



Staff Town Hall

25 June 2020 / 2:00PM / Zoom Meeting

Updates

Announcements

- Our Focus for the Summer is still **Black Lives Matter**, but we will be providing additional information regarding Summer Session and available resources.
- The first two Summer Sessions have already started; the first 5 week and 8-week sessions started last Monday. The second 5 week and 8-week sessions will be starting soon.
- Classes will remain remote for the Fall Semester
- The President's honors and Dean's honors certificates were sent out

BLM

- An Equity and Ethics Statement is being drafted by our Senior Staff (President and Vice Presidents)
 - We will accept the statement as our governing principles once it has been drafted
 - Next, we will ask the staff and faculty to draft their own equity and ethics statement
- We are in the process of hiring a Director of Race and Ethical Injustice faculty member to run our Race, Equity Social Justice Center. We are in communication with the District on this position. We want to make sure there is a system in place to make the center work and have proper resources. There will be an advisory community as well.
- The position will be a full-time Specially Funded Program position and we hope to get it posted by the end of June. We are pushing really hard to get that posted so we can bring someone on board to spearhead this entire effort.

- Dean Thelma Day has been working with a group of people when planning these Town Hall meetings. Once we get a Director on board we can start to plan and develop the Racial and Social and Justice center on the campus.
- We are working on putting out a website/publish to get the word out that this center will be coming. Updates and information, BLM Town Halls, as well as the Equity Social Justice statement will be on the website. We are also putting together a separate email address directly for the Race, Equity, and Social Justice Department.
- A **Race, Equity, and Social Justice Center** is being developed as well and we hope to have some ideas flushed out by the Fall
- We will be putting together a team to operate this space, which will be available for Students, Faculty, and Staff
- We are brainstorming for ways to fundraise for this Center via an endowment. We are searching for a donor to provide enough money who can help establish this space/center.
- This Center will take a couple of years to develop but we are starting this process immediately

Police Brutality

- I do not imagine there will be any defunding from the Sheriff's department within our district. There will be re-structuring, re-training, and firm expectations, from the standpoint of the Chancellor and the Colleges, going forward on what we want to see happen with the Sheriffs interacting with people on our campus. This includes students, staff, faculty, and visitors
- We have already started this conversation with the Sheriff, and they seem open. There us a new captain, Don Rubio, and he will be attending the July 13th Town Hall
- During the Town Hall, we will talk with him about the training he will be holding and will be able to ask him questions as well

Resources

- If you know of a student that needs a Chromebook, please have them reach out to hotline-students@lacitycollege.edu Students are deep enough into the term to where if they do not have the proper resources they could quickly fall behind.
- We do not have any more devices to give away, but we have been working with our Bookstore on a rent to own program over the course of 4 terms at LACC

- We have also talked to the Foundation about developing a Scholarship for the rental program for students who may not be able to afford it
- We have additional resources coming from the 2nd portion of the CARES Act funding - some Chromebooks will be paid for from those funds
- We are also working on a rent to loan program that will be coordinated with the Bookstore
- We will likely send out all devices by mail, however if students cannot receive packages by mail we will also have a safe and secure pick up option.
- We have a list of about 150 students who we know still need either a textbook, Chromebook, or both. The Bookstore is reaching out to these students to make arrangements for textbooks if needed
- We had a grocery store donate food vouchers for our students and they have explored the possibility of having meals sent out to our students as well.
- We cannot conduct the Pop-up food pantry because we cannot gather on our campus, but we are working on ways to get resources out to students who are in need and are hoping to launch something by July
- A list of local food pantries and banks are included in the President's Message.
- The Foundation sent out their scholarship checks for the Summer session and students should have received them by now.
- We have one more distribution of the first portion of the CARES Act. We have posted how the first portion of the funds were distributed and we will post where the next distribution will be going as well.
- We were able to distribute the funds to more of our students since the requirements to qualify for the funds have been expanded.
- We know there are problems with students not having access to internet and we are working on ways to provide help
- **How to open up a Credit Card** - <https://wallethub.com/credit-cards/secured/>
- <https://www.creditkarma.com/question/applying-for-a-credit-card-2+>
- **A link to an interactive map of resources around LACC**
<http://www.shac.space/>

COVID-19

- We still will not have any events or gatherings on our campus because cases in Los Angeles are still spiking

Q&A

Comments:

- I would like to see us embrace cross-discipline campus life, even in the pandemic
- Homeless students who do not have cars cannot get to the food banks or grocery stores.
 - Delivery would be better for homeless students with no cars. Being in public transportation will not help them. They cannot make it to the college without exposure to lots of folks who are not wearing masks
- Spectrum's "free" internet was not free. It was for only a short period of time, and then it started charging students.
- Jeremy and I will be sending info (and a link) on low cost internet options, based on household income. We are working with California Emerging Technology Fund.
- Students who are struggling with using Canvas are welcome to join a free training section through the Noncredit Adult Education program this summer
- Please share with your students the virtual library workshops now on canvas
- The office of student life has been hosting virtual activities throughout the semester for the students like talent shows and singing competitions and bingo. We will be starting virtual activities again after July 1st
- Students still need childcare for when school starts, tutoring and homework help for their older kids while parents take afternoon, evening online classes

- In terms of creating a learning community, our honors program, the Ralph Bunche Scholars program is poised to do just that. During “normal times,” we have a classroom, an honors student lounge.
 - All students interested in transfer should consider joining the Ralph Bunche Scholars program.
- I have an idea. have students follow LACC Facebook, Instagram and tag people and those people, win giveaway for a gift card.

Q: When are you guys hiring classified workers? We are already overworked.

A: I do not know what department this question is coming from, but we are doing some classified hiring right now. This month, we interviewed 4 / 5 positions.

Q: Has a hiring committee been established for this Director position?

A: A hiring committee has not been formed because the position has to be approved first. There is not a position like this in the District, so it will take some back and forth with them in order to get the position approved.

[Jim Lancaster]: We are working with district HR to refine the position because we want it to be an academic position so that the new employee will be considered faculty.

Q: What about higher-end laptops (i.e. not Chromebooks) for our students in tech-related courses will need those in the fall semester?

A: The Chromebooks that are being distributed now are brand new, not refurbished. I mention this because some of the problems that students were having with the Chromebooks that were originally sent out were due to them being refurbished. What we are working on now is for students to have access to the cloud via VPN. The district has a similar system for staff and is working on getting something similar for students so that they can access the software they need.

Q: Will you please tell us more about the dual enrollment Trade Tech Latino student who was a victim of police brutality?

A: I do not have all of the information on Andres Guardado. I do know that while he was in high school, he was a dual enrolled student and was later enrolled at Trade Tech. I did

see that a professor from Trade Tech was open about his very positive experiences with Andres. We have not been provided with any other details from the sheriff's department and are following the investigation.

Q: Are those VPNs traceable?

A: I am not sure. The VPN is associated with an individual who has to authenticate it in order to use the VPN. So, it is not just something that can be shared with a bunch of other people. Each code given out is specific to that person and if it is misused it will be taken away. You will have to authenticate each time you use it.

Q: Are hotspots or internet accesses continuing to be available to students?

A: We understand that the free internet that Spectrum made available for students is ending next week. We have asked if they would consider extending the promotion, but we do not know for sure. I have also provided a list of local hotspots that are available throughout LA in my President's Message. Hopefully when the students receive their CARES funds, they will be able to use a portion of the funds for internet costs.

Q: I am just wondering if I am able to invite my students to go for a hike with me as a completely optional activity so we can meet each other? We can wear masks and distance.

A: I think that is a fabulous idea. Please make sure the activity is not an ongoing thing and that you use the correct protocols. I would ask for you to coordinate this with your Dean so that we are fully aware and take all of the proper precautions.

Q: This is instructional related: I think our students would greatly benefit from programs that would increase completion and transfer rates like Learning Communities or Communities of Learning, or successful programs like Puente Project. Is there a possibility of implementing anything like that?

A: One of the initial things that will happen through the work that will be done with the Race, Equity, and Social Justice center will be to develop places for people to develop community within the discipline in which they are studying whatever their association is. I think we are going to see an amazing expansion of what has been our gender diversity space. We want to address all the academic, health, and social needs of the students. Learning communities is something that is very helpful to students. There is a great chance that students will complete their classes and programs when they have a connection to the institution. Our faculty has been working for the last 2 years to map and sequence the programs that we have for student completion in 2 years. If they follow the classes in order, they will complete the program in 2 years. If we can wrap back and connect that student to the campus community, what I see with the Race,

Equity, and Social Justice Center is that it will give the faculty the opportunity to connect with the students outside of the classroom, giving the student the opportunity to talk to someone. A place for faculty, staff, and students.