

Program Highlights

September 2014

LACCD Leadership

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Chancellor

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Deputy Chancellor

James D. O'Reilly,

Chief Facilities Executive



LACCD Board Elects New Officers



Trustee Scott Svonkin

In July, Scott Svonkin was elected as the new president of the LACCD Board of Trustees for 2014-15. Steve Veres is the new vice-president.

“Thanks to tremendous support from the public, it’s an exciting time for our nine colleges,” Svonkin said. “With the devastating recession fading, we head into the fall semester with a much brighter economic picture, new buildings rising on our campuses, enrollment up and the list of available classes expanding.”

“We are united behind a strong team of leaders, augmented by four new faces. Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez is our new chancellor and there are also three new college presidents. Dr. Otto Lee assumes command at Los Angeles Harbor College, Dr. Erika Endrijonas takes over at Los Angeles Valley College and Dr. Linda Rose is the new president at Los Angeles Southwest College.

“All of us, from the Trustees to the Chancellor’s office to the administrators, faculty and staff at our colleges to the vast array of personnel at the Program Management Office (PMO), look forward to a satisfying year of success for our student body.”

Bond Program has accelerated learning at Los Angeles Mission College

**By Monte Perez, Ph.D.
LAMC President**

Thanks to the passage of three bond measures over the last 13 years, Los Angeles Mission College has been able to spend \$450 million on the construction of new facilities and the renovation of others. LAMC has benefited from the generous support of L.A. County’s taxpayers, who understood that the structures on the nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District were aging and new facilities were needed to provide an environment conducive to student success.



The newest of the nine colleges, our school

renovated its current Instructional Administration building and built our award-winning Center for Mathematics and Science along with new facilities for child development, culinary arts, health fitness and athletics. We have also been able to build a parking structure to accommodate our student body.

Ahead for LAMC is the Media Arts Building that will house art, music, theater arts, and media arts, including digital media. We are also designing and building a central energy plant that will significantly lower our utility bills.

These projects have made LAMC a first class educational facility for the northeast San Fernando Valley. It has uplifted the spirits of students, faculty, staff and the community. It is a testament to what quality educational facilities can

Bond Program has accelerated Learning (continued from Page 1)



Mission College's new Health and Fitness Complex.

contribute to a campus.

This fall, 10,200 students have enrolled at LAMC, a 7.5% increase over fall, 2013. Students are benefitting from the new facilities in the following ways:

- With state-of-the-art laboratories, The Center for Math and Science serves as the home for our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative that now serves more than 400 students. The curriculum has been expanded to include organic chemistry.
- The Health Fitness and Athletic Complex has a quality gymnasium, track and fitness center. The college can now support student-athletes in volleyball, fitness and is interested in establishing men's and women's basketball teams.
- The Child Development Center serves many student and community parents. The Child Development Department has over 800 students studying to be child development teachers and administrators.
- The Culinary Arts Institute has unbelievable cutting-edge facilities that house the latest culinary programs. In addition to labs for pastry, butchery, cold foods and salads, the Culinary Arts Program can now offer raw foods, organic food preparation and "farm-to-table" cuisines.
- Media arts will now be housed together, giving students the option to study digital media, visual arts, music, and theater in an integrated fashion.

The bond program has been a huge success for LAMC and the surrounding community. It has created a new spirit at the college. Students, parents, and businesses are excited about coming to LAMC. The facilities are award winning and sustainable. Last year, the Design-Build Institute of America gave its National Design-Build Award for Educational Facilities to LAMC's Center for Math and Science, designating it the most sustainable educational building in the United States.

The bond program has enhanced the student experience and accelerated learning and achievement. It has established LAMC as a beacon of educational excellence in the Valley and L.A. County.

Message from the Chancellor

My colleagues at the Los Angeles Community College District and I are tasked with building the District's profile and reputation as the best urban community college district in which to study and work, and to focus on our No. 1 priority – student success. To accomplish this goal, we must have a well-prepared and innovative faculty, responsive curriculum, excellent educational administrators, superbly trained and professional support staff, state-of-the-art buildings, modern instructional equipment and business and community engagement.



Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez

Despite a horrible recession that translated into a depletion of financial resources over the last five years, we have maintained our academic standards and financial standing. With the state's economy now rebounding, we are able to increase access by restoring classes, increasing enrollments, and focusing on student success.

One area often overlooked is the physical teaching and learning environment at our nine campuses. Thanks to the trust and generosity of our local voters, beginning in 2001, the District has received more than \$6 billion through the passage of three bond measures to improve our teaching and learning environments by upgrading and modernizing our facilities and infrastructure.

Through BuildLACCD, this goal of building superb teaching and learning facilities has become a reality. New buildings have arisen, state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories have been constructed or modernized and much needed infrastructure has been added. No longer are 21st century students studying and learning in 20th century facilities.

As one student so clearly put it, "Before, I felt like I was at an extension of high school. Now, I truly feel like I am in college."

For our efforts, the District has been recognized with many prestigious awards. In 2013, the Design-Build Institute of America's National Design-Build Award for Educational Facilities recognized Los Angeles Mission College's Center for Math and Science. And this year at the Los Angeles Architectural Awards, hosted by the Los Angeles Business Council, the Education Award was presented to Los Angeles City College's Student Union for its design and functionality. These are just a few examples of how design can influence learning, in and outside of the classroom.

There are many great stories to share about the architects who design these buildings, the construction crews who erect them through our program management firm, AECOM, and, most importantly, the students and faculty who benefit from them. Beginning with this edition of the bond newsletter, we will tell those stories.

Enjoy and thank you for your contin-

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ued confidence and support of the Los Angeles Community College District.

Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez began his tenure as chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District on June 1, 2014.

At the LACCD, Dr. Rodriguez has set as his primary goal the building of the District's profile and reputation as the best urban community college district to study and work. Dr. Rodriguez is stressing an approach that includes a well-prepared and innovative faculty and responsive curriculum, excellent educational administrators, state-of-the-art buildings and equipment, superbly trained and professional support staff, and business and community engagement.

Dr. Rodriguez earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chicano Studies with an emphasis in education and a Master of Science in Community Development, from the University of California-Davis. He also earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Education from Oregon State University.

Director's Corner

Ms. Terri Mestas

Since coming on board in April of 2013, my team and I have had the privilege of serving LACCD on the Build Program. The passion and dedication of the students, faculty, staff and the many others we work with is inspiring. I am often reminded of my own story as a first generation American navigating my educational career and attending community college. As I look around at the changes and improvements at the colleges, I am energized to tackle the remaining projects. There are approximately 150 projects remaining of varying size and complexity. The amount of construction across the dis-

Best Practices at the Los Angeles

In April 2013, the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) unanimously awarded a program-management services contract to AECOM in order to close out the final phase of the Build-LACCD program, a \$6.2-billion bond-funded construction program.

Specifically, under the contract, AECOM's responsibilities include:

- Overall program management.
- Web-enabled program-level budget controls and uniform reporting from all nine sites.
- Establishing efficient and effective bond program procedures.
- Implementation of risk- and quality-management systems.
- Handling procurement, bidding, contracting, payment and general ledger accounting.

Since its selection as the district's new program manager over a year ago, the Program Management Office (PMO) has been working diligently to ensure that the bond program meets and/or exceeds the needs of the students, teachers and communities the colleges serve. The PMO has implemented

numerous initiatives that will bring improved quality, value and cost savings to the program. Its direction has also led to a clear and uncontested accreditation of all nine colleges – a feat that was in doubt when AECOM was first brought on board. The district also passed its first audit with no findings, and the local press positively reported on the progress.

This complex multi-site program management requires a careful balancing act. The PMO approach has increased transparency, accountability, and efficiency to this voter approved construction bond program; all while continuing to retain enough flexibility to meet individual site-based needs. Using a strong PMO approach, coupled with a highly skilled program management team and strong executive support provides a disciplined, quantifiable way to build a program that generates benefits during the project period as well as long after the construction dust has settled

trict will significantly increase in the coming months. Our goal is to minimize impacts to students, staff and faculty, while getting the work done safely and quickly. We ask for your patience and support during this time.

We are also always looking for your feedback. In this newsletter, you will find information on how to ask questions and provide comments. I will personally review all the questions and provide a response and look forward to hearing from you.

I am excited about this first newsletter and will continue to provide a report on our progress each month.

Thank you again for your support, Terri

Terri Mestas is Director of the LACCD Program Management Office, providing oversight across all functions of the \$6.2B

bond program. Terri is a native of the Washington, D.C. area. She is a graduate of The Catholic University of America's School of Architecture and Planning. She has been interviewed by CNN in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing on her physical security expertise and has given lectures sponsored by Northern Virginia Community College on physical security design.

Heat Advisory

Heads up again everyone! Temperatures are currently forecasted to approach the **90 degree** mark and the **mid 90's** for the rest of the month. As a reminder, please



observe the California Heat Stress Law which established an 85° F trigger (either forecasted or when that

temperature is reached).

It is critical that employers track the weather and routinely check for approaching heat waves. Again, heat waves are the primary cause of heat-related illnesses and fatalities in the state.

The National Weather Service forecasts

the temperature in various locations in California. Weather forecasts and information are broadcast on NOAA Weather radio and can be accessed at:

<http://www.weather.gov>

LACCD CareLine

The LACCD CareLine was established to provide bond program employees, contractors, consultants, vendors and suppliers with an easy connection point pose questions or comments and receive a timely response. If a supplier wants to know how it can participate in the bond program, contact CareLine. If a subcontractor is having trouble getting paid, contact CareLine. If a consultant wants to confirm available contract capacity, contact CareLine. If the staff at the other end of the

CareLine doesn't have the answer, it will make sure to route the inquiry to the right department and, importantly, will ensure appropriate follow up. You can reach the CareLine at 213-593-7780 or at careline@build-laccd.org.

For more information on the program or any of the college projects., please visits us at: www.build-laccd.org

