



# President's Fall 2014 Newsletter

September 1, 2014

## Reneé D. Martinez President Los Angeles City College

Welcome back to another semester! I trust all of you had an enjoyable summer.

Lots of changes has occurred since this summer both to the campus and our LACC family. The new Kinesiology building is completed and construction is now underway on the new Student Service building. There are positive plans for LACC students and the community we serve.

As we move forward in the year, LACC administrators, faculty, and staff are working hard to provide students with innovative and quality educational services.

Although LACC has faced some difficult budgetary issues, student success has always been a priority. Let's make this semester a productive one by your involvement in committees and participation in campus events. It is imperative that we all work together for our students and the community.

We all can make a difference! Let's continue to look at the positive and learn from our mistakes to improve the future for our students and their success.



President Reneé D. Martinez

## 2014 Student Success and Support Summit at LACC

Los Angeles City College held its first Student Success and Support Summit on August 27th, 2014 in the Faculty & Staff Center. The Summit consisted of two sessions for faculty, staff and students. The focus of the Summit was to get feedback on how to increase student success.

Employees were asked to participate in student success games and create a graphic design that would display ideas to implement improvements and innovative ideas that would assist the college to better serving our students. LACC college president, Reneé D. Martinez spoke on the importance of improving student success and what the college is doing to give its students the proper tools/services to ensure a better education.

The Summit ended with student feedback from LACC students Ryan Koncar, Shamir Mooror and ASG president, Victoria Boutros who boldly commented on their experiences with faculty styles of teaching and what they felt was needed to help them obtain a successful education at LACC.





## Honoring our Retired Faculty & Classified Staff

Retiring is part of life, if you work long enough to get there. LACC would like to honor faculty and classified staff who retired this year: Professor Guy Bernard, English/ESL, Professor Mark Conta, Law/AJ, Professor Jackquelynn Finney, Rad-Tech, Professor Charles Pallos, Communication Studies, Professor John Radke, Rad-Tech, Professor Bernadette Solis, Counseling, Dr. Reginald Brady, International Student Dept., Former professor, Dr. Charles William Westrick, Dental Tech, Jeanne Dunphy, Instructor, Charlene Morimoto, Instructor, Judy Karopian, Payroll Dept. classified staff, Fred Campi, Academic Affairs, classified staff, Lucy Acosta, Administrative Services Budget, classified staff.

These employees provided Los Angeles City College and its students years of dedication, professionalism and commitment; and even though they are retired and enjoying the "good life", they will truly be missed! Thanks to all of them for their years of service!

---

## Welcoming New Hires At LACC

Los Angeles City College welcomes new administrators, deans, and staff to our team. Dr. John Al-Amin, Vice President of Administrative Services, Dr. Regina Smith, Vice President of Student Services, Associate Dean Angelica Ramirez, Workforce Noncredit, Dean Allen Andriassian, Student Life, Mee Lane Kyon, Sr. Acct., Anait Boyadzhyan, Sr. Personal Tech., Gina Peng, Personnel Asst. Ashley Morris, Instructional Media Tech., Angel Quijada, Custodial, and Charles Mills, Equipment Mechanic and Leigh Stenberg, LACC Foundation. Each of them comes to LACC with a wide variety of experience and expertise in their fields and professions. We wish them a prosperous semester and welcome them all to the LACC Family.

## Welcome from LACC Administrators!

**Dr. Regina Smith | Vice President  
Student Services**

*"Student centered to ensure access, success and completion"*

Welcome back to Los Angeles City College (LACC). As LACC begins its 86th year, we are excited about the endeavors on our campus. There are more than 70 construction projects planned. As your new Vice President of Student Services, I am very proud of our new Green Technology Student Union Building. We are also looking forward to the completion of our new Student Services Building during the summer of 2015.

One of our goals for the 2014-15 academic year is to continue the great work we started from last year. These goals include: provide student access and success; retain regular, permanent employees; maintain a balanced budget; continue to move ahead with our Bond facilities; projects to promote student success, increase educational opportunities and collaboration among faculty, staff, and students.

The Student Services team and I encourage you to participate in our retention and student success programs (EOP&S, FYE, TRIO, Financial Aid, Scholarships, Health Center, Supplemental Instruction, and Tutoring) to assist you in achieving your educational goal.

Continue to believe in yourself and the potential you have to excel. We have faith in you and your potential to achieve academic excellence. We look forward to you having an exceptional fall and spring semester.

## Welcome!...cont.'

**Dr. Daniel Walden | Vice President  
Academic Affairs**

*"Good leaders never present problems without possible solutions"*

Now that the summer is coming to a close, we advance into the fall 2014 semester with some unexpected challenges. Our biggest challenge at this point is that our enrollments are currently significantly down from last fall. Our target is to increase by over 4% over last fall; yet, as of this writing, we are down by almost 4%. That is a disparity of 8% which equates to approximately 3,500 enrollments short of our target. While we are implementing several interventions from a strategic and marketing strategy, there are some things I would like each faculty member to consider implementing in his/her classrooms during the first two weeks of class. Those things are as follows:

- Unless a student has contacted you ahead of time to be excused from the first day of class, please drop the first day "no shows" in favor of students who show up on the first day wanting to add your class.
- If your enrollments are lower than the number of seats in your room, please call or email the "no show" students and encourage them to remain in the class and attend the next class meeting. Please contact your dean if you need the students phone number or email address.
- Knowing there are generally several students who drop by census, please consider overfilling your classes and admit extra students during the first week of classes to get as close as possible to a full classroom by census day (Monday September 15<sup>th</sup>). If you need more chairs, contact your dean ASAP, and he/she will ensure you get the chairs you need.

I know working together we can meet this challenge and close the gap between our current low enrollments and the target we need to reach to ensure that in the future we have instructional funds necessary to keep our programs flourishing and our classes full. I honor you for choosing this noble profession, caring about students, and doing all you can to ensure their success.

Have a great semester!

**John al-Amin, Ph.D. | Vice President  
Administrative Services**  
*"Yours in Student Success"*

### BUDGET UPDATE

As we stated in several campus budget meetings, we were projecting we would end FY14 with a budget deficit of close to \$800,000. Well unfortunately, we did. This was the expected result of overages in several college programs, and given the state of this year's budget, Senior Staff will work this year to rectify this issue as we cannot continue the past level of expenditures in those programs and services.

To end the budget year on a positive note however, staff worked collaboratively with the Educational Services Center to use one-time balances from other college programs to assist us with reducing the projected deficit. In addition, President Martinez petitioned Chancellor Rodriguez to allow us to defer a revenue adjustment of close to \$275,000; this negative adjustment was imposed on us this year as we did not meet our overall enrollment target for FY13. As a result of these efforts, the college will end the year with a positive balance. My sincerest thanks to all who worked hard to get these last minute adjustments completed.

Dr. Walden and I met with the Academic Deans and their department chairs to discuss our academic department budgets and any unfunded needs. If you did not know, we had no funds available for office or instructional supplies, but were fortunate to have the Foundation provide us with

some support for our office supply needs.

Our sincerest thanks, to the Foundation Board and its Executive Director, Robert Schwartz, for their help and assistance. To meet our instructional supply and materials needs, we will be allocating restricted lottery funds to departments pursuant to the requests submitted to the Deans and recommended by Dr. Daniel Walden.

Instructional equipment allocations, which have been recommended by the college Budget Committee, will be funded through a one-time, state block grant. Departments whose requests have been approved and funded will be notified by my office. Please note that each department which receives block grant funding will be required to provide a report at the end of the year indicating how the funds were used and how the purchase helped contribute to our meeting our student success goals.

Lastly, while there have been discussions at the District level, and with the Board of Trustees, regarding the respective college budget allocations and whether they are sufficient to meet the needs of the colleges, this is an ongoing discussion, and until there is a change to the allocation formula, we will need to do our best to meet the needs of our students with the resources which we have been allocated. While this will be a tough year for us financially, we will find a way to get through it, and more importantly, continue to assist our students in meeting their career development and transfer goals. So let's not let our current level of funding, or lack of funding, be a deterrent from having a great year!

## LACC FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Los Angeles City College Foundation welcomes Leigh Stenberg as the new Director of Alumni Relations and Development as of March 2014. Leigh began her career in Washington, D.C., working in government relations and managing EADS North America's PAC, now known as Airbus Group, Inc., for five years. In conjunction with obtaining her M.A. at George Mason University, Leigh and her husband, Heath, accepted the invitation to serve as Peace Corps Volunteers in the Republic of Moldova for two years. During their time in Moldova, Leigh used her fundraising and development experience to develop fundraising strategies and volunteer programs for three non-profits and created a national all-girls educational civic program funded by the U.S. Embassy.

Upon returning to the United States, Leigh became Campaign Manager for Children's Institute, Inc., a Los Angeles non-profit helping children and their families overcome trauma. She also was elected to the board of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in Los Angeles, directing and managing the grant-making arm.

Leigh received her B.A. from Denison University and a M.A. in Public Administration from George Mason University. She grew up in Jakarta, Indonesia and since then has developed a passion for travel and world history. She is married with one daughter and a yellow Labrador named Walter. Join me in welcoming Leigh to the LACC Family.

## President René D. Martinez and LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez to speak at LA-HI TECH Press Conference

Dr. Adriene "Alex" Davis has been working hard to organize the **LA HI-TECH** Regional Consortium Press Conference and launch which will take place on Monday, September 8, 2014 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, hosted by State Superintendent Tom Torlakson with invited speakers to include LACCD Chancellor, Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, LACC President René D. Martinez, PCC Acting President Dr. Bob Miller, and LAUSD Superintendent Dr. John Deasy.

Under the leadership of President René D. Martinez and VPAA Dr. Dan Walden, Dr. Davis led a three community college district regional grant application in response to AB86 California Career Pathways Trust by spearheading the development and \$15M California Department of Education (CDE) grant award for the Los Angeles High Impact, Information Technology, and Communications Hubs (**LA HI-TECH**) regional consortium. This type of collaboration will open up many doors for LACC student success and allow for other educational advantages. The LACCD colleges will receive approximately \$8.3M of the grant award and PCC will serve as the fiscal agent.

Also, Dr. Davis and Dr. Drew Yamanishi, has been working conjunctionally with the development of the **STrEaM** Youth Performance Academy. **STrEaM** is undergoing its second year of activities at LACC and represents LACC's dedication to promoting a learning pathway for local youth. Taking a multi-disciplinary approach to promoting the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) through intuitive integration of reading/literacy ("r") and the performing arts ("a"), **STrEaM** recently concluded its second 4-week Summer Day Camp at the beginning of August.

Congratulations to Dr. Alex Davis and Dr. Drew Yamanishi for their efforts in working together on this valuable project. This program is now entirely self-funding through Community Services. "Teamwork like this is the foundation that ensures student success," said President René D. Martinez.