles City College (LACC) has implemented several initiatives to fulfill their commitment to pursue racial justice.

Over the past few months, the college has supported and encouraged reflection by the entire LACC community.

During their Fall 2020 convocation, President Mary Gallagher announced the creation of a new Race, Equity and Social Justice Center at LACC.

After an inspirational and impactful speech by special guest Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, the convocation concluded with a call for LACC staff and faculty to sign an online proclamation for equity and social justice and to pledge to root out racism, bias and micro-aggressive behavior on the campus.

“The entire LACC community is committed to better understanding how systemic racism can impact our campus and to ensure that we do everything we can to eliminate its impact for the future of our students, staff, faculty, alumni and the world,” said President Gallagher.

Additionally, over the summer LACC developed a series of Black Lives New Town Halls for faculty and staff. The culmination of the summer series on August 31 featured special

guest Mr. Benjamin Crump, Esq., nationally recognized civil rights attorney whose clients include the family of Trayvon Martin, Ahmad Aubrey, Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Jacob Blake.

Crump spoke about the current climate resulting from a history of systemic racism and more than 400 years of racial injustice. He also voiced a message of hope based on the historical strength of black Americans, “When I think about the precedent of black people, I think about how much our people were able to overcome, and that tells me that based on the precedent of our forefathers and ancestors, that no matter what they throw at us today, we’ll be able to overcome it.”

Crump also spoke about the importance of casting a ballot in our upcoming election, a widening digital and economic divide amongst Americans, and the continuing issues with a racist justice system and police brutality.

“Our new initiatives will continue to provide support and resources for our community, including Black Lives Matter in critical discussions and decision making,” added President Gallagher.

About Los Angeles City College

Established in 1929, Los Angeles City College is one of the oldest of the California Community Colleges. Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACC provides a dynamic innovative learning environment offering more than 100 vocational and professional programs including degrees, transfer programs and certificates to more than 18,000 students. In the past decade, a total of 6,651 students have transferred to four-year colleges and universities, including 4,040 students attending Cal State universities and 1,086 students transferring to UC campuses. Los Angeles City College is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse campuses in the country. The campus provides a wide range of professional and vocational programs at a fraction of the cost of state and private colleges. LACC provides students and adult learners vital pathways to more advanced education and enhanced employment. In 2019, LACC celebrated its 90th anniversary.