

August 17, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back!

This is an exciting time for LACC; we are continuing to build for the future with the completion of our new Science and Technology Building making this the third new building on campus to open in the past year. I would like to thank you all for your patience during this time of transition.

Over the past year the college has undergone tremendous change and in our effort of on-going transparency, it is vital that we work together to keep everyone informed and on the same page. In the past academic year the state has once again asked the college to do more with much less creating a deficit for LACC, tremendous growth in enrollment, a new accreditation status and new staff. While the State of California faces almost unprecedented budget challenges a burden which we all must share, in this letter, I want to focus on the longer-term potential for greatness at LACC!

LACC is an institution grounded in academic excellence serving some of the most diverse students in the state. It is that excellence which allows us to attract some of the best and brightest faculty and students in the county. LACC students and faculty earned many accolades this year. Two of the year's highlights were our award-winning Collegian newspaper and our national champion math team. As we continue to work to sustain academic excellence and increased access to educational opportunities for the students of LACC, we need to have a productive year and more than ever we need the entire campus to come together. There are many new aspects of our college and I want to take a moment to share them with you.

In July of this year LACC was placed on "probation" by The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. If you need more information, please feel free to visit their website: www.accjc.org. It is important to know that our accreditation status has nothing to do with our faculty and the instruction they provide in the classroom and it is imperative we continue to share that with our students. We have also placed a link on our website for more information regarding our status and how we can work together to return to reaffirmation. In order to do that, it is imperative that every member of the campus does his/her part to show that we are and will continue to be a strong educational institution. We have specific recommendations to address and in doing so we need everyone to participate and begin to discuss constructively what all of this means. This is an area that is unprecedented at our college, but it is not uncommon in today's climate. This is the time for us to come together and work productively and consistently in returning to reaffirmation. LACC has one year to address its accreditation sanction and we have a team in place (The A-Team) working on that very effort. To ensure



successful completion of our report we need everyone's help and I would like to encourage more faculty and staff to participate. While, we continue with the business of educating our students, we will hold a series of meetings to address our progress and continue to inform the campus and the community. I am confident we will reach our goal of "good standing." However, we all must do our part.

Continually, we welcome new members to our college family, and during the summer LACC welcomed three individuals into the senior administration. First, Kim Perry, Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Lawrence Bradford returned as Vice-President of Student Services and Victor Hanson, Interim Vice-President, of Administrative Services. This 2009-2010 academic year will be challenging. We are facing a serious budget crisis that affects us all. I am confident that LACC will continue to be successful I have put a solid team in place and we have a very strong committee structure which includes all of the campus constituencies. This will enable us to continue campus discourse. It will not be easy; however, we have survived even tougher situations historically. In working through our shared governance process we will be making recommendations on ways to address our accreditation and resolve our budget deficit in a manner that is collegial, inclusive of the campus community and appropriate in reaching our goals for solvency.

My goal and vision for LACC is to continue to move the college forward in a positive and productive manner and in order to do that we must work together in sustaining educational excellence for our students. I will continue to work hard to keep the campus informed about decisions as we move forward. This is not the time for distractions; it is time for all of us to continue to work together and remain as positive as we can. We are an, "urban oasis of learning," and we need ideas and energy to keep us moving forward.

Again, welcome back and I look forward to seeing all of you very soon!

Sincerely,



Jamillah Moore, Ed.D.
President
LA City College