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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former President Bill Clinton Visits L.A. Trade Tech College and Discusses College Access and Affordability

Los Angeles – April 4. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton visited Los Angeles Trade Technical College on Sunday and, among the themes of building a stronger America, discussed college access and affordability.

President Clinton stressed the important roles community colleges, such as L.A. Trade Tech, play building a stronger economy and responding to the needs of business and industry. He also emphasized the importance of ensuring a high quality education at a price working families can afford.

Community colleges provide an opportunity for college for everyone at an affordable price, President Clinton stated. As the needs of a dynamic economy changes, community colleges change to meet these needs.

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees president Scott Svonkin, vice president Mike Eng, Trustees Andra Hoffman, Mike Fong and Sydney Kamlager were present, along with Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Ph.D. to welcome President Clinton to L.A. Trade Tech.

“I was pleased to hear President Clinton discuss the importance of our community colleges and how we can help students get the start they need toward a four year degree or a career that allows them to support themselves and their family,” said Svonkin.

LACCD has become a vital path for thousands of people of all ages to more lucrative and satisfying jobs and careers, and to four-year university degrees. Last month, members of the board and the Chancellor met with White House and other federal officials in Washington D.C. to discuss ways to promote affordable access to college and support services to ensure students successfully complete their education.

The LACCD board supports the federal legislation, America's College Promise Act, which builds upon President Barack Obama's plan to provide college tuition and fees for qualified community college students. Svonkin serves on the president's America's College Promise Campaign National Advisory Board.

In January the LACCD Board of Trustees unanimously passed a Resolution to enhance college access and completion for Los Angeles area residents and students of the district's nine-colleges by establishing the *Los Angeles College Promise*, a nonpartisan, local and state-led initiative to ensure higher education becomes reality for students of the LACCD region.

The Board of Trustees is also supporting and advocating for legislation in California that provides the framework and sustainable funding for a statewide *California Promise* Program.

The LACCD Colleges are East L.A. College; L.A. City College; L.A. Harbor College; L.A. Mission College; L.A. Pierce College; L.A. Southwest College; L.A. Trade Technical College; L.A. Valley College; and West L.A. College

About the Los Angeles Community College District

The Los Angeles Community College District, the nation's largest community college district, serves one-quarter million students a year in more than 36 cities in Los Angeles County at its nine colleges. The District covers nearly 900 square miles and has educated and trained the region's diverse workforce since 1969.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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