



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

June 10, 2020

Dear LACCD Colleagues,

BRAVO!

Yesterday, thanks to each of you, we completed the Spring 2020 Semester in the midst of a worldwide public health emergency with nine virtual recognition ceremonies celebrating our graduating Class of 2020 with about 4,000 graduates of the 15,000+ Associate degree earners participating in videos shown throughout the day on our colleges' social media platforms. This year, our youngest graduate was 14 years of age and the most mature, 80 years – and where else could that occur, but at a community college!

Our 2020 theme was, *Brilliant Minds for Resilient Times*, and it could not have been better stated. The celebrations included congratulatory remarks from California Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden, and Mayor Eric Garcetti. My sincere appreciation to the 2020 Virtual Recognition Celebration Planning Committee and its tri-chairs, LASC President Seher Awan, WLAC President Jim Limbaugh, and LATTC President Katrina VanderWoude. Simply outstanding work by the entire recognition celebration team.

If you were unable to join in the celebrations yesterday, below is a taste of the half-time entertainment by our talented students and faculty:

Los Angeles City College Latin Ensemble

https://www.dropbox.com/s/jr3k7f4qwejlftj/La%20Vida%20es%20un%20Carnaval%20VIDEO_FINAL.mov?dl=0

Los Angeles Harbor College Music Ensemble, Club 107

<https://youtu.be/otXDQpdFbe4>

Los Angeles Pierce College Virtual Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riOyADIWcmw&feature=youtu.be>

Los Angeles Valley College Choir

<https://youtu.be/5EHU4nfFvUg>

To get to this point, your resiliency, your persistence and your dedication paid off. Together, we moved academic and operational mountains by shifting nearly our entire in-classroom instruction schedule to remote learning and our business continuity to online, remote platforms to accommodate more than 150,000 students and 10,000 faculty, professional staff and administrators – all in two weeks!

The world we find ourselves in today is dramatically different from the one just a few, short months ago. A vaccine to the COVID-19 virus remains elusive, the economy has been ravaged, inequities have been exacerbated, and the necessary, crucial conversations and actions around racial equity and social justice are finally occurring. The type of world we will share and the more just society we envision is at stake. Many more challenges and opportunities are in front of us, for certain, and we will need to work together, united, to find common ground and to craft sustainable solutions.

We have proven that we are strong, that we are resilient. We are the Los Angeles Community College District, and you are indeed the best of us.

Our Board of Trustees, college presidents and administrators, and District executive team thank you and congratulate you on a job well done, and encourage your active engagement and assistance for the heavy lifting that lies ahead.

With admiration and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop that starts with a horizontal line extending to the right, then curves down and back up to the right, forming a teardrop-like shape.

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Los Angeles Community College District