



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: STEVE SPRINGER | (818) 522-5900 | SPRINGS@EMAIL.LACCD.EDU

LACCD CELEBRATES \$15 MILLION GRANT FROM CALIFORNIA CAREER PATHWAYS TRUST



Thursday morning was overcast with intermittent drops of rain falling on the Patsaouras Transit Plaza at Union Station in front of the Metro Headquarters Building. But for the 115 people gathered there, it was a radiant day, full of promise for a bright future. With smiles and applause, they were reacting to the formal awarding of a \$15 million grant to the Los Angeles Community College District by the

(Taking part in Thursday's ceremony were (from left to right) Jasmin Ortega of the California Department of Education, LACCD Vice Chancellor Dr. Felicitto Cajayon, LACCD Board Trustee Mike Fong, Valley College student Pedro Gonzalez, LACCD Board President Scott Svonkin, LACCD Board Trustee Mike Eng, LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Metro CEO Phillip Washington and NIC Technology Regional Manager Cheryl Lasko

California Department of Education. The grant was provided by the California Career Pathways Trust, a portion of the \$244 million awarded to 40 programs across the state that blend academic and career technical education, connect employers with schools, and train students for jobs in high-demand fields such as information technology, advanced manufacturing, health care and software development.

"This grant will transform the lives of thousands of students," LACCD Board of Trustees President Scott Svonkin told the crowd. "Wherever their dreams take them, they can now go."

"If we do a good job," said LACCD Trustee Mike Eng, who chaired the Board committees having oversight over the District's application process, "this is just the beginning of a great ride for our students."

In attendance were the value-added partners for this program, including those from workforce investment boards, regional employers, unified school districts, economic development agencies and labor unions. Among the business leaders on hand were Phil Washington, CEO of Metro, Frank Spaeth, CEO of NIC Technology Partners and Tracy Rafter, CEO of BizFed

“Thank you LACCD for reaching out to the business community,” said Gary Toebben, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. “And thank you business community for reaching back.”

Representing the students at Thursday’s press conference was Pedro Gonzalez from Los Angeles Valley College.

Implementing the program will be the Los Angeles Regional Career Pathways Project, one of the largest collaborative models in California. It unites community colleges, high schools, unified school districts, labor unions, workforce investment boards, and industry-specific employers.

The program focuses on high-demand industry sectors that are projected to grow and offer job opportunities well into the future. The numbers that could be generated are staggering. The project includes over \$1,700,000 of in-kind/matched resources and will expand the \$15 million Career Pathways Trust grant to serve over 6,000 participants. LACCD’s nine colleges and 20 local high schools will work with other project stakeholders to update articulation agreements, develop multiple career pathways, and align systemic initiatives that will prepare high school and college students for good-paying jobs and careers. The Regional Pathways consortium will work with over 95 employers who will offer over 1,800 internships.

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, LACCD’s chancellor, told the audience there was no room for gloom despite the weather.

“I have 15 million reasons to be happy,” he said. “Today is a day of investment. You, our value-added partners, are the wind in our sails. Now, let’s get to work. Our students deserve it.”

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

**Scott J. Svonkin, *President* | Steve Veres, *Vice President* | Mike Eng | Mona Field |
Mike Fong | Ernest H. Moreno | Nancy Pearlman | LaMont G. Jackson, *Student Member***