



# Student Affairs Committee

Los Angeles Community College District

**ACTION**

December 11, 2015

**SUBJECT:        RESOLUTION — STUDENTS SUPPORT EFFORTS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO MAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FREE FOR RESPONSIBLE LACCD STUDENTS ACHIEVING ACADEMIC GOALS**

The following resolution is presented by Student Trustee Milo Anderson:

WHEREAS,        Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce estimates 46.8 million new and replacement job openings in our nation by 2018 and that 63 percent of those job openings will require at least some college education; and

WHEREAS,        Anticipating that two of every three job openings will require some form of postsecondary education, the Public Policy Institute of California projects a shortage of one million college educated workers in California by 2025 unless appropriate steps are taken; and

WHEREAS,        Today’s community college students are juggling jobs and family responsibilities, making it extremely difficult for many to attend college on a full-time basis. More than half of Los Angeles Community College District students have off-campus jobs; with 39 percent reporting that they work 20-plus hours a week. Research clearly shows that scholastic performance suffers when students work more than 10-15 hours a week, and that the need to work often causes students to drop out before attaining their academic goals; and

WHEREAS,        President Obama has introduced a nation-wide plan for two years of free community college education for students who maintain a 2.5 GPA; and

WHEREAS,        Tennessee, Oregon, Minnesota, and some communities in Pennsylvania and Illinois have already taken the lead ahead of federal legislation by passing initiatives to offer free community college to eligible students; and

LACC_____	LASC_____
ELAC_____	LATTC_____
LAHC_____	LAVC_____
LAMC_____	WLAC_____
LAPC_____	



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WHEREAS, Public postsecondary education is technically tuition-free in California under the California Master Plan for Higher Education of 1960. In the late 1970s, California public colleges began charging students per-unit enrollment fees to offset a loss in state tax funding. The state offers enrollment fee waivers to low-income community college students. So far, approximately 5.2 million California students have utilized such fee waivers in order to access higher education; and

WHEREAS, Fee waiver programs allow community college students to enroll in more classes, move through programs more efficiently, and obtain associate’s degrees, career-technical education certificates, and transfer to four-year colleges much sooner. Enrollment fee waiver programs also help enable them to start their professional lives with little or no student debt; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of LACCD students have limited financial resources and/or represent underserved populations. Enrollment fee waivers allow for access to higher education for many of these students; and

WHEREAS, About 60 percent of full-time and part-time LACCD students currently benefit from enrollment fee waivers. Yet half of LACCD students surveyed in 2014 still say that “financial factors” are a major or moderate problem impeding their academic performance; and

WHEREAS, The LACCD is the largest community college district in the United States. The nine colleges within the district offer educational opportunities to students in 42 cities and communities in the Greater Los Angeles Area; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Los Angeles Area is the third largest metropolitan economy in the world with a gross metropolitan product of \$831 billion as of 2008. Greater rates of student completion in postsecondary education is essential for Los Angeles to thrive as a vital economic hub for California and the United States; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee believes that LACCD is uniquely positioned to lead California as part of the national movement to provide free community college education for all students willing to improve their lives and their community through achieving academic goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee supports the resolution passed by LACCD Board of Trustees on February 11, 2015: **AMERICA’S COLLEGE PROMISE PROPOSAL: TUITION-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS**; and be it further



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RESOLVED, That the Student Affairs Committee also calls for state and federal legislation that protects current enrollment fee waiver programs and authorizes an additional enrollment fee waiver for LACCD students following an approved academic plan and maintaining a 2.5 GPA.