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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **LEEDing the Way in Green Building LACCD Campuses celebrate Earth Day 2016**

(LOS ANGELES, CA) - The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is leading the way among green buildings for educational institutions. Many of LACCD's newest and soon to be opened campus facilities, constructed under its BuildLACCD campus improvement program, are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certified or higher by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED™ designation is an internationally recognized designation for buildings that are resource efficient, use less water and energy to operate and reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions. Projects may receive one of four LEED™ rating levels: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum for the level of efficiency attained. Learn more by visiting <http://www.usgbc.org/>.

"We want to have our students understand the value of sustainability in addition to protecting our environment," said Scott Svonkin, President of the district's Board of Trustees. "Education extends beyond the classroom, especially when it comes to supporting an environmentally friendly world."

Currently, there are a total of 40 LACCD projects with a LEED™ certification or higher across all nine campuses that make up the largest community college district in the United States including:

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<b>Los Angeles City College</b>	5
<b>East Los Angeles College</b>	4
<b>Harbor College</b>	6
<b>Mission College</b>	3
<b>Pierce College</b>	5
<b>Los Angeles Southwest College</b>	6
<b>Los Angeles Trade Tech College</b>	2
<b>Los Angeles Valley College</b>	6
<b>West Los Angeles College</b>	3

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Total # of LEED™ certified or higher designated buildings = 40

Thanks to its \$6 billion Sustainable Building Program, LACCD is a leader in environmentally responsible construction. LACCD is modernizing its college campuses and building more than 60 new structures District-wide that will meet LEED™ standards. In addition, the LACCD is generating solar power on its campuses and taking other steps to reduce the colleges' carbon footprint. This \$6 billion largely comes from three voter-approved bond measures: Proposition A (\$1.245 billion), Proposition AA (\$980 million) and Measure J (\$3.5 billion).

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Earth Day activities will take place on several LACCD campuses including:

- Students studying Physical Geography at Harbor College will be hiking in Millard Canyon in Altadena. Geology Prof. Melanie Renfrew will discuss the earth's atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and lithosphere (Friday, April 22 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).
- Los Angeles City College celebrates Earth Day on Thursday, April 21 with food, games and learning how to be resilient from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at their Science Building.
- Pierce College in Woodland Hills hosts a Vegan Potluck on Friday, April 22 in their Great Hall from noon to 3 p.m. The public is invited to share vegan recipes, listen to music and hear from environmental experts about how to better care for the planet.
- Los Angeles Valley College will host an “Arbor Day Festival” on Thursday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. sponsored by its Sustainability Committee and the Eco Advocates student club and featuring art contests, food and live music.

### **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: 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. The District has educated and trained the region's diverse workforce since 1969.

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